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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...**

May 27, 2015

**Changes in Mandatory Reporting and Child Abuse:**

**Free Act 153 Information Session & Act 31 Certification Hosted by the Schuylkill United Way**

The Schuylkill United Way (SUW) will host a free Act 153 information session and Act 31 certification on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 9-2pm at Penn State Schuylkill. The Pennsylvania General Assembly recently enacted comprehensive child protection reforms. These reforms are having a direct impact on adult volunteers in schools and community-based organizations. This free information session is being held in coordination with Senator Argall's office. For more information on the new legislation, including 'Clearance Fact Sheets' for employees, public school code employees, non-public school code employees and volunteers, please visit the Senator's site: <http://ow.ly/NvNEh>. The SUW encourages any volunteer or organization leader with questions to attend this free session, as our presenters will be prepared to clarify basic and advanced inquiries regarding the reforms.

Please register by calling Michelle Halabura, Director of Community Relations at 570.622.6421, or register through our online link: <http://ow.ly/MXqbp>

Date: June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Time: 9am-2pm, pizza and salad lunch provided

Location: Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Health and Wellness Center

Presenters include Mandy Mundy from the Network of Victim Assistance and Cathleen Palm from The Center for Children's Justice.

Morning Session: Overview on PA's recent child protection reforms, particularly those impacting volunteers related to mandatory reporting of child abuse and complying with comprehensive background checks.

Afternoon "Break Out" Sessions: Participants must attend morning session to attend afternoon session, which includes State Approved Mandatory Reporting Training (Act 31) OR policy and implementation policies that agency leaders will have to tackle. This would be an option for individuals that already have their Act 31 training.

*Registration is required. Priority given to Schuylkill County based individuals and organizations. Only two attendees per organization allowed, unless the organization is a Partner Agency of the Schuylkill United Way.*

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