

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Molly Myers, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO

Phone: (814) 835-7606

E-mail: MMyers@SarahReed.org

2445 West 34th Street • Erie, PA 16506

www.SarahReed.org



Celebrating 149 Years!

DR. ADRIENNE DIXON APPOINTED NEW PRESIDENT/CEO OF SARAH A. REED CHILDREN'S CENTER



Adrienne Dixon, Ph.D. has been named the new President/CEO of Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, replacing James D. Mando who retired.

Erie, PA – Sarah A. Reed Children's Center's Board of Directors announced that they have selected Dr. Adrienne Dixon to serve as the agency's President/CEO following the retirement of James D. Mando.

"After a very thorough search, the Board is proud to welcome Dr. Dixon as the next President/CEO of Sarah A. Reed Children's Center," said Board Chair William Miller, III. "Dr. Dixon has been making a difference at Sarah Reed for 32 years. She understands all the different aspects of this agency and most importantly, she understands the needs and the challenges of the children, adults and families we serve. We are very confident in Adrienne's ability to lead the agency into the future, as we look toward our **150th Anniversary** in 2021 and in the years to come."

Prior to becoming the President/CEO of Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, Dr. Dixon served as the agency's associate vice president of residential and community services for the past 18 years. She has over 35 years of clinical experience as a professional counselor and administrator. Her area of focus has been with serious mental illness (children, families and adults) and includes settings such as inpatient, residential treatment, drug & alcohol and outpatient services. Additionally Dr. Dixon conducts professional training and workshops for organizations in the areas of diversity, organizational competence, clinical interventions, strengths-based assessment, supervision, and enhanced mental

health services. Dr. Dixon has focused her research interests and consultative services on mental health, cultural competence and multiculturalism. Her literary contributions include a book chapter in **Culturally Competent Practices with Children and Youth who have Serious Emotional Disturbance**, a treatment manual for cultural competence, numerous articles, professional presentations, and collaborative manuscripts.

Dr. Dixon plans to build on the Children's Center's vision of trauma focused, client-centered treatment for children, families and adults struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges. She anticipates developing community partnerships that explore new ways to deliver innovative, quality behavioral health care that promotes a culture of wellness.

"Throughout my tenure with the agency, I have had the opportunity to work in virtually every level of care," said Dr. Dixon. "I believe my commitment and dedication to multiple aspects of the organization's operation, programming finances and staff development – along with my acute clinical and interpersonal abilities – have positioned me to contribute immensely to the success of the Children's Center. As an organization, we are poised to continue to advance our market-based services (evaluating and implementing innovative programs and models) that serve the changing needs of the Erie community."

Dr. Dixon received her undergraduate degree from Thiel College and went on to earn her postgraduate certificate in Marriage & Family Therapy from St. Vincent Health Center/Gannon University in 1992. In May 2008 she received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Gannon University. Dr. Dixon represents the agency on numerous boards at the local, state and regional level, including: the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College Board of Trustees, the Children's Advocacy Center Board, the Erie Migrant Head Start Advisory Board, the Erie County Community Development Board, and the Greater Calvary Human Service Board. As a faculty member in the counseling program at Edinboro University, she serves on the President's Diversity Council and is co-chair of the Frederick Douglass Advisory Committee.

Sarah Reed's former President/CEO, James D. Mando, dedicated the past 16 years to making a difference at the agency and is recognized for the many significant accomplishments he's made to improve the lives of children and families throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. While at Sarah Reed, Jim successfully planned the strategic direction of the organization, expanded programs to meet community demands for children's mental/behavioral health services, and ensured that the agency's short- and long-term financial management needs were met. He played a key role in making Sarah A. Reed Children's Center the first human service agency in the region to become certified in the Sanctuary Model®, a nationally recognized, full-system approach to helping injured children recover from the damaging effects of interpersonal trauma.

Jim was instrumental in several transformational projects totaling \$18 million, including a capital campaign at the main Residential Campus that prompted the construction of the new Administrative Building, the Leslie Medical Center, the B&L Dining Hall, and Susan Hirt Hagen Hall. He is also responsible for the acquisition and renovation of the former Hamilton School, which is now the home of Sarah Reed's Partial and Acute Partial Hospitalization Programs and the new Sanctuary for Integrated Health & Wellness Park. Jim led the efforts to construct Sarah Reed's newest 12-bed residential unit, James N. Herr Hall, which opened in 2019 and is meeting the increasing demand for intensive 24-hour care for children ages 5-18.

Before coming to Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, Jim was the planned giving and campaign director at the Chautauqua Institution where he was responsible for the design and implementation of major fundraising programs. He guided Chautauqua through three successful campaigns, raising a grand total of \$131 million in campaign funds. Prior to that, Jim was the director of planning at GECAC and the associate executive director at the United Way of Erie County. He is a life-long resident of Erie and will continue to reside in Fairview with his wife, Cindy, in his retirement.

About Sarah A. Reed Children's Center:

Serving the Erie Community since 1871, Sarah A. Reed Children's Center is proud to be a leader in the successful care and treatment of children with mental health, behavioral health and severe emotional challenges, many of whom are victims of trauma and abuse. Each year the Children's Center treats over 2,100 children, adults and families through the following programs: 24-Hour Residential Treatment, Partial and Acute Partial Hospitalization Services, Outpatient Behavioral Health Services and Psychiatric Medication Management, a Psychological Assessment Clinic, Intensive Behavioral Health Services, Community and School-Based Behavioral Health Services, and Alternative Education Programs. Sarah A. Reed Children's Center is a certified Sanctuary® Model Treatment Center and has been accredited by The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations since 1996. The agency also operates an innovative Doctoral Internship Program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association to train upcoming leaders in the field of mental health and behavioral health services.

Sarah A. Reed Children's Center is currently celebrating its 149th year of service and continues to be a trusted resource and economic engine in Erie County. Sarah Reed consistently ranks on the list of Erie County's Top 50 Employers and is currently the 46th largest employer in the county. In total, Sarah Reed's 320 employees touch the lives of over 2,100 children, adults and families each year.