

# Memorandum



**Date:** December 7, 2020

**To:** Honorable Acting Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Daniella Levine Cava  
Mayor *Daniella Levine Cava*

**Subject:** Mayoral Appointment - Director of Juvenile Services Department

RECEIVED BY CLERK  
Circuit & County Courts  
Miami-Dade County, Florida  
1:21 pm, 12/07/2020  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under Section 2.02(C) of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I hereby appoint Ms. Catherimarty (Cathy) Burgos to the position of Director of the Juvenile Services Department (JSD), effective December 7, 2020. In this role, Ms. Burgos will be tasked with working across agencies and communities to develop a comprehensive and innovative approach to address positive youth development and crime prevention.

Ms. Burgos is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) who began her career with Miami-Dade County in 2000 as a social work supervisor for the Miami-Dade Police Department. She quickly worked her way up the ranks, most recently serving as the Division Director of Operations for JSD, a position she has held since 2013.

Ms. Burgos has dedicated the last 20 years to lifting up at-risk youth and their families through her role as a social worker, largely through her development of powerful Juvenile Justice prevention, diversion, and support services. She has shaped several successful programs, including the Miami-Dade Civil Citation Program, Post Arrest Diversion Program, Prevention Initiative, Domestic Violence Initiative, Chaplaincy Program, and more recently, the Youth Job Development Program. Through these programs, Ms. Burgos has been instrumental in helping JSD to reduce juvenile arrests in Miami-Dade by 80 percent during an 18-year period, saving the community \$30 million annually and giving youth the gift of a fresh start.

In recognition of her involvement in the creation and implementation of innovative juvenile justice programs, Ms. Burgos has been honored with five consecutive National Association of Counties awards. Her exemplary leadership skills have been recognized with an invitation to speak at the United Nations about the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Justice Reform Model and its successes. In 2018, she was selected as one of 13 amazing women for the prestigious In the Company of Women award in the category of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Burgos' gift and passion for helping youth extends beyond the wide reach of her career and has inspired her to volunteer her time as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She has also served in organizations such as the National Christian Multicultural Student Leaders Conference and collaborated with Georgetown University, where she assisted in creating better practices to help the "crossover" population of youth involved in both the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System.

Ms. Burgos holds a master's degree in social work from Florida International University and a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a concentration in psychology and sociology, from Greenville University.

Ms. Burgos' resume is attached for your review. I am confident that she will continue to provide exceptional leadership to JSD and much-needed services to Miami-Dade County's youth.

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Burgos on her appointment.

Attachment

Honorable Acting Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners  
Page 2

c:      Honorable Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, Miami-Dade County State Attorney  
         Honorable Carlos J. Martinez, Miami-Dade Public Defender  
         Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of the Courts  
         Geri Bonzon-Keenan, Successor County Attorney  
         Office of the Mayor Senior Staff  
         Department Directors  
         Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor  
         Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs  
         Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board  
         Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

# **Cathy Burgos, LCSW**

## **Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department**

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Dynamic management professional with over 25 years combined experience in social services, strategic planning, program development and implementation. Innovative leader recognized for effective problem solving, creative thinking and exceptional relationship-building skills.

### ***Highlights***

- Recipient of the prestigious 2018 "In the Company of Women Award" in the category of Health and Human Services.
- Key contributor to the Department receiving 6 NACO awards in innovative programming.
- Presented JSD's model nationally and internationally, including Kingdom of Thailand and the United Nations.
- Responsible for overseeing a consolidation of diversion services and State's Intake and Screening Services.
- Worked closely with National Researchers and created JSD's first Clinical Component, including the addition of Licensed Clinical Social Workers.
- A member of the National Association of Social Workers.

### ***Education:***

Qualified Clinical Social Worker Supervisor under board rule 64B4, 2006, State of Florida

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, 2004, State of Florida

Masters in Social Work, 1995-97, Florida International University

Bachelors of Arts, Concentration: Psychology & Sociology 1991-95

### ***Professional Experience***

*Division Director of Operations, Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department (JSD)*

2013-present

- Serve as the second in command and in Acting capacity for the Department Director.
- Responsible for planning, directing, supervising, and coordinating of the Care and Custody, Clinical Diversion Community Services, Outreach and Training Division.
- Responsible for operational services that are provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to arrested and at-risk youth and the implementation of procedures to facilitate the attainment of Department and Division goals and objectives.
- Responsible for ensuring that the JSD's Juvenile Assessment Center operates with strict adherence to all local, state, and federal statutes governing the processing of arrested and at-risk juveniles.
- Responsible for the supervision of 81 staff, including three off-site offices (North, Central, and South) throughout Miami Dade County.
- Responsible for the on-going management of innovation programming focusing on diverting at-risk youth from the traditional juvenile justice system, including Prevention, Civil Citation, and Diversion continuum.
- Responsible planning, creating, and implementing improvements to operational policies and procedures that promote effective and efficient delivery to the client population.
- Responsible for meeting with Juvenile Justice Stakeholders to coordinate activities involving JSD and to resolve operational issues.
- Attend national and local conferences in the community, as Operations representative to assist in the development of juvenile justice policy and programming.
- Conduct presentations to highlight JSD's accomplishments.

- Support the Miami Dade County Youth Commission.

*Manager of Clinical Services, Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department (JSD)*

2006-2013

- Responsible for the clinical oversight of the Juvenile Services Department 24 hour a day, 7 day a week facility.
- Responsible for providing clinical guidance to licensed clinicians and line staff who administer age and gender appropriate evidence-based tools, intervening with youth experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues.
- Responsible for planning, implementing and supervising prevention and diversion programming at JSD.
- Selected as Acting Deputy Director on numerous occasions.
- Active in community meetings, conferences, and informal workshops, regarding juvenile justice planning.
- Acting intermediary for various agencies, including Stakeholders and partners; State Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Public Defender, Department of Children and Families, Miami Dade County Public Schools, Law Enforcement, and Community-based Organizations.

*JAC Diversion Administrator, Miami-Dade Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)*

2004- 2006

- Supervision of staff providing intake, screening, assessment and case-management services.
- Directed the Post Arrest Diversion Program (PAD), a program for first-time misdemeanor offenders.
- Ensured that appropriate treatment plans were developed and implemented according to the service needs of arrested youth.
- Provided clinical guidance for severe mental health cases.
- Responsible for establishing training and organizing, in-service training for professional development.
- Liaised with National Researchers in efforts to reducing recidivism rates among arrested youth.

*Social Services Supervisor 1, Miami-Dade Police Department*

2001- 2003

- Provided supervision to Social Worker 2, within the Post-Arrest Diversion Program.
- Assisted in the development and implementation of assessment tools.
- Discuss and present PAD highlights at community meetings and conferences.
- Assisted in the recruitment, supervision and training of staff and Masters level students from local Universities.

*Social Worker 2, Miami-Dade Police Department*

2000- 2001

- Provided on-call supervision to Juvenile Service Specialists in Intake and Assessment Units.
- Ensured sound decisions were made upon completion of psycho-social assessments and follow-up services.
- Developed schedules, reviewed and assigned client cases, performed assessments of complex cases.
- Liaison between Miami Dade Public Schools, the State Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement and the JAC.

*Project Director, Regis House Community Center*

1999-2000

- Supervised staff providing services to children having contact with the Juvenile Justice System.
- Supervised the development of projects, curriculum design, and clinical component.
- Supervised support staff, interns, and contract instructors.
- Scheduled events to highlight program achievements, grant management, and Community Liaison.
- Assisted in the recruitment, supervision and training of staff and Masters level students from local universities

***List of Conferences and Presentations available upon request.***