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## NEWS RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

### **FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER CHILD ADVOCACY LUNCHEON HELD TODAY**

**LANCASTER, Ohio (June 14, 2007)** – Information about child abuse and neglect was presented at Fairfield Medical Center today, by Robert Shapiro, M.D. from the Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. He commented about the main focus of his job by saying, “Protecting the child is the ultimate goal.” Shapiro touched on increased understanding of local child advocacy program resources, documentation and care for child abuse patients, effectively identifying cases, and establishing increased awareness for agencies and providers to work together to care for and protect child abuse patients. After discussing that the initial interview with the child is crucial in building a solid case, Shapiro also commented, “A well trained forensic interviewer is the key to understanding what type of care to provide the child. Best practice is to record this interview with an audio recorder or video recorder.”

In attendance were about 70 representatives from all aspects of the child abuse and neglect treatment and prevention process. Such representatives were from Fairfield County Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Medical Professionals, Emergency and Sexual Assault Nurse Evaluators, Advance Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, Emergency Physicians, Advance Practice Nurses, Nursing Supervisors, Prosecutors, and Child-Protection Workers.

Coordinators for this event were, Terri Lehman, Fairfield Medical Center Registered Nurse and Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Coordinator, along with Lisa DeGeeter, Project Developer of the Child Advocacy Program. Lisa DeGeeter is very determined to open the Fairfield County Child Advocacy Center in the near future thanks to Dave and June Harcum along with Fairfield Medical Center and other people that have played a tremendous part in this effort. When asked about how important this Luncheon was to the Child Advocacy Center’s success, DeGeeter said, “This event will help on a lot of levels, getting the word out about the Child Advocacy Center opening soon and focusing on how the multi-disciplinary team that evaluates children of abuse and neglect understand what a medical exam can and cannot do. We also sought to identify interest in the community so we can develop expertise locally in conjunction with our child abuse and neglect prevention efforts.”

This presentation was very informative and beneficial to all the people involved in the process of child abuse and neglect treatment. Terri Lehman commented, “Fairfield Medical Center is dedicated to being a leader in the community for the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect, and recognizes the importance of the Child Advocacy Center. The Child Advocacy Center coordinates all the entities involved from healthcare to law enforcement to mental health services to prosecution.”

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