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MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (March 2, 2005)

Public Child Welfare Agencies to Meet in Little Rock for Roundtable on Quality Service Delivery

**WHAT: 2005 National Public Agency Roundtable
Accreditation: The Path to Excellence**

An annual gathering of public child welfare agencies, the Roundtable provides an invaluable opportunity for executives and management from across the nation to share ideas, collaborate on statewide improvements, and help each other reach their mutual goals of delivering quality services to children, youth, and families. The Roundtable will include workshops, plenary sessions, and two keynote addresses.

The 2005 National Public Agency Roundtable is sponsored by the Council on Accreditation, co-sponsored by the American Public Human Services Association, and hosted by the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services, which achieved accreditation in the summer of 2004.

SPEAKERS: Carol Wilson-Spigner, DSW, Kenneth L.M. Pray Distinguished Professor/Clinical Educator, University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Work

Dr. Wilson-Spigner will deliver the Keynote Address on leadership in public child welfare on Monday, October 17, 2005.

Eugene Foster, PhD, Undersecretary of Children and Family Services, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Dr. Foster will deliver the Keynote Address on Tuesday, October 18, 2005. He will speak about the decision by Kentucky's Children and Family Services to pursue reaccreditation.

WHEN: October 17-19, 2005

WHERE: Doubletree Hotel
424 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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Founded in 1977, the Council on Accreditation partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying and promoting accreditation standards. Over 1500 organizations—voluntary, public and proprietary, local and statewide, large and small—have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Currently, four state-administered child welfare systems—Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, and Louisiana—are accredited by COA. In addition, over 80 county-administered systems are either accredited or in process.

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