



May 2017 | eNews

## *We Stand With Children* National Children's Mental Health Day

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and to show that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development.

Awareness Day 2017's national focus is on the importance of integrating behavioral health and primary care for children, youth, and young adults with mental and/or substance use disorders. The 2017 national theme is "Partnering for Help and Hope."



The national event will take place on Thursday, May 4, at 7 PM EDT in Washington, DC. SAMHSA will also webcast the event. The 2017 national event will feature interactive panels addressing the following topics:

- The importance of social, emotional, behavioral, and physical health needs of children, youth, and young adults;
- Modeling effective communication practices between behavioral health providers, primary care providers, families, and youth; and
- Addressing the needs of youth with co-occurring chronic illnesses and mental and/or substance use disorders.

During the national event, families, youth, and young adults across the country will have an opportunity to pose questions to panelists on the national stage through email and social media. SAMHSA will webcast the event and NBC4 Washington and its sister stations across the U.S. will livestream the event.

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## Welcome Patricia Weekly

### New E&I and Sanctuary Director

Recently, Morrison combined the leadership roles for the Equity and Inclusion and Sanctuary Departments into one position. Both our ongoing Equity and Inclusion work, along with our implementation and practice of the Sanctuary Model, are complementary while also working towards distinctive goals.

On April 10th, Patricia Weekly, formerly the Equity Coordinator for the Portland Development Commission (PDC), joined Morrison as the new full-time Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Sanctuary.

Patricia has a long history of championing equity to work towards societal parity for those who are most disenfranchised throughout all business sectors. Over the past 5 years, she has managed the PDC Equity Council, which included implementation of the "Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training" Model and development of external partnerships in the community. She is passionate about always continuing to expand her knowledge and understanding of diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice along with collaborative decision making. Prior to her tenure at the PDC, she was a Senior Civil Rights Program Specialist and a Diversity Program Specialist in St. Louis, Missouri. Her background also includes work in managing programs focused on supporting minority business enterprises in other areas of Missouri.

We hope you will join us all in welcoming Patricia to Morrison! Visit our website to learn more about Morrison's work on Equity and Inclusion and the Sanctuary Model.



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## Strengthening Families

### Foster Parent Recognition Dinner

May is also National Foster Care Month, a time set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections.

During National Foster Care Month, we renew our commitment to ensuring a bright future for the children and youth in foster care, and we celebrate all those who make a meaningful difference in their lives. A significant part of our success is due to Morrison's dedicated foster families in our foster care programs. These foster families work hard to provide 24-hour intensive therapeutic services, giving children and youth of all backgrounds a safe and loving environment.

In honor of Morrison's dedicated foster parents, we will be hosting our 23rd Annual Foster Parent Recognition Dinner on Monday, May 22nd.

This is an opportunity for community members to show their appreciation to Morrison foster families by donating a gift card and/or certificate(s) to this event, which will be given to our foster families as a small token of our BIG appreciation. Your generous tax-deductible donation will go far in helping these foster families understand how valuable they are to our community. Click below to donate now or email [development@morrisonkids.org](mailto:development@morrisonkids.org) to learn more about how you can support foster parents at Morrison.



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## Stay Connected



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## Our Mission

At Morrison Child and Family Services, we partner with families and communities to provide effective and responsive services for children and youth coping with adversity and trauma.

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