



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact:** Jennifer Michael  
410-922-2100 ext. 5610

**Baltimore-Based Board of Child Care Acquires  
Southern Maryland Youth-Serving Agency**

**[Baltimore]** – The **Board of Child Care**, a 135-year-old Baltimore-based human services agency, has acquired **Alternatives for Youth and Families**, a nonprofit organization serving at-risk youth in Southern Maryland’s tri-county area.

The **Board of Child Care** (BCC) finalized its acquisition of **Alternatives for Youth and Families** last month. The acquired agency will retain its name of **Alternatives for Youth and Families**.

BCC has managed oversight of the 35-year-old Alternatives since October 2009. During that time, BCC staff have strengthened and expanded Alternatives’ community-based programs. Additional staff have been hired and trained and more youth are now taking advantage of services.

“The **Board of Child Care** is thrilled to be expanding our mission and broadening our services to children in Southern Maryland, where more mental health service options are needed for youth,” says Thomas L. Curcio, BCC’s President and CEO. “The acquisition will begin a new working relationship for us with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and add independent living to our continuum of services.”

Lynda McDonald, former president of Alternatives’ Board of Directors who is now a member of BCC’s Board, says she is very pleased with the merger and acquisition.

“The goal of Alternatives’ Board was to ensure the services provided by Alternatives for over 35 years remained in Southern Maryland,” McDonald said. “BCC is a vibrant, forward-looking agency that has improved the quality of care through training of our staff and treatment foster parents, and by providing direct and immediate access to highly skilled professionals.”

Under the acquisition, the following services are now offered by the **Board of Child Care and Alternatives for Youth and Families** in St. Mary’s, Charles and Calvert counties:

- **Treatment Foster Care:** The therapeutic foster care program serves children, ages 4 to 21, who have highly individualized emotional and/or behavioral needs. The program also provides emergency intervention that is accessible to youth 24-hours a day. Licensed treatment foster parents provide a caring family environment for youth who would otherwise be placed in hospitals, institutions or group shelters.
- **Therapeutic Group Homes:** The program provides comprehensive clinical and residential services for youth ages 12 to 17 experiencing moderate to severe behavioral and emotional needs at home, in school, or elsewhere in the community. A six-bed home in Charles County houses girls, and an eight-bed home in Calvert County houses boys.
- **Independent Living Program:** The Independent Living Program serves youth ages 17 to 21 who are transitioning from treatment foster care, residential treatment centers, group homes or other intensive programs into independent living.

Referrals for the above programs are taken from local agencies in St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert counties, as well as all other counties in the state of Maryland.

The faith-based **Board of Child Care** has a long history of serving children and families in the community as an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church. The agency began as three orphanages that opened in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, and then merged in 1960 to become the **Board of Child Care**.

Today, BCC has grown to serve more than 1,300 children and families. Programs include residential and short-term care, foster care, early childhood education, therapeutic counseling, adoption services, special education and a car loan program. BCC is headquartered in Baltimore but also operates facilities in West Virginia and DC, and has community-based group homes in Montgomery and Washington counties. The agency will break ground this summer on a new group home on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

BCC's vision is to be a community of hope: providing an opportunity to heal, and a safe and caring environment for children, youth and families. *To learn more, visit [www.boardofchildcare.org](http://www.boardofchildcare.org).*