

THE CHILDREN'S HOME TACKLES SHORTAGE OF CHILD PSYCHIATRISTS

Medical Director Hired to Identify and Implement Solutions

To address the shortage of child psychiatrists, The Children's Home of Cincinnati has hired a pediatrician as its medical director to find solutions to the lengthy delays faced by children who need to be examined by mental health professionals.

Dr. Phillip K. Lichtenstein comes to The Children's Home with years of experience in treating the physical and mental health needs of his patients.

His objective is for children to start their treatment within 10 days of referral. At present, it can take up to four months.

The Children's Home contracts with four psychiatrists to care for children. Together, the four provide about 40 hours of service a week. Dr. Lichtenstein estimates that those 40 hours meet only 25 percent of the psychiatric needs of the children served by The Children's Home.

"Our goal is to get children stabilized sooner by having doctors evaluate them sooner and more frequently," Dr. Lichtenstein said. "Once their treatment becomes as effective as possible, children will have better success in school and a better transition into adulthood.

"Success could mean higher school retention and graduation rates, higher academic achievement scores and fewer referrals to the juvenile justice system," he said.

Dr. Lichtenstein will fill the job in early July, leaving a private practice in Northern Kentucky, where he has served as a pediatrician for nearly 30 years. During that time, the scope of his work widened to include children with behavioral health problems from low-income families.

In his new job, he will treat children on The Children's Home's Madisonville campus and in some of the 60 schools where The Children's Home has counselors. In addition, he will be responsible for developing widespread solutions to problems in treating children's mental health issues.

Dr. Lichtenstein's approach at The Children's Home will be a continuation of work he's doing at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. There, he has been a key figure in developing training programs for primary care physicians, to help them treat the most common childhood mental health issue, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, also known as ADHD.

That approach frees psychiatrists to handle the most extreme cases. He has overseen such training for 300 physicians in Greater Cincinnati. Now, he's involved in similar programs for Lexington, Louisville and Columbus.

Dr. Lichtenstein also has been instrumental in identifying, preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in Northern Kentucky. He has served as the medical director and forensic evaluator at the Community Pediatric Clinic for Child Sexual Abuse Evaluation at the Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center.

"Because of his relationships with doctors and other health care professionals, Dr. Lichtenstein will help build partnerships for The Children's Home in the medical community, providing important services for children," said Ellen M. Katz, President and CEO of The Children's Home.

Dr. Lichtenstein's five years of service on the Board of Trustees of The Children's Home led to his new role. He and The Children's Home realized he could have a greater impact by being on the staff. He will be giving up his board membership.

"Dr. Lichtenstein has been a tremendous advocate for children's mental health and wellness," said Marcy Robbe, Vice President of Services for The Children's Home. "He has a specific passion for working with kids like ours – kids with difficult family situations, challenging diagnoses and tough experiences."

The mission of The Children's Home of Cincinnati is to transform the lives of vulnerable children through individualized treatment and education services that build the skills and confidence to succeed in life. The Children's Home annually has an impact on 6,000 children and their families through more than 20 campus and community-based education and treatment programs. For more information, visit www.thechildrenshomecinti.org.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Elliot Grossman, egrossman@ashire.net; 513-240-9801

BIO OF PHILIP K. LICHTENSTEIN, M.D.

EMPLOYMENT

HealthPoint Family Care, Covington, Kentucky; Pediatrician; 1994 to Present

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, ADHD Collaborative, Medical Director;
Developing and implementing training program for primary care physicians to diagnose and care
for patients with ADHD, 2004 to Present

HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS

Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati; Attending Staff, 1982 to Present
Former President, Medical and Dental Staff; Member, Executive Committee

St. Luke Hospital, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky; Attending Staff, 1984 to Present
Former Chairman, Department of Pediatrics; Member, Executive Committee

St. Elizabeth Hospital, Edgewood, Kentucky; Courtesy Staff, 1982 to Present

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

American Board of Pediatrics, 1983

BOARD SERVICE

The Olympus Center, Cincinnati, Member, Board of Trustees, 2000 to 2006

The Children's Home of Cincinnati, Member, Board of Trustees, 2006 to Present

AWARDS

Unsung Heroes Award, Awarded by the Children's Hospital Medical Staff, 2003

Distinguished Physicians Award, St. Luke Hospital, 1997

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Pediatric Clinic for Child Sexual Abuse Evaluation
Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center
Medical Director, 1987 to 2004

Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center
Forensic Child Sexual Abuse Evaluator, 1987 to Present

EDUCATION

Harvard University, B.A.
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, M.D.