



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Austin Child Guidance Center Offers Friday Walk-In Services to Families with Immediate Needs

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The Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) is offering weekly walk-in mental health therapy services on Friday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm for children, up to age 17, and their families. This service is open to current clients as well as those children and families in the community who have been unable to access traditional, ongoing therapy due to waiting lists. Parent consultation is offered to parents who are concerned about their child's behavior and seek advice or direction. Any parent and child may access the services as many times as they feel they need.

"We have seen an explosion in the need for our services in the community," explains Executive Director Russell A. Smith, LMSW. "In a time when families are under more stress than ever before, our walk-in service is an invaluable resource for families and for the community."

The walk-in service is coordinated by Dr. Arnie Slive, an expert in single-session therapy and co-author of the recent book "When One Hour is All You Have," a book about therapy for walk-in clients.

Established in 1951, ACGC is the oldest children's mental health agency in central Texas. The mission is to improve the mental health of children and their families through early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment to help them develop the emotional skills for meeting life's challenges. ACGC employs a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and counselors who provide individual, family, and group therapy; psychiatric evaluations and psychological assessments; parent education; and training of current and future mental health professionals.

Austin Child Guidance Center is celebrating 60 years of service to the community this year with a celebratory event on October 27, 2011. Since we first opened our doors, ACGC has helped over

130,000 children, youth, adolescents and their family members who struggle with mental health issues such as depression, ADHD, grief, loss, anxiety, and family or school problems.

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