Sharing a Vision of the Future

The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic (LACGC) has selected highly regarded non-profit executive Charlene Dimas-Peinado, LCSW, EML, as its new President and CEO, to lead the 92-year-old agency into its next phase.

Dimas-Peinado, a seasoned administrator and licensed clinical social worker, comes to the Child Guidance Clinic from her previous position as CEO of The Whole Child, a Whittier-based mental health and social services organization, which serves abused, homeless and at-risk children and families.

“We are very fortunate to be able to recruit someone of Charlene Dimas-Peinado’s background and caliber, who shares our vision of where we want the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic to go,” said Wayne Moore, Chair of the LACGC Board of Directors.

“I am thrilled to be joining the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic at this moment in its history, and work with its forward-looking board,” said Dimas-Peinado. “I am drawn to the issues affecting the community and believe I can make a difference.”

― Charlene Dimas-Peinado, LCSW, EML

See inside for:
• A profile of Charlene Dimas-Peinado
• A look at the CEO search
• Facts about the L.A. Child Guidance Clinic
Charlene Dimas-Peinado, LCSW, EML, new President and CEO of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, combines the big-picture strategic perspective of a hands-on executive and the insights of an experienced social worker in her quest to help children and families lead emotionally healthy lives.

Throughout her career, Dimas-Peinado has been inspired by the communities and people she serves. “Every child and family has a story and their stories have meaning and like a ripple of water ... they affect our community,” she has said. “Our objective is to make a positive impact on those we serve — one that improves a life, one that improves our community.”

Dimas-Peinado brings to the Clinic an impressive list of accomplishments from her 26-year tenure with The Whole Child, an organization she joined in 1991, when it was know as the Intercommunity Child Guidance Center, after working at El Centro Community Mental Health Center, which served persistently mentally ill adults, and at Kaiser Permanente in Downey as a medical social worker. She held a number of positions at The Whole Child, including Chief Operating Officer, before taking on the CEO position in 2005.

Under her strategic leadership as CEO, the agency increased its overall operating budget by 173% which resulted in serving more children and families. In addition, The Whole Child expanded its school-based services in Southeast L.A. County, introduced an Early Success School Program & Birth to Five Services and launched a range of housing services to aid families who are homeless or in need of housing interventions. In 2016, The Whole Child was selected by the prestigious Everychild Foundation for a highly competitive $1 million grant to significantly expand permanent supportive housing services for “hard-to-place” homeless children and families.

“Transforming as an organization is about staying focused on meeting the unique needs, values, and cultures of our communities, which are changing all the time,” says Dimas-Peinado. She says she’s ready for a new challenge at the L.A. Child Guidance Clinic or, as she prefers to characterize it: “a tremendous opportunity.”

One priority is building on the strong alliances and programs the Clinic already has established, says Dimas-Peinado. She sees herself, the Clinic staff and Board of Directors, and its community partners as stewards. “I strongly believe that organizations such as the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic belong to the community — to the children and families,” she says, “and as stewards and protectors of the organization, we have a commitment to ensuring these services will be here advancing wellness for future generations.”
Board Committee’s Nationwide Search Identifies New Clinic Leader

A search committee of the Los Angeles Guidance Clinic Board of Directors conducted a nationwide hunt for a new President and CEO to lead the 92-year-old agency.

The search effort was chaired by Board Treasurer Melvin “Mel” Jackson and guided by the Clinic’s strategic plan. The result: the Board’s unanimous selection of experienced nonprofit executive Charlene Dimas-Peinado, LCSW, EML, as the person to head the organization into its next phase.

“Charlene has had success in many areas that align with our strategic plan,” notes Wayne Moore, Board Chair and search committee member. These include the Clinic’s goals to expand its services to embrace a “0-100” age spectrum, add housing services that address family homelessness, and expand partnerships with local colleges and universities, as well as nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

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Charlene Dimas-Peinado

Charlene Dimas-Peinado, LCSW, EML, the new President and CEO of the L.A. Child Guidance Clinic, has some impressive credentials, including:

- Double Masters Degrees — a Master of Social Work (MSW) from California State University, Long Beach, and an Executive Master of Leadership (EML) from the University of Southern California
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with training in psychotherapy
- Member, Board of Directors, Association of Community Human Services Agencies
- Board of Governors, Natural History Museum of L.A. County
- Board of Governors, City Club LA
- Commissioner, Public Social Services, Los Angeles County
- Social Service Commissioner, City of Whittier (2006-2016)
- Mental Health Co-Chair, Empowerment Congress
- Positive Image Award for Community Affairs, Hispanic Outreach Taskforce, and Woman of the Year for Community Service, honored by Assembly Member Tony Mendoza (2009)
L.A. Child Guidance Clinic Continues Tradition of Innovative Mental Health Services

Founded in 1924, the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic has always been on the leading edge of mental health and supportive services for children and families.

The Clinic helped to pioneer early intervention programs for the 0-5 population, intensive services for at-risk children and families, skills-based mental health services for young adults 16-25, and an inventive collaboration with primary care providers, bringing mental health professionals on-site in community settings.

In addition, the Clinic has earned designation as a Trauma-Informed Learning Community by the National Council for Behavioral Services, and offers trauma-informed services in all aspects of its program, including the walk-in Access and Wellness Center, where children and adults can get immediate services.

The Clinic’s Policy & Training Institute is helping to shape public policy on the intersection of mental health services and primary care, and is expanding specialized training on child and caregiver mental health for community “first responders” who work with high needs families.

By the Numbers:
Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic in FY 2015-16
• 67,704 outpatient visits
• 4,062 children and family members benefited from Clinic services
• 1,954 children, family members, and caregivers received immediate help at the walk-in Access Center
• 1,170 walk-in clients received help at the Family Resource Center
• 346 community members attended 12 bilingual, skill-building workshops for families with young children
• 26 L.A. Unified School District, charter, and private school campuses had LACGC mental health services on-site
• 6,422 days of service provided through our Day Treatment Intensive Program for children 2 ½ to 5 years old

For information about the L.A. Child Guidance Clinic, and to find out how you can get involved, please contact 323-373-2400 or contact@lacgc.org.

www.lacgc.org