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BOARD OF CHILD CARE NOW PROVIDING
FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY IN WV.

Martinsburg, WV. – May 18, 2016 — The Board of Child Care’s (BCC) Martinsburg residential campus received approval last week from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) to begin providing Functional Family Therapy (FFT), a community-based service that will be provided on an outpatient basis.

From a therapeutic, outcome-based standpoint, the FFT model is recognized internationally for helping youth overcome trouble with delinquency, substance abuse, and violence. Youth aged 11-18 already at risk for residential placement or incarceration are the target population.

The economic benefits of FFT have demonstrated strong fiscal responsibility nationally and in nearby states. A 2008 outcomes analysis showed that for every dollar the State of Pennsylvania invested in FFT programs, it received a cost benefit of $14.56, a potential economic benefit of $136 million to the taxpayers.¹

In Maryland, where the Board of Child Care is headquartered, the average cost per treatment of FFT in fiscal year 2014 was only 4% of the average cost per stay of hardware-secure youth centers and 8% of the average cost per stay of group homes.²

“The ability to serve WV families with in-home therapy is exactly the kind of community-based programing we want to offer,” said Laurie Anne Spagnola, BCC’s President and CEO. "We offer excellent residential and group home services. But keeping a young person together with their family is truly an example of our mission to enrich communities, one family at a time."

FFT is typically conducted over 12 sessions spanning 3-5 months and focuses on helping families strengthen their ability to work together and successfully solve problems.
BCC’s WV clinical social workers are certified FFT providers. Community demand for the program forced BCC to turn away referrals in advance of the state license approval.

“Offering FFT is just the first step in our work in the community,” said Jackie Columbia, BCC’s Director of West Virginia Operations. “There is a lack of access to mental health services in this area and I hope to see BCC provide additional outpatient or community-based offerings in the future.”

**TIMELINE:**

- **Oct. 26, 2015:** WV DHHR solicits applications from behavioral health providers.
- **Nov. 19, 2015:** Board of Child Care submits application to provide FFT.
- **Nov. 23, 2015:** WV DHHR closes application period.
- **Dec. 8, 2015:** BCC awarded grant to train its WV social workers in FFT.
- **Feb. 22, 2016:** BCC hosts a state of WV kickoff event and FFT training session on Martinsburg campus.
- **May 5, 2016:** Official notice from WV DHHR approves BCC to provide FFT.
- **May 10, 2016:** Board of Child Care begins accepting FFT referrals.

*The Board of Child Care’s purpose is to enrich communities, one family at a time. Its $33 million annual budget provides programs across the Mid-Atlantic. Offerings include residential care, treatment foster care, early childhood education, therapeutic counseling, adoption information and referral, and a special education school. The organization is headquartered in Baltimore but also operates facilities in West Virginia, the Eastern Shore of Maryland and in the District of Columbia. Its community-based group homes are located throughout Maryland and in Martinsburg, WV. To learn more, visit [www.boardofchildcare.org](http://www.boardofchildcare.org).*


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