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NEWS RELEASE

Allegheny Children's Initiative Awarded Grant by Staunton Farm Foundation for Clinician Training in Attachment Therapy and Parent-Child Interactive Therapy

PITTSBURGH, PA, July 8, 2026 – Allegheny Children's Initiative, a proud member of the Partners For Quality family of nonprofit agencies, has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from Staunton Farm Foundation to provide specialized training to ten Family Based Mental Health clinicians. The training will focus on treating developmental trauma and attachment in children.

Many young people seeking therapeutic support experience complex attachment issues stemming from traumatic childhood experiences, neglect, abuse, or disrupted caregiving relationships. Addressing these concerns necessitates specialized knowledge and skillsets beyond traditional therapeutic approaches.

Allegheny Children's Initiative requested the grant from Staunton Farm Foundation – which has a long track record of supporting mental health causes – to expand its effectiveness in addressing the needs of youth supported by the agency. This gift is part of Staunton Farm's Capacity Building Grant Program, which recognizes that strong organizational capacity is essential to sustaining high-quality mental health and substance use services over time. By supporting capacity-building efforts, Staunton Farm enables organizations such as Allegheny Children's Initiative to innovate, adapt and enhance programs and resources in response to evolving community needs.

"Allegheny Children's Initiative clinicians are consistently striving to enhance their skills and expertise," said Lisa Peterson-Lizun, Executive Director of Allegheny Children's Initiative. "The generous grant from Staunton Farm Foundation empowers our staff to provide the best possible support to young people and their families."

ATTACH training (conducted by The Association for Training on Trauma and Attachment in Children) focuses on current treatment of childhood trauma through a lens of attachment and trauma. Training will help clinicians understand behavior through a trauma-informed lens, recognize that trauma isn't just cognitive (children often experience trauma physically before they can verbalize it), teach approaches to engage with children who struggle with traditional talk therapy, help caregivers understand trauma response and improve outcomes for children who experienced trauma.

Parent-Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT) is an evidence-based treatment for children ages 2-7 who struggle with tantrums, defiance, or aggression. Therapy involves live coaching, where clinicians observe a parent and their child playing together and guide them in real-time through an earpiece. PCIT helps clinicians teach parents skills that create lasting change, reduce disruptive behaviors, strengthen attachment and relationships, and increase caregiver confidence through a live coaching model.

(more)

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Trauma training builds understanding of the child's nervous system and experience; PCIT helps caregivers build the relationship and behavioral skills that support healing. Together, they can be a very powerful combination for work with youth and families.

Both training opportunities align with Allegheny Children's Initiative's mission of providing trauma-informed, personalized mental and behavioral health services to youth and their families.

A nonprofit agency that delivers trauma-informed care, Allegheny Children's Initiative has provided behavioral and mental health services to young people ages 2-21 (and their families) since 1993. Accredited by the Council on Accreditation, Allegheny Children's Initiative supports youth and their loved ones in their environment, including the home, school and community. More information at AlleghenyChildrens.org.

About Partners For Quality

Headquartered in McKees Rocks, Partners For Quality provides administrative oversight for organizations that support individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities and behavioral health challenges. Serving Allegheny County since 1975, Partners For Quality, through its subsidiaries, serves about 4,000 people annually and employs more than 1,000 across its organizations. Partners For Quality subsidiaries have earned accreditation from The Council on Quality and Leadership, The Council on Accreditation and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

The Partners For Quality family of nonprofit agencies includes: **Allegheny Children's Initiative**, serving children and families with behavioral health challenges in Allegheny and Washington Counties; **Citizen Care**, which provides residential and community-based supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; **Exceptional Adventures**, an agency that provides travel and social opportunities to individuals with disabilities; **Milestone**, supporting individuals with developmental and behavioral health challenges, including two Health Care Quality Units in Butler and Warren which train professionals in 18 counties; and **Partners For Quality Foundation**, which raises funds for all services throughout the family of agencies. For more information, visit PFQ.org and Facebook.com/PartnersForQuality.

About Staunton Farm Foundation

The Staunton Farm Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of people who live with mental illness and substance use disorders. The Foundation works to enhance behavioral health treatment, support and recovery through grant making to nonprofit organizations in 10 southwestern Pennsylvania counties (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland).

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