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**President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities scheduled to meet
February 19th & 20th in Washington, DC**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (February 18, 2015) – The meetings of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) will take place on Thursday, February 19, 2015 and Friday, February 20, 2015. The meetings will be convened in Conference Room 505A of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, located at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

Dr. Rick Rader, the Director of the Morton J. Kent Habilitation Center at Orange Grove is invited to present the evidence and justification for having people with intellectual disabilities declared and designated as a "medically underserved population (MUP)".

"It has long been reported in countless studies that individuals with intellectual disabilities experience shameful health disparities compared to the general public. Despite the data, the Federal government has never designated them as 'medically underserved.' This designation will provide benefits in access, research, clinical care, professional training, medical school loan forgiveness and related benefits aimed at improving the healthcare status of this vulnerable population," says Rader.

The PCPID was established in 1966 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to ensure the right of a "decent, dignified place in society" for people with intellectual disabilities. Since that time, PCPID has served as a federal advisory committee to the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on matters relating to persons with intellectual disabilities.

The PCPID promotes policies and initiatives that support independence and lifelong inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in their respective communities. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities provides oversight and support for PCPID.

About Orange Grove Center

Orange Grove Center was established in 1953 by parents of children with intellectual disabilities, as a school. Since then, Orange Grove has evolved to provide a wide range of programs that address the needs of those with intellectual disabilities throughout their lifespan. The Center offers a full array of services, including education, vocational opportunities, residential options, therapy and health care services, recreation, and counseling and maintains a number of university affiliations to further its mission to recognize, support and celebrate the qualities of the individual. Orange Grove Center is funded, in part, by United Way of Greater Chattanooga.

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