

Media Contact: Celeste Matheson, Director of Advancement

Office: (309) 323-6619 Cell: (309) 634-1611

Email: cmatheson@cyfsolutions.org

The Center for Youth and Family Solutions (CYFS) Director of Therapeutic Services, Stephanie Barisch, Appointed to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services NB Stakeholder Subcommittee

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peoria, Ill. November 5, 2021 – The Center for Youth and Family Solutions is pleased to announce Stephanie Barisch, Director of Therapeutic Services, was recently appointed to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services NB Stakeholder Subcommittee of the Medicaid Advisory Committee. In 2018, United States District Judge Jorge L. Alonso approved the terms of the N.B. Consent Decree, which was designed to implement a systematic approach through which all Medicaid-eligible children under the age of 21 in the State of Illinois, will be provided Medicaid- authorized, medically necessary intensive home and community-based services, including residential services that are needed to address complex mental or behavioral health issues. The Stakeholder Subcommittee is tasked with providing feedback and input to ensure all eligible youth will receive parity and access to needed mental health services.

"I look forward to collaborating with the many experts who are a part of the NB Subcommittee to build a coordinated set of services for all state-funded youth to be able to access behavioral health services when they need it, where it will work for them, and at the right level that they need. We will have to keep in mind the serious behavioral health workforce crisis facing – not just Illinois – but the entire nation at a time with the need for these services are greater than ever," stated Barisch.

CYFS is a not-for-profit social services agency that works with families who have been impacted by trauma, grief and loss, abuse and neglect, and other significant family life challenges. The organization provides foster care and adoption services; behavioral health counseling; crisis pregnancy counseling; intact family intervention; residential services for youth; senior services; and youth, family, and community outreach services. Its mission is to engage and serve children and families in need with dignity, compassion, and respect by building upon individual and community strengths to resolve life challenges. CYFS has 11 offices across Illinois, and annually serves over 20,000 individuals in 37 counties statewide.

For more information on The Center for Youth and Family Solutions, please visit www.cyfsolutions.org or contact Celeste Matheson at 309-323-6619.