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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR RIVERS AND DSI will merge

Many services for children and adults with disabilities will be more comprehensive

Four Rivers Resource Services, Inc. and Developmental Services, Inc. will finalize a merger November 1st, making the combined service agency one of the largest non-profits of its kind in Indiana. Together, Four Rivers and DSI serve children and adults with disabilities in 56 counties in central and southern Indiana.

According to DSI Chief Executive Officer Shane Burton, the merger will not affect services, but should save costs through shared resources like staff training and administrative support.

"We hope to save (costs) in some areas through efficiencies, but we will not compromise our promise to provide quality services to our clients and their families," said Burton. "In fact, any cost savings will be invested to enhance client services."

"This initiative, which was the result of many months of insight and input from stakeholders, senior management, and board members, makes sense for both organizations in light of a rapidly changing service delivery landscape," added Burton. "State and Federal funding sources are evolving and economic conditions have changed so we must evolve as well to implement more innovative services so that our consumers can find jobs, safe living environments, healthy lifestyles, and community involvement."

Both Four Rivers and DSI were created through grass roots efforts that began in the 1960s by advocates, parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities. Four Rivers was founded in 1986 subsuming pre-existing organizations in Greene, Sullivan, Daviess and Martin Counties and currently

serves several counties in southern Indiana. DSI first opened its doors in 1975 and serves numerous counties the central and southern parts of the State. The two organizations share some counties.

According to Steve Sacksteder, Chief Executive Officer of Four Rivers since its inception, the union of Four Rivers and DSI makes sense in light of the close relationship the two organizations have enjoyed for the past three decades.

“We’ve considered the folks at DSI close friends for many years,” said Sacksteder. “We’ve shared training and expertise. We’ve advocated for and served many of the same families and our mission is really the same. Together, we will be able to offer more comprehensive services to many of our consumers because we can combine program resources and offer more choices as well as share the very best service delivery practices. This union strengthens our ability to support our staff as well.”

He also stated “It is our intent to remain closely connected to our local communities while reaping the benefits of economies of scale. It is also paramount to us that we remain not-for-profit and devote all our resources to our mission and service recipients.”

Four Rivers and DSI currently provide supported living, group homes, job placement and supported employment, work services, adult day services, First Steps, health and wellness, affordable housing and information and referral.

Four Rivers will continue providing public transportation, as well as preschool and Healthy Families.

Burton commended Sacksteder, who will be retiring this November and the employees of both organizations for a smooth transition.

“Steve has guided Four Rivers since the very beginning and has helped them be a model for service excellence,” said Burton. “Steve has the respect of virtually everyone in the State, not only because he worked his way through

the ranks, but because he cares so much about the welfare of citizens with disabilities. It has been his life's work and his legacy."

"I can't say enough about his leadership or the leadership of both organizations' staff, management, Board of Directors, advocates and families of those we serve. I'm excited for the future of Four Rivers and DSI and the potential to do wonderful things for our consumers."

Four Rivers Resource Services, Inc. and Developmental Services, Inc. are not-for-profit organizations that provide services and supports to children and adults with disabilities in a combined 56 county area in Indiana. Four Rivers and DSI have industry and service facilities in 11 counties. Services and other information can be found at <https://www.frrs.org> and www.dsiservices.org.