



Florence Crittenton

Where Hope Comes to Life

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Florence Crittenton Appoints New Chief Operations Officer
and Chief Compliance Officer**

Executives Bring Wealth of Behavioral Health Experience to Local Non-Profit Organization

PHOENIX — Florence Crittenton is excited to announce Pilar Vargas, Psy.D., LISAC as its Chief Operations Officer and Jessie Gillam, M.C. L.P.C. as its Chief Compliance Officer.

Dr. Vargas brings more than 15 years of experience in the behavioral health field with extensive knowledge in children and adult services both as a direct provider and in program management. Most recently, Dr. Vargas was the Vice President of Integrated Health and Human Services at Chicanos Por La Causa. In that role, she oversaw behavioral health services in multiple states comprised of outpatient behavioral health services for children's and adult services, residential treatment services, court ordered treatment, crisis services and a seriously mentally ill clinic.

Gillam comes to Florence Crittenton with a 15-year history in behavioral health, child welfare, and grant funded prevention programs. Prior to joining the agency, Gillam served as the Vice President of Behavioral Health Services in a statewide capacity at Arizona's Children Association. She holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology from the Arizona State University and a Master of Counseling from the University of Phoenix. Additionally, Gillam is a Licensed Professional Counselor with the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health and is recognized as a National Board Certified Counselor.

“We could not be more excited about these two significant additions to our agency,” said Dr. Kellie Warren, Florence Crittenton’s Chief Executive Officer. “The real beneficiaries will be the girls we serve. They are going to be directly and positively impacted by the incredible experience that Dr. Vargas and Ms. Gillam bring to Florence Crittenton.”

Founded in 1896, the mission of Florence Crittenton is to give every girl whose life we touch safety, hope and opportunity. The Agency has helped foster the recovery of girls and young women who have endured periods of victimization, chronic neglect, homelessness, poverty, teen pregnancy, drug abuse and/or mental instability. Our evidenced-based programs and services provide housing, healthcare, education, counseling, and social support to young women and girls, ages 10-to-21. Additionally, Florence Crittenton holds the charter for the state’s first and only public, single-gender preparatory school, the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona (GLAAZ).