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CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

STAMFORD, CT/October 21, 2009 – The Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut (CGC), has announced the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Ortiz-Schwartz as Medical Director. Dr. Ortiz-Schwartz will work in CGC’s Stamford and Greenwich offices, and will oversee all psychiatric services provided by CGC. Dr. Ortiz-Schwartz brings a tremendous amount of experience in the mental health field from her extensive clinical and academic work. She is also the Clinical Director of the Family Court Assistance Program at the Children’s Village, a residential program for troubled youth located in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

A resident of Stamford for five years, Dr. Ortiz-Schwartz said that working for CGC provides her with an opportunity to give back to her adopted home. “Serving as CGC’s Medical Director enables me to contribute to Stamford and its surrounding communities. I am excited to be part of an agency that not only has a reputation for providing high quality mental health diagnostic and treatment services for children, adolescents, and their families, but also has a renowned training program. As a mentor to young professionals in the past, I look forward to being part of an organization that places an emphasis on the development of interns and post-doctoral fellows training in the mental health field,” she said. “I look forward to working with Dr. Simon Epstein, Dr. Karen Brody, and Mary Tuttle, APRN, who round out our psychiatric team, and together bring over 60 years of experience to the Child Guidance Center.”

Previously, Dr. Ortiz-Schwartz was affiliated with the Westchester Medical Center, serving as Medical Director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Outpatient Department, Director of Training and Education, and provided consultation liaison services between psychiatry and pediatrics.

Dr. Ortiz-Schwartz has worked with children suffering from a wide range of developmental and mental health issues, in both juvenile justice and outpatient settings. At the Children’s Village, Dr. Ortiz-Schwartz oversees the clinical components of the Family Court Assistance Program, which provides

therapeutic crisis intervention to youngsters who are awaiting resolution from the court system. She also is a consulting psychiatrist for the Transitional Resident Alien Program, a federally-funded shelter program for youth who are identified by immigration officials as living in high risk situations, lacking adult supervision and subjected to traumatic and high risk life circumstances.

“CGC is extremely fortunate to have recruited a child psychiatrist with extraordinary credentials and commitment,” said CGC Executive Director Sherry Perlstein. “Dr. Ortiz-Schwartz has extensive experience working with children from a broad range of backgrounds, and is well versed in the most effective treatment approaches for a full spectrum of psychiatric problems. As a Latino professional, she brings the additional attribute of being able to provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services to Latino families in our community.”

The Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut is a non-profit mental health resource that has been serving children and teenagers in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien and New Canaan for 55 years. CGC’s clinical staff of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists work with more than 2,300 children annually. Preventive services are provided to youngsters, parents, and professionals through community education and consultation programs. Incorporated in 1954, CGC is supported by the Connecticut Department of Children & Families, Connecticut Office of Victim Crime Services, United Ways of Greenwich and Western Connecticut, The Community Fund of Darien, and the New Canaan Community Foundation. CGC is a beneficiary of generous individual, foundation, and corporate contributions. www.childguidancect.org

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Pictured: Dr. Elizabeth Ortiz-Schwartz