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Voices for Georgia's Children Announces New Executive Director

Dr. Erica Fener-Sitkoff to assume leadership July 1

ATLANTA, GA (June 9, 2017) – Children's advocacy not-for-profit Voices for Georgia's Children announced today that Emily Pelton, who has served as executive director for the past two years, is stepping down to pursue a new role at CARE. The Voices board of directors has selected Dr. Erica Fener-Sitkoff to serve as the new executive director starting July 1.

"We are grateful for Emily's leadership these past two years," said Voices incoming board chair Sarah Beard. "She has been instrumental in the development of our long-range strategic plan, attracted new public and private donors, helped us refresh our brand and led an office relocation, all while driving a focused advocacy agenda and expanding our statewide engagement."

"Looking ahead, we know Erica Fener-Sitkoff will bring extraordinary insights and creativity to her new role," Beard said. "She is a respected leader in child policy and advocacy and already represents Voices on a range of government advisory councils and key initiatives. Her deep commitment, experience and knowledge have been crucial to our current long-range plan and we are excited to have her lead Voices as we bring it to life."

Dr. Fener-Sitkoff joined Voices for Georgia's Children in October of 2014 as policy and outreach director. Prior to joining Voices, Fener-Sitkoff led the student support services transformation for the District of Columbia Public School System. In that role, she oversaw the operations of nearly 600 providers serving more than 20,000 students and developed the strategic plan, performance management and data systems that facilitated district-wide reform. She also worked as the vice president of strategic growth and operations for a national special education services company.

"I'm thrilled to accept this new role at Voices and I look forward leading our work as an advocate for the next generation," Dr. Fener-Sitkoff said. "We are dedicated to continuing to create sustainable, long-lasting change through education and influence across Georgia, and we will keep working to ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential."

Emily Pelton will continue to support Voices through the transition.

"Leading Voices has been a privilege and has given me the incredible opportunity to work on the very pulse of child policy in Georgia," Pelton said. "I've worked hard these past two years to help set the organization up for independence and sustainability, and I'm confident it is well prepared for this transition. I will miss the tremendous team here,

and I'm excited about continuing my own journey in a new role where I can keep making an impact in Georgia and beyond.”