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Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award to be given to CESA #6 Program

First Lady Jessica Doyle to participate in award ceremony honoring the Integrated Services Program of CESA #6

(Madison) The Integrated Services Program of CESA #6 will receive the *Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award* at 1:00 pm on April 23, 2007. The award, sponsored by Governor Jim Doyle and the State Public Defender's Office, formally recognizes extraordinary efforts in working with children. The ceremony will be held in the main conference room of CESA #6 located at 2300 State Road 44 in Oshkosh.

State Senator Luther Olsen, who brought the work of the CESA #6 program to the attention of the State Public Defender's Office, is scheduled to participate in the ceremony. In addition to First Lady Jessica Doyle, Public Defender Board Member Joe Morales and Deputy State Public Defender Kelli Thompson will present the award.

The Integrated Services Program is based on the belief that families are the best environment for which children can grow. Serving Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties, the program is a successful community-based alternative to long-term residential care for children aged 6-17 with severe emotional disturbance. By providing intensive services including crisis intervention, respite, and daily living skills, the program enables the children to live in their family home and participate in their community.

Public Defender Board Chair Dan Berkos noted, "It's quite an honor to recognize the Integrated Services Program. The work they do truly creates a better quality of life for the children as well as their families involved."

"I'm also impressed by the fact that the program is run as a partnership with a number of organizations. It serves as a true model for others," added Berkos. The Integrated Services Program is operated in collaboration with the Winnebago County Department of Human Services, the Fond du Lac County Department of Social Services and Department of Community Programs; the Public School Districts; the Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and local law enforcement.

State Public Defender Nicholas L. Chiarkas added, "Wisconsin and its communities gain from the efforts of *Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award* winners. Recipients such as the Integrated Services Program of CESA #6 make a marked impact on the State of Wisconsin and our communities."

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