



FOOTHILLS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
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Jennifer Kline, Program Coordinator at the Foothills Child Advocacy Center, Achieves the Highest Level of Credentialing for Child Forensic Interviewers

(CHARLOTTESVILLE) August 6, 2014 – Jennifer Kline, program coordinator and forensic interviewer at the Foothills Child Advocacy Center, has earned the Diplomate Child Forensic Interviewer (DCF) credential from the National Association of Certified Child Forensic Interviewers (NACCFI).

The highest level of credentialing available, the DCF “acknowledges that the practitioner has received the advanced knowledge, training and practice experience believed necessary to practice as a child forensic interview practitioner with expert level knowledge, skills and abilities.”

Bettie Kienast, chair of the Foothills Board of Directors, said, “Jennifer puts the welfare of the child first, above all else and without fail. Her life, both professional and personal, exemplifies our belief that all children are entitled to be safe, healthy, nurtured, and valued. We are incredibly fortunate to have Jennifer as a founding member of the Foothills team.”

According to the NACCFI, the multi-tiered credentialing standards include: actual work experience in the profession; specialized evidenced-based forensic interview training; evidence of good moral and ethical conduct; and a commitment by the credentialed practitioner to the pursuit of continued learning and skill building in the practice of their profession.

The DCF credential requires a minimum completion of 32 to 40 contact hours of initial competency-based protocol specific child forensic interview training by a nationally, regionally, or state recognized training program, agency or trainer; an additional 160 hours of advanced child forensic interview training; and a minimum of 500 child forensic interviews. To receive this credential, the interviewer must be a member of a multidisciplinary child protection or law enforcement investigative services team and pass the advanced competency examination.

Kline has conducted 627 child forensic interviews since 2006, when she joined Foothills as its first employee. Charlottesville and Albemarle Child Protective Services and Law Enforcement make referrals to Foothills for forensic interviews in child abuse investigations.

In her role as program coordinator, Kline oversees all direct services to clients and facilitates the Charlottesville/Albemarle Multidisciplinary Team of 14 agencies and organizations that

meet monthly to communicate and collaborate on child maltreatment cases. Her dedication to serving child victims using best practices led to Foothills' successful application for accreditation by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) in 2011.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Anthropology with a minor in Psychology from Radford University and a Masters in Sociology from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. She has worked in the field of victim services for 15 years, including Child Protective Services investigations and victim advocacy for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Charleston, S.C.

About Foothills

Foothills was established in 2006 as a not-for-profit, accredited agency designed to provide a coordinated system of effective response and intervention to children who have been victimized. Foothills' goals are to minimize trauma, promote healing, ensure child safety, and hold perpetrators accountable. Foothills' child-friendly, private facility provides a safe, neutral environment that helps to reduce trauma for these children during the forensic interview process and during consultation with the non-offending caregivers.

For more information, please visit the center's Web site at <http://www.foothillscac.org/> or call 434-971-7233. For more information about how to help kids, please visit <http://www.beaherforkids.org/>.

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