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For immediate release:

## **Directions for Youth & Families Announces New CEO**

Duane Casares was appointed today by the Board of Directors as Chief Executive Officer of Directions for Youth & Families.

“After screening and interviewing more than 100 applicants from around the country, we are pleased to select Duane as our new CEO. Duane’s dedication to our organization and the clients we serve is unparalleled. We are confident that he will continue the Directions’ tradition of providing excellent clinical and prevention services to our Central Ohio community,” said Scott Davis, chair of the Board.

Casares has been with Directions for Youth & Families for over 20 years, most recently as Interim CEO and Clinical Director. He is a Licensed Independent Social Worker, Supervisor designation, LISW-S, and has over 30 years experience as a manager, therapist, and presenter specializing in management, ethics, and cultural competency trainings and seminars.

Casares told the Board, “I am most grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve the young people in our community who face many challenges in their daily lives. So many of the kids we see with behavioral and mental health problems live in poverty and do not have guidance and support. Our counseling services along with prevention programs at the Short Stop and Ohio Avenue Youth Centers provide kids opportunities to build on their strengths and envision possibilities for their future success.”

The mission of Directions for Youth & Families is to empower families and their children to make sound choices and achieve promising futures. Services include counseling, prevention, and family strengthening programs provided in clients’ homes, schools, and neighborhoods. Programs address substance abuse, family violence, anger management, child abuse, neglect, delinquency, family dynamics, parenting and life skills issues. Directions served over 6,200 youth and their families last year.

For more information, contact Sue Phillips, 614-294-2661 or [sPhillips@dfyf.org](mailto:sPhillips@dfyf.org) or visit [www.dfyf.org](http://www.dfyf.org).

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