

BOYS & GIRLS VILLAGE

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Dr. Kim Shaunesey of Boys & Girls Village Selected to Serve as President-Elect for the Connecticut Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (CATSO)

MILFORD, CT (November 7, 2011) - Dr. Kim Shaunesey, Vice President of Clinical & Foster Care Services at Boys & Girls Village, has been elected by her clinical peers as the incumbent President for the Connecticut Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (CATSO). She has begun her position as President Elect and will transition into the Presidency in November 2012.

Dr. Shaunesey has been a member of CATSO since 2006. She began six years ago to address an identified area of need in the state to service children and adolescents with problem sexual behavior. CATSO consists of mental health and allied professionals who recognize the importance of providing up-to-date, effective assessment and treatment services to children who exhibit sexually-reactive behavior, and adolescents and adult sexual abusers and offenders. CATSO has developed ethics and standards and serves as a professional resource for the field.

“I am very honored to be elected to this position and I look forward to making sure that Connecticut residents have access to up-to-date and effective treatment resources available to them. This is important work and something I believe makes a difference in the lives of families throughout Connecticut,” says Shaunesey.

As a leader of CATSO, Shaunesey intends to continue to work with the state commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, Joette Katz, in improving the landscape of problem sexual behavior treatment in the state of Connecticut. “Currently, there are no residential treatment facilities and very few treatment programs in the state, so all youth are sent out of Connecticut if they require a residential treatment facility,” explains Shaunesey. “Boys & Girls Village has begun talks with the state to try to bring state youths back to Connecticut for treatment by increasing the resources and expertise available in the state.”

As the Vice President of Clinical & Foster Care Services at BGV, Shaunesey has been instrumental in improving trauma based services for children, adolescents and their families. She brought her experience working with adult sexual offenders to the agency and led the initiative to start a service for psychosexual assessments for children and adolescents with problem sexual behavior. BGV also treats sexually reactive children up to the age of 12 years.

“Thanks to Kim and her staff who provide psychosexual assessments both statewide and regionally, Boys & Girls Village has been in the forefront of treatment in this area,” says Boys & Girls Village Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Steven Kant, M.D.

“Kim Shaunesey’s leadership at BGV has been instrumental in improving the quality and level of service the agency provides,” says BGV President and CEO John R. Cociolone. “She has a high level of professional expertise. Her leadership of CATSO will undoubtedly benefit state of Connecticut through safety for its citizens and both preventative assessment and treatment for youth at risk of anti-social sexual behavior and the clinical treatment of sexual offenders. Boys & Girls Village commends Dr. Shaunesey on this well-deserved accomplishment.”

Dr. Shaunesey holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Rhode Island and specializes in the effects of trauma on youth. She came to Boys & Girls Village in 2005. She previously held clinical positions at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in White Plains, NY, Hall-Brooke Foundation in Westport, CT, and Bridgeport Hospital in Bridgeport, CT, as well as her own private practice.

As part of her position as Boys & Girls Village, Dr. Shaunesey also sits on two Multi-Investigative Teams in Milford and Bridgeport. Made up of mental health professionals, legal experts, police investigators and healthcare professionals, the teams determine a course of action when an allegation of sexual abuse to a minor has been brought forward. They work to protect the victim and get them services they need, as well as finding services for the perpetrator if (s)he is a youth.

About Boys & Girls Village

Founded in 1942, Boys & Girls Village is one of Connecticut’s leading providers for professional behavioral and psychiatric “wrap around” care for at risk children and their families. The agency offers therapeutic interventions and a continuum of comprehensive, ongoing support for children and their families. Through its array of specialized evidence based treatment programs that include a specialized day school, outpatient clinical services, therapeutic foster care, adoption services, an emergency shelter, and a sub-acute, live-in psychiatric facility. Clients come from 50 different communities in Connecticut, with the majority residing in Fairfield and New Haven counties. The children and adolescents who become part of the BGV family range in age from 3-18 years old and are treated for a host of psychiatric and behavioral issues. Operating in three locations – Milford, Bridgeport and Waterbury – Boys & Girls Village provides year-round counseling and age-appropriate clinical and educational programs to help Connecticut children and families **heal, learn and grow.**

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