For Immediate Release

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CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS AND ILLINOIS COLLABORATION ON YOUTH TO MERGE JULY 1

Merger Will Strengthen Advocacy Efforts for Children and Youth in Illinois

Chicago, June 22, 2017 -- The Child Care Association of Illinois (CCAI) and Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) have announced that they will merge on July 1. The new association will be the largest provider voice for children, youth and families in Illinois, with more than 85 member agencies across the state providing essential services that keep children and youth safe, healthy, and on the path to a positive adulthood.

“We recognize that a stronger advocacy voice is needed in these challenging and changing times,” said Paul Hamann, Chair of the ICOY Board of Directors. “This merger will strengthen our advocacy voice going forward, something that is very much needed as our human service system continues to erode during the state budget impasse.”

The merger eliminates duplication, increases stability for the organization and the field, and builds on the historic legacy of the two membership associations, which collectively have been serving Illinois’ children and youth for nearly 100 years.

“There is a real mission compatibility between the two organizations,” said Gary Huelsmann, Chair of the CCAI Board of Directors. “As one combined entity, we can focus on the needs of children, youth, and families across systems and be better aligned to lead the development of integrated strategies needed to improve outcomes for those we serve.”

CCAI will merge into ICOY effective July 1, 2017. Andrea Durbin will serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the newly merged organization, which will be known as the Illinois Collaboration on Youth. Hamann will be the Chair of the Board, with Huelsmann serving as Vice-Chair. Hamann is also the President and CEO of The Night Ministry in Chicago, and Huelsmann is CEO of Caritas Family Solutions, based in Belleville, IL.

The merger is over a year in the making. A joint consolidation committee worked diligently to engage stakeholders and analyze each organization’s mission, operations, and financial compatibility to ultimately recommend that children, youth, families and member agencies would be best served through a merger. Members of each association voted to accept the recommendation from their Boards last month. The Chicago Community Trust provided key financial support for the due diligence process.
About Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY): At the crossroads of policy and practice, ICOY serves as a positive force and collective voice for young people, their families and communities, and the providers who serve them. Founded in 1972, ICOY works to build the capacity of the statewide system of programs and services for youth at risk, and to advocate for legislation and policies that keep children and youth safe, healthy, and on the path to a positive adulthood. ICOY is the lead organizer of the Pay Now Illinois lawsuit seeking to ensure that human service providers get paid for the work they do.

About Child Care Association of Illinois (CCAI): For 53 years, The Child Care Association of Illinois has served as the premiere Illinois association that promotes practices and policies for the benefit of children, adolescents, families and the organizations that serve them. CCAI has served as a leading authority on child welfare issues, working with both the General Assembly and state agencies to assure children and families are safe and supported and that children live in stable, permanent families.

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