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Children's Institute Forms Data and Science Group; Hires New Managing Director

ROCHESTER, NY. (February 7, 2022) Joseph McFall, Ph.D. joined Children's Institute (CI) on February 1, 2022, as the new Managing Director of Data and Science, after serving as Department Chairperson and Associate Professor of Psychology at the State University of New York at Fredonia. This role includes a research faculty designation in the University of Rochester Psychology department.

A developmental psychologist, his interests in applied cognition have led to studies of everyday problem-solving effectiveness, decision-making outcomes, and the transition into adulthood. Dr. McFall is currently co-leading an international research collaborative on emerging adulthood to diversify perspectives and facilitate culture exchange about trends that impact emerging adults' wellbeing and participation in society. He was recently elected as Member-at-Large for Division 1 of the American Psychological Association, serves on the Metascience committee for the Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science, and is an Assistant Editor for the journal *Emerging Adulthood*. Prior to SUNY Fredonia, Dr. McFall taught at Syracuse University. Appreciating the contextual nature of human development, Dr. McFall is excited to use hierarchical and complex data modeling techniques in collaboration with CI scholars to explore the levels of influence surrounding children's socioemotional and physical well-being.

Dr. McFall brings to CI a research career focus, grounded in experimental and participatory research methods, plus interest in measurement, data management, and other topics. His ongoing research directions include decision biases, impacts of ageism and interpersonal transgressions on psychological and physical health outcomes, as well as cross-cultural validity of developmental constructs within the field of emerging adulthood. Such directions are strongly aligned with CI's strategic direction of cultural humility and expand upon the developmental expertise for which Children's Institute is well known. His lifespan developmental background aligns synergistically with how we perform work at CI – serving adults and children across the developmental continuum (e.g., ages 0-5, preK-12). He has taught in many areas such as child psychology and advanced research methods, and his leadership in the psychology department at SUNY Fredonia has a demonstrated inclusion, diversity and equity commitment.

Dr. McFall noted, *"I feel very honored to have been entrusted with this role at Children's Institute and am excited to contribute to promoting all children's health and wellbeing through the data and science side of the Children's Institute. Research and the outstanding programs and services at Children's Institute are vitally interconnected; evaluation research provides the evidence that shows how effective the programs continue to be and data from service providers enables more meaningful and relevant scientific research to inform scholars and government leaders. I am excited to work with the incredible team at Children's Institute to engage with the community, learn from our stakeholders, and ensure that our science is inclusive and relevant."*

CI's Research and Evaluation area will now merge with its Center for Continuous Improvement to form one vibrant Data and Science services group broadly centered on engaging with communities. Marjorie Allan, MPH will direct Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Initiatives as a part of Data and Science area, leveraging the many evaluation services she now performs. Erinn Duprey, Ph.D., has also joined CI as a research scientist,

conducting research design, methods and quantitative and qualitative analyses with internal and external partners including ROC the Future.

Ann Marie White, Ph.D., Executive Director of Children’s Institute, notes, “Having information that works to strengthen children’s experiences – so children can always get the best of what there is – is a commitment we hold dearly at Children’s Institute. Dr. McFall’s expertise and commitment to knowledge creation and translation while working with diverse communities collaboratively – combined with our existing expertise in evaluation and research design - means rigorous observation and analysis of information will help make a meaningful difference in the lives and children and families.

Children's Institute is a national not-for-profit organization based in Rochester, NY, that works to strengthen, develop, and coordinate resources that promote the well-being of children, youth, and families. Children's Institute is affiliated with the University of Rochester and has served the community for over 60 years.

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