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Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
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EMBARGOE CHANGED TO JANUARY 23, 12:00 P.M. (Midnight)

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TO BE IN SPOTLIGHT AS OKLAHOMA INSTITUTE FOR CHILD ADVOCACY UNVEILS ITS 'KIDS COUNT' FACTBOOK JAN. 24

The issue of children's behavioral health will be in the spotlight Thursday, Jan. 24, as the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy unveils its 12th annual "KIDS COUNT" Factbook.

The Factbook presents a statewide overview regarding the well-being of Oklahoma's children, youth and families. One of the new areas it includes is a childhood stress index that reflects, at a county level, the prevalence of children's mental health needs versus the capacity for services.

Anne Roberts, OICA executive director, will open the press conference. **Dr. Hiram Fitzgerald**, executive director of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, will discuss findings of this year's Factbook.

Jackie Shipp, director of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' Office of Children, Youth and Families, then will speak about the importance of children's issues in the state and how important it is that state agencies serving children join together for the good of Oklahoma's children.

The press conference is part of ODMHSAS's first annual combined mental health/substance abuse treatment and prevention conference. The event will feature a number of workshops on such issues as compulsive gambling, children's mental health, DUI assessment, prevention and other areas.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, January 24
10:30 a.m.-Noon

LOCATION: Cypress Room
Tulsa Southern Hills Marriott
1902 East 71st Street (71st and Lewis)

VISUALS: Speakers Fitzgerald, Roberts and Jackie Shipp, backed up by poster-sized pictures of children; hundreds of conference participants; a number of exhibitor booths related to substance abuse treatment and prevention; and Fitzgerald's keynote speech at the conference.

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