



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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ASTOR TO CREATE A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Site benefits young children with emotional and behavioral challenges

RHINEBECK, NY, April 26, 2017 – In response to changes in health care policies, specifically, those that affect children in residential care, [Astor Services for Children & Families](http://www.astorservices.org) is holding a community partners' forum at its residential programs site, 6339 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, NY, on Monday, May 1, as part of the development of its on-site Center of Excellence.

"While we are committed to providing residential services for children with mental and behavioral needs into the foreseeable future, the current trend toward shorter residential stays is something we take seriously," said James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO. "Creating a Center of Excellence focused on comprehensive short- and long-term care for the treatment of young children with serious emotional and behavioral problems is a wonderful way to expand on our services and provide needed care for the children."

During the May 1 forum, Astor will seek input from its community partners on the need for residential services for affected children and additional on-campus program(s), possibly a crisis respite stabilization capacity or an intensive partial hospital program.

Astor's residential programs serve 64 children ages 5 to 13 who have severe emotional, behavioral and educational challenges, and an additional 15 day students in the Astor Learning Center, their special education school, in Rhinebeck, .

"It is apropos that we are having this forum on May 1, the first day of Mental Health Awareness Month," said McGuirk.

During this month, the mental health community reaffirms its commitment to children and families who are struggling with this illness, and build an understanding to decrease the stigma.

About Astor:

Since 1953, Astor Services for Children & Families has been providing behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust. Now serving more than 7,000 children and families annually in more than 80 locations, Astor's range of services in the Hudson Valley (Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties) and the Bronx include: Residential Programs; Early Childhood Programs; and Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services. Visit the organization online at www.astorservices.org

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