

**A MESSAGE FROM THE WHOLE CHILD'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CHARLENE DIMAS-PEINADO**



For 26 years, it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve The Whole Child. During my tenure, I have served The Whole Child in various capacities, from clinical to administrative positions, and as its Chief Executive Officer for the past 11 years. I love The Whole Child...its mission...its core values. During my time, I have remained committed to its growth and community impact on the lives of thousands of children and families that have walked through our doors.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation as Chief Executive Officer of The Whole Child effective August 31, 2016. It is time to pass the torch to the next leader just as it was passed onto me 11 years ago.

Together with the board of directors, leadership team, and staff, we focused exclusively on The Whole Child becoming a premiere regional mental health and housing organization. Our innovative and expanded best practices has raised awareness and aligned systems to benefit children and families in southeast Los Angeles County through our five satellite offices. As a result, we increased The Whole Child's operating budget by 173%; launched organizational rebranding and changed our name from Intercommunity Child Guidance Center to The Whole Child to better convey our philosophy that every child matters. We have also developed signature programs such as the Birth to Five Center, Permanent Supportive Housing Services and expanded school based services in nine school districts, including an Integrated School Health Center at Whittier High School. We hosted multiple Professional Development Symposiums with renowned experts; expanded internship opportunities for graduate-level students; established eleven evidenced-based practice models focused on helping children with severe mental health issues and trauma; raised millions of dollars from our generous foundations and supporters, including the recent Everychild Foundation grant in the amount of \$1 million; and celebrated the completion of a \$1 million Capital Improvement Project at our headquarters office.

It has been an honor to lead The Whole Child side-by-side with an exceptionally dedicated and skilled board of directors, leadership team and staff these past 11 years. I am so very proud of

what we have accomplished. The board of directors has begun the process of devoting their time and expertise to establishing a successful plan to select a new chief executive officer to lead The Whole Child through its next chapter of growth, innovation, and service.

As many of you know, my passion is to serve those most vulnerable, and creating a more humane and just world. For this reason I have decided to accept the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic – a \$20 million agency with over 200 employees. It is a trauma informed organization serving the mental health needs of children and families in Los Angeles.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and lead The Whole Child. I am forever grateful to YOU for your many years of support and for embracing everything The Whole Child represents.

With gratitude and warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlene Dimas-Peinado".

Charlene Dimas-Peinado, LCSW, EML
Chief Executive Officer