



Astor to Create a Center of Excellence April 27, 201



Kathy Welsh

RHINEBECK – In response to changes in health care policies, specifically those that affect children in residential care, [Astor Services for Children & Families](#) is holding a community partners’ forum at its residential program site, 6339 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, 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 students in the Astor Learning Center, the organization’s special education school, in Rhinebeck.