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For Immediate Release:

Governor Bevin to Visit Children's Home of Northern Kentucky

February 19, 2016, Covington, KY – Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin will visit the main campus of Children's Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK) in Covington's Devou Park on Friday, February 19 to discuss the needs of adolescent behavioral healthcare and addiction treatment.

CHNK Board President Bob Hawksley is grateful for the upcoming visit from the new governor. "We're honored that Governor Bevin wants to see our work with at-risk youth and families firsthand and be a part of the solution to the problems arising from addiction," shares Hawksley, who also serves as CEO of Fischer Homes. "We're committed to equipping our community with the right resources to respond to adolescent addiction and trauma, and we're going to need his guidance and the help of all of our legislators."

The agency, which has served the Commonwealth since 1882, provides multiple residential and community-based treatment lines at three Northern Kentucky locations, including adolescent substance use disorder treatment.

Over the last four years, CHNK has undertaken substantial capacity building to position itself in responding to evolving treatment needs. CHNK has acquired multiple new state licenses to provide behavioral healthcare and addiction services which will allow for private insurance, private pay, and Medicaid billing. The operating budget has increased by 80% since 2013, with a corresponding 91% increase in budgeted salaries over the same period as the organization has onboarded more highly credentialed medical and clinical professionals to address its new focus on co-occurring disorders. Private fundraising has been key to the repositioning.

CHNK's immediate focus is on a new 5.6 million dollar facility that would allow the agency to serve more youth. In its 2016 Legislative Priority Agenda, the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce named Children's Home of Northern Kentucky as a Top Three Priority for the region; the Chamber's Capital Consensus Committee is advocating for a capital project at CHNK's main campus, which would increase the number of residential treatment beds by 24 to address the increased demand for services in the region. CHNK is hoping to replicate what other child welfare agencies around the state have accomplished by incorporating funding requests within the General Assembly budget.

CHNK CEO Rick Wurth explains the need for a new facility by noting that CHNK's current number of residential beds that are presently available for youth in state's custody has been near 100% capacity for months.

"There's simply no room at the inn for both our existing lines of care and the new community demands for expanded addiction and psychiatric care," shares Wurth. "We want to solve that problem for Northern Kentuckians and are convinced that families need to stay together and have treatment services provided locally, rather than being forced to travel out of town for care."

That problem, according to CHNK Chief Strategy Officer Julie Raia, grows more complex in light of the agency being awarded 18 certificate of need beds for psychiatric residential treatment, but with no empty buildings to launch those services. Her hope is that the proposed building will allow staff



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to open up space for youth needing services following discharge from higher-acuity, in-patient hospitalization.

“Licensing requirements often necessitate that agencies such as CHNK must separate clients depending on their treatment needs,” explains Raia. “This prohibits us from using one building for multiple types of care.”

The demand for CHNK’s outpatient services in multiple public schools districts throughout the region has also increased annually. Presently, the agency provides school-based treatment and other outpatient services to nine public school districts in the Northern Kentucky region. Collectively, these districts serve over 37,000 students. Since launching new community-based services in 2012, CHNK has served 444 children and family members with a substance use disorder as a presenting issue. In total, over 900 children and family members have been treated for a variety of issues in the same time period.

Governor Bevin’s visit on Friday will be a culmination to weeks of meetings between CHNK administrators and other local leaders with various legislators, including the members of the Northern Kentucky legislative caucus. The visit of a sitting Governor of the Commonwealth will be the first of its kind for the agency. The young residents at the main campus have been busily preparing for the encounter, including preparing a photograph of CHNK’s historic administration building – complete with their signatures – that they will present to Governor Bevin to mark the occasion.

Governor Bevin is scheduled to arrive at Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky on Friday, February 19, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky is a behavioral health services provider, specializing in behavioral health, mental health, and substance use treatment for youth and families. Programs include Residential (campus-based) Treatment, Intensive Outpatient, and Outpatient (community-based, school-based, and in-home) Services. An experienced team of healthcare professionals utilizes an array of treatment interventions to best meet the needs of each individual youth and family. Personalized intervention plans and continuity of care are emphasized. Accredited by the Council on Accreditation, CHNK has served the Northern Kentucky community and Commonwealth of Kentucky for over 134 years.

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For more information about Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky, please visit www.chnk.org or contact Rick W. Wurth, Chief Executive Officer, at 859.292.4177 or 859.468.5418.