



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Children's Advocacy Center of Butler County Appoints New Executive Director

**Butler, Pa.**— Danielle Schmidt, a long-time volunteer for the Children's Advocacy Center of Butler County, has recently been appointed executive director. Schmidt brings over 20 years of experience working with children and families in social services. "I have always been someone that wanted to help people, especially kids," Danielle Schmidt, executive director at Children's Advocacy Center of Butler County said. "When I was at Family Services of Butler Memorial Hospital and worked with the teen parenting program, that's when I found my passion. In that role, I learned that I enjoyed helping families through difficult times—connecting them to resources and supporting them—it turned out to be what I loved and wanted to keep doing."

Schmidt is looking forward to her new role and supporting the agency's continued growth. "As executive director, my role is primarily one of stewardship. I work closely with the Board of Directors and staff to ensure our programming and services best serve our clients, while supporting our staff and partners in their work," Schmidt said. "I am eager to be in our community, raising awareness about child sexual abuse, child abuse prevention, human trafficking, and the critical work of the Children's Advocacy Center and our multidisciplinary partners — not only mitigating the impact of abuse for children, but working diligently to empower our community to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of children and families."

Over the course of her 20-year career in social services, Schmidt has worked as a case manager at Totin Family Services; a case manager at Butler County Health System with Family Services and Maternal Services, where she conducted psycho-social assessments and led a teen parenting program. She has worked at Bethany Christian Services as a Foster Care Worker, and most recently at the Butler County Housing and Redevelopment Authority as the Assistant Director of Grant Management and Resident Services. Schmidt was also a doula. "My work with teen parents led me to become a doula," Schmidt said. "I was with many teen moms while they were going through pregnancy and delivery, and it just felt right."

Until appointment as executive director, Schmidt was a board member for the Children's Advocacy Center. "When I started working for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, I wasn't as involved with children and families in the community as my previous roles, and I missed that," Schmidt said. "I've always believed in the mission of the Children's Advocacy Center and being on the board of directors allowed me to give back and participate."

Established in November 2013, the agency has historically been known to the community as Butler County Alliance for Children. Throughout 2021, the agency experienced many changes, including moving



to a new location, staff expansions, and a name and logo change. The decision to begin using the name The Children's Advocacy Center of Butler County moved the agency to further align with the national model of children's advocacy centers. The national model guides members of the child's investigative team to come together to provide a victim-focused approach to investigations of abuse. The Children's Advocacy Center provides a safe environment for children to speak with forensic interviewers who are specially training to talk with children about possible abuse. The collaborative approach minimizes trauma to the child victim and their non-offending caregiver while providing support to the multidisciplinary team throughout the investigative process.

For more information about the organization, visit <https://www.butlercountycac.org>.