



# Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **L.A. County Commends Betsy Pfromm For Two Decades Leading Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic Supervisor Ridley-Thomas Honors Leader in Children's Mental Health**

LOS ANGELES (OCTOBER 14 2009) – Hailing two decades of service to Los Angeles' neediest children, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors yesterday honored Elizabeth W. "Betsy" Pfromm for leading transformation of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic into today's center of excellence for children's mental health programs.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District – which includes the South and Central areas served by the Clinic – thanked Betsy for "twenty-plus years of leadership in mental health services, and continued service to children and families in Los Angeles County, who benefit from the mission of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic." Supervisor Ridley-Thomas recalled working closely with Betsy at the start of her tenure to fight the negative impact of liquor stores in South Los Angeles, and her continued work with the Empowerment Congress' mental health committee.

The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic serves 5,000 children and families annually at three locations in South Los Angeles. Betsy led the capital campaign with the board and staff to raise \$16 million in private funds for two new buildings in South Los Angeles for the Clinic. Under her tenure, the Clinic's services have received the American Psychiatric Association's "Advancing Minority Mental Health Award" and the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Award for Excellence.

Beyond creating excellence in the Clinic's programs, Betsy has played a leadership role at the County and State level in ensuring resources and programs focus on prevention and early intervention: She serves on the board of directors of the Mental Health Association in California, Mental Health America of Los Angeles, the Association of Community Mental Health Agencies of Los Angeles County, the California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies, and chairs the Mental Health Services Committee of the Second Supervisorial District's Empowerment Congress. Next month, Betsy is being honored by the national publication "Behavioral Healthcare" as a Behavioral Health Champion – one of six individuals selected nationally for the award. *(continued)*



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The commendation presented yesterday reads as follows:

“WHEREAS this week marks the 20th anniversary of Elizabeth W. Pfromm’s leadership of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, a comprehensive, family-driven mental health agency serving Central and South Los Angeles. She has overseen several successful capital campaigns totaling \$16 million in private funds for two state-of-the-art facilities, with more than 180 psychiatrists, therapists, family advocates, and support personnel who provide services annually to more than 3,500 children and youth, from newborn to age 25, and their families.

WHEREAS she has led the Clinic’s management team in creating innovative programs, including an early intervention and community wellness division targeting services to at-risk children, from newborn to age 5, and their families, receiving prestigious awards from the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Adolescent and Child Psychiatry.

WHEREAS she has championed access for children and youth in need, evidenced in the Clinic’s privately-funded Access Center enabling community residents to “walk-in” to receive a no-appointment, no-fee screening: She has also developed mental health services at fifteen schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

WHEREAS her advocacy for children has included service with the board of directors of the Mental Health Association in California, Mental Health America of Los Angeles, the Association of Community Mental Health Agencies (Los Angeles County), the California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies, and as chair the Mental Health Services Committee of the Second Supervisorial District’s Empowerment Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles hereby commends Elizabeth W. Pfromm for her stellar leadership and outstanding dedication”

*About Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic: The mission of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic is to provide quality mental health services by ensuring easy access and promoting early intervention. This is achieved by providing family-centered and culturally sensitive mental health services and specialized educational services to seriously emotionally disturbed children.*

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*Photo credit: Merri Jill Finstrom*

***Left to Right:***

*Robert Neary, Chair - Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic Board of Directors*

*David Hirsch, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic Board of Directors*

*Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Services*

*Betsy Pfromm, President and CEO, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic*

*The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*

*Dr. Quinton James, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic Board of Directors*

*Wayne Moore, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic Board of Directors*

*Carlos Perez, Chair-elect, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic Board of Directors*

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