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CUMBERLAND COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH AGENCY PARTICIPATES IN UNIQUE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Cumberland County, PA – Cumberland County’s Children & Youth Services (CYS) has endured significant changes over the past year. Most notably is the increased volume of cases the agency is seeing due to the impact of legislation enacted in 2014 that applied additional safety measures in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sexual assault case that received nationwide attention. Necole McElwee, recently appointed Administrator, took over the leadership reigns from Wendy Hoverter who retired in August 2015 after 25 years of service with the agency. Both McElwee and Hoverter have inspired the agency’s 45 caseworkers and administrative staff to take a proactive approach to managing the effects of the new mandates. Today, 72 CYS staff members participated in a unique training opportunity.

Every year the agency assembles staff at an off-site location for an annual retreat that includes an extensive training program. This year’s program included a Poverty Simulation conducted by the Tri County Community Action to understand the realities and complexities of a family living in poverty. Everyday 11% of adults and 17% of children in Pennsylvania experience life in poverty. Tri County Community Action guided the exercise allowing CYS staff to experience one month in poverty with each week lasting 15 minutes. The participants faced critical decisions, opportunities and setbacks that are faced everyday by thousands of families in Pennsylvania. The simulation provided valuable insight for CYS as the agency continues to see an increase in the number of children and families in crisis.

Cumberland County Children & Youth Services is a professional social service agency working to protect the safety and welfare of children; preserve, support and strengthen families; and provide critical services for children in need of alternative care, a safe environment; and in some cases a permanent home for those children who are unable to remain in their homes. For more information about CYS services or to report suspected child abuse or neglect, please call 717-240-6120 or toll-free 888-697-0371.

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