



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1/4/17:

NYC DHMH Selects Child Center as Borough Provider for Birth to Five Initiative

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NEW YORK, NY –

The Child Center of NY was recently chosen by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to be the borough-wide Queens Treatment Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and to provide preschool mental health consultations. The Child Center's Birth to Five Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative will implement a number of strategies to help parents, pediatricians, preschool teachers, and other providers prevent social-emotional issues from developing, and to identify and intervene with children showing signs of behavioral health problems. These strategies include providing evidenced-based clinical treatment, parenting education programs, and consultations with Early Childhood educators.

"Our clinics offer treatment designed to strengthen the parent-child relationship and develop an individualized plan to target the specific mental health needs and goals of each child and family," said Michele Neuhaus, Director of The Child Center of NY's 0-5 Initiative. "We also provide depression screenings, referrals for parent treatment, and support groups to develop parenting skills."

"Research shows that infants and young children can exhibit behavioral health issues much earlier than once thought," said Child Center CEO and Executive Director Traci Donnelly. "Unfortunately, many parents in Queens struggling with their children's emotional challenges often found limited resources. Now it's possible to provide these families with high-quality mental health services, so they have somewhere to turn when they need support."

The Child Center also provides Early Learn Centers and other early childhood providers with mental health consultations. An alarming problem across New York State is the growing rate of preschool expulsions. Across the nation, one in five children is expelled from preschool for behavioral problems. In NYS, 20% of preschool teachers report expelling at least one child each school year. These expulsion rates are higher than in high school or any other school-age group. One of the most promising evidenced-based practices to combat this problem is teaming early childhood mental health consultants with early childhood professionals, teachers, and other early childhood care providers to promote the social, emotional, behavioral health, and development of young children. Using the Georgetown Model of Mental Health Consultation, and providing skill building training and support for

Early Learn and child care centers, our Mental Health Consultation Specialists work with the community to prevent early child mental health problems from escalating.

For more information or to make a referral, please contact Michele Neuhaus, Program Director, at 718-530-6892.

About The Child Center of NY: The Child Center of NY's mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives. Founded in 1953, it is a multiservice organization that annually reaches more than 26,000 children from birth through young adulthood at more than 60 school and community locations. The Child Center works in five main program areas: early childhood education; behavioral health; health homes and integrated care, prevention and family support; and youth development. The Child Center is based primarily in Queens but also serves children and families in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan. To learn more, please visit www.childcenterny.org.

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