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## **WHYY APPOINTS MAIKEN SCOTT AS ITS SCATTERGOOD FOUNDATION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORTER**

*Funded by the Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation, the WHYY Behavioral Health Reporter Will Work in Concert with the WHYY Health and Science Desk and with WDUQ in Pittsburgh*

WHYY has appointed veteran radio producer Maiken Scott to serve in a newly created journalistic role as The Scattergood Foundation Behavioral Health Reporter – a unique news service provided by WHYY’s Health & Science Desk which focuses exclusively on advancing an understanding of the critical role behavioral health issues play in community well being.

As the Scattergood Foundation Behavioral Health Reporter, Scott will be responsible for preparing and delivering stories on WHYY 91FM, WHYY.org, and WHYY’s multiple television channels, in addition to moderating town-hall discussions with field experts to foster cross-communication on behavioral health issues. Scott currently works at WHYY as producer of the widely popular radio program *Voices in the Family*. She will assume responsibility for her new position on Monday, June 2.

The WHYY Behavioral Health Reporter, which is funded through a generous grant from The Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation, will collaborate with Pittsburgh-based WDUQ and the Staunton Farm Foundation in an effort to expand this important news coverage throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This programming partnership will enable WHYY and WDUQ to link relevant content, share valuable resources, and explore jointly causal factors that influence, positively and negatively, community behavioral health.

“The distinguishing conditions that make the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City Consolidated Metropolitan Area a healthcare and science leader also demand a media/information partner that utilizes progressive distribution capabilities to disseminate news and information on this important frontier. We thusly believe it is vitally important for us at WHYY to provide in-depth health reporting for our varied audiences,” said WHYY’s president and CEO William J. Marrazzo. “The generosity of the Scattergood Foundation, has enabled WHYY to create a specialized behavioral health news desk which will enhance and deepen reporting across all WHYY broadcast platforms.”

Arlene Morgan, Associate Dean for Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism who also serves as a member of The Thomas Scattergood Foundation Board of Managers stated, "I'm optimistic about the project's aim to educate our citizens about the quality and access of behavioral healthcare services, possible even inspiring a better system of care."

"We are ecstatic that Maiken will transition from her role as producer of *Voices in the Family* to become our Behavioral Health reporter," added Christine Dempsey, WHYY Chief Content Officer. "With reports coming from Maiken as our Behavioral Health Reporter, as well as WHYY's newly established Health and Science Desk (which is lead by Senior Reporter Kerry Grens), WHYY will be a national leader in healthcare reporting. Our goal is to lift behavior health reporting beyond 'acute' daily news – depression, suicide, drugs, etc. – to a level that incorporates underlying causes, treatments and policies that impact our region."

Scott has been working for WHYY in Philadelphia for more than ten years. She started working on *Voices in the Family* with Dr. Dan Gottlieb in September of 1997, and became producer of the program in 1999. *Voices in the Family* is a weekly, hour-long radio program focusing on mental health and social issues. Known for its in-depth story-telling, and for offering true insight and gentle advice, *Voices in the Family* has recently examined "Depression and Heart Health," "PTSD in Older Veterans," "Living with Chronic Pain," and "Transgender Teens." Some of the most memorable shows Gottlieb and Scott produced together featured interviews with actor Christopher Reeve, mathematician Dr. John Nash, Mindfulness expert Jon Kabat-Zinn, and international peace activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Betty Williams. They have also produced national specials on topics such as Alzheimer's disease, and death and dying.

In addition to producing *Voices in the Family*, Scott works as a reporter and special projects producer for WHYY. She was recently honored with the Gracie Allen Award for "Childhood Lost and Found" a documentary about childhood cancer which she produced and hosted.

Scott grew up in Karlsruhe, Germany where she worked as a reporter and producer. She moved to the United States in 1992, and holds a BA from Temple University in Journalism, and an MA from Temple University in Women's History. She is a member of the adjunct faculty staff at Temple University.



Funding for the Behavioral Health Reporter comes from The Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation. Behavioral Health reports will be filed as part of the WHYY Health and Science Desk, which was funded by a major grant from the Philadelphia Health Care Trust.

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*WHYY is what a diverse community has in common. WHYY, through television, radio and other communications services, makes our region a better place, connecting each of us to the world's richest ideas and all of us to each other.*

