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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CDC'S OIL CITY, HASSON HEIGHTS CENTERS EARN REACCREDITATION THROUGH 2021

Child Development Centers' Oil City and Hasson Heights centers have earned reaccreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

After a two-day inspection of the two centers, including intensive reviews of six infant, toddler, preschool and elementary school-age classrooms, NAEYC extended their accreditation for five years, through the end of 2021.

To achieve accreditation again, the two centers had to show that they meet all 10 of NAEYC's early childhood program standards, which are intended to maximize the quality of the care and education that a facility provides. The criteria are based on "best practices" that research shows to be effective in advancing growth and learning.

NAEYC says the 10 standards "ensure the quality of children's daily experiences and promote positive outcomes."

The Oil City and Hasson Heights centers met all 100 percent of NAEYC's requirements in seven of the 10 standards, including staff-child relationships, center-family relationships, assessment of the children's progress, promotion of good health, teacher qualifications, relationships with local organizations that support growth and learning, and leadership-management.

The two centers also met 96 percent of the requirements in the physical environment category, 92 percent in effective teaching methods, and 84 percent in curriculum.

The high marks that the Oil City and Hasson Heights centers received from the NAEYC "validate that both facilities are providing high-quality child care and early childhood education, and

that families can trust them to do a great job nurturing and teaching their children,” said CDC Chief Executive Officer Rina Irwin.

To maintain accreditation, the two centers must continue to comply with NAEYC standards and submit an annual report of their performance to the accrediting organization.

In addition to the Oil City and Hasson Heights centers, two other CDC facilities – Franklin and Cranberry – have NAEYC accreditation.

All five CDC-owned centers also have Star 4 ratings from Pennsylvania’s Keystone STARS educational quality improvement initiative. Star 4 is the highest grade that the state’s child care and early childhood learning centers can achieve based on compliance with health and safety requirements, staff education criteria, early childhood learning standards, and other quality measures.

Possession of both NAEYC accreditation and Star 4 ratings places CDC in select company; less than three percent of the state’s 8,500 regulated providers have achieved both marks of excellence.

The non-profit CDC provides child care and early childhood education for about 800 children at eight sites in Oil City, Franklin, Cranberry and Clintonville in Venango County, and about 170 children at four locations in Meadville and Saegertown in Crawford County. Among these boys and girls are about 80 infants, toddlers and preschoolers at the Oil City center and 130 preschool and elementary school-age children at the Hasson Heights center.