



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Board of Commissioners**

Tony Amadio, Chairman

Joe Spanik

Dennis E. Nichols

**Chief Clerk**

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### **COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE EXPANSION OF EFFORTS TO PROTECT BEAVER COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**BEAVER COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**

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(3-12-2015/Beaver, PA) Today the Beaver County Commissioners acted to expand important child welfare protection for children, youth and families in Beaver County.

In response to legislative action by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Beaver County Commissioners increased the staff of the Beaver County Children and Youth Services to address expanded mandates of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law. Specifically, 3 Caseworkers, 1 Call Screener, and 2 Supervisory staff are being added to existing staff to address new requirements for reporting, investigating and providing required public services in the areas of child abuse and neglect.

"The changes in the law require additional professional staff in Beaver County to protect our most vulnerable citizens from child abuse and neglect. We continue to promote such advances at the local level," commented County Commission Chairman Tony Amadio. "These new laws provide the foundation for early and more complete detection of the maltreatment of children, There is no place in Beaver County for child abuse and neglect, and public employees must work diligently to eliminate such acts by adults, caregivers and others," stated County Commissioner Dennis Nichols.

It is projected that the expanded activities will increase referrals to CYS by approximately 22% and that the need for on-going services to families will increase by approximately 17%. The above-noted staff increase is designed to address these increased professional responsibilities. "The taxpayers of Beaver County will benefit directly from this program expansion. 80% of the cost of these new positions will be funded by state government and only 20% will have to be paid at the County level. In exchange for this small investment, our children, youth and families will receive new services, expanded protections and important additional safeguards," said County Commissioner Joe Spanik.

Other benefits from the implementation of the 2014 Child Protective Services legislation will include a new statewide database that will (1) more fully capture information related to all cases of child abuse or neglect, (2) make it possible to report child abuse or neglect electronically and (3) give Counties access to information from other Counties to allow more comprehensive reporting and retrieval of information for child protection.

For additional information on the Child Protective Services Law in Pennsylvania, please go to [www.beavercountypa.gov/children-and-youth-services](http://www.beavercountypa.gov/children-and-youth-services).

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