

DAVID GRAVES NAMED BUCKHORN'S PRESIDENT/CEO

Press Release Date: Friday, August 12, 2011

BUCKHORN, KY-- David A. Graves was named President/CEO of Presbyterian Child Welfare Agency (dba Buckhorn Children & Family Services) today by the Buckhorn Board of Directors.

In announcing the decision of the 15-member board of directors to name Graves to this position, Chair Ruth Webb-Kelly said, "The Buckhorn board of directors feels extremely fortunate to have identified a new leader for our 110-year-old agency who shares our mission and vision for improving the lives of suffering children and families. Knowing Graves' long career in non-profit child welfare in Kentucky and his outstanding reputation makes us confident that he is the ideal match for our needs." Graves will begin his duties on the Buckhorn campus on August 15.

Graves, of Louisville, recently retired from Brooklawn Child & Family Services where he served for 20 years as President/CEO. In that role, he opened the state's first Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility and oversaw tremendous expansion in programming and facilities on the Louisville campus with a 200-person staff. After developing campus-based programs for youth, Graves worked to expand community-based services and out-patient therapy services.

Prior to Brooklawn, the new president directed Home of the Innocents in Louisville. His other work has included the Council for Retarded Citizens, several state agencies and a volunteer assignment with the Peace Corps in Uruguay. Since the early 70s, he has worked almost exclusively in the area of human services for children.

Buckhorn provides care and treatment to children, youth and families through Buckhorn Children's Center in Buckhorn, Kentucky; Dessie Scott Children's Home in Pine Ridge, Kentucky and a residential program in Chesterville, Ohio. The Ohio program serves young men referred by the Ohio Juvenile Justice System. The two Kentucky programs serve boys and girls, ages 13-18 on the two residential campuses. The agency also serves 120 children in their foster care, adoption and in-home intervention prevention program in eastern Kentucky.

One of the first tasks for Buckhorn's new leader will be discussions with Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children, an agency serving abused and homeless youth throughout Kentucky, regarding an agreement to open a new treatment program on the Buckhorn campus.

In addition to providing additional treatment options for youth, this new program will increase revenue and preserve much-needed jobs in eastern Kentucky. Graves will also seek to establish partnerships with the local school systems to expand alternative school and day-treatment programs.

The new Buckhorn leader has also been active in a number of civic and professional organizations at the local and national level. These involvements include work with the Metro United Way Agency Executives, the Children's Alliance Board of Directors and the National Association of Children's Behavioral Health Care.

Graves hold a bachelor's degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama and a master's in social work from the University of Louisville's Kent School of Social Work. He and his wife Margaret have two adult sons.

Graves follows William H. "Bill" Owens who announced his retirement last month. Owens has served as the interim CEO for four years and his affiliation with the facility dates back to 1943 when he was a Buckhorn resident.

Buckhorn was founded in 1902 and is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA).

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