

**RICARDO BUITRAGO, PSY.D.**  
**FL License PY8722**  
**1848 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316**  
**Office: 954-885-9500**  
**Email: drrick@mhcflorida.com**

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Mental Health Center of Florida, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

#### **CLINICAL DIRECTOR 04/16- PRESENT**

Responsible for management of clinical services, clinical program development, clinical program supervision, development and implementation of policies and procedures for clinical operations, risk management, contract negotiations, social work services agenda, and collaboration with community social service agencies.

Responsible for the supervision of Staff Psychologists, Training Director, Testing Supervisor, Director of Operations, and daily clinical operations and clinical services. Responsible for development, oversight and delivery of evidence based and trauma informed treatment models throughout the clinical programs.

### **Mental Health Center of Florida, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

#### **CHIEF PSYCHOLOGIST 04/13- 04/16**

Providing clinical, assessment, supervision, and consultation services for children and adults with psychiatric disorders. Responsible for providing and supervising mental health services that include identifying and assessing psychological, emotional, or behavioral issues; diagnosing disorders; performing various different types of Psychological Evaluations; providing court testimony; and providing/supervising psychological services to children through seniors. Including supervision of American Psychological Association (APA) placed Doctoral Interns and Post Doctoral Fellowship Students.

### **Private Practice, Davie, FL**

#### **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST/CONSULTANT 02/13- PRESENT**

Currently hold several independent contracts with Child Welfare/Social Service agencies as a Consultant, Qualified Evaluator, Medical Expert and as a Chief Psychologist providing clinical, assessment, supervision, and consultation services for children and adults with psychiatric disorders. Responsible for providing and supervising mental health services that include identifying and assessing psychological, emotional, or behavioral issues; diagnosing disorders; performing various different types of Psychological Evaluations; providing court testimony; and providing/supervising psychological services to children through seniors. Including supervision of American Psychological Association (APA) placed Doctoral Interns and Post Doctoral Fellowship Students.

### **Home Safe, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL**

#### **DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS 10/04- 08/12**

Responsible for overall operations of five multi-sited foster care 24- hour children and adolescent long term residential group home/treatment facilities providing shelter care, Specialized Therapeutic Group Care (STGC), and BHOS group care. Member of Senior Management. Responsible for management of clinical services, program development, program supervision, development and implementation of policies and procedures for program operations, risk management, contract negotiations, social work services, and independent living/life skills services. Responsible for the supervision of residential program supervisors, clinical directors, independent living coordinators, after care/discharge planning, daily residential operations and services. Responsible for development, oversight and delivery of Trauma Informed Care model throughout the programs. Oversee and monitor 4 million dollar budget for all residential programs. Participated and lead various Continuous Quality Improvement Committees including; Residential Programs CQI Committee, Safety Committee, Staff Appreciation Committee, Staff Development Committee, Resident Advisory Committee, Residential Management Committee, Clinical Roundtable Committee, and Board Committee. Community advocacy through outreach to family court, schools, child welfare community based provider forums, treatment providers, and parents/foster parents. Interfaced with referring child welfare agencies such as; Department of Children and Family Services, Child and Family Connections, Children's Home Society, and State wide Community Based Care Providers.

**MercyFirst, Syosset, NY**

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**      *09/03- 08/04*

Over saw three 24-hour juvenile delinquent/adolescent sex offender residential treatment programs and one outpatient treatment program serving hard to place adolescent males from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds with a documented history of delinquent behaviors or adjudication in family court. Community advocacy through outreach to family court, schools, job sites, treatment providers, and parents/foster parents. Program development, supervision, and implementation of policies and procedures for program operations, social work services, and clinical services. Participated in agency project committees including; Quality Improvement, Placement, Program Manual Development, Foster Care Policy and Procedures, and Adoption Services. Interfaced with referring child welfare agencies such as; Department of Social Services, Office of Children and Family Services, ACS, and OMH. Provided direct supervision to Program Coordinators.

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**      *12/00- 09/03*

Program Coordinator of a 24-hour Residential Treatment Center serving hard to place, culturally diverse, male juvenile delinquents/ juvenile sexual offenders and a Community Based/Aftercare program for juvenile sexual offenders being discharged from non-secure and secure residential treatment centers in New York State. In addition to clinical coordinator responsibilities (as described below), coordinate and supervise all facets of milieu programming, social work services, program operations, and clinical treatment. Supervision of Program Manager, Clinical Social Worker, Social Work Interns, and Psychology Interns.

**CLINICAL COORDINATOR**      *09/99-12/00*

Clinical Coordinator of a 24 hr Residential Treatment Center serving hard to place juvenile male delinquents/juvenile sexual offenders. Developed and implemented new clinical treatment program for hard to place, culturally diverse, juvenile male delinquents adjudicated by the court system. In addition to the crime(s) resulting in their admission, residents presented with co-morbid behavioral problems, sexual abuse (victim or perpetrator), physical abuse and/or neglect, substance abuse, gang involvement, and psychiatric problems. Coordinated and implemented all facets of clinical treatment for residents. Leader of a multidisciplinary treatment team. Designed and led groups focused on crime/offense cycles, relapse prevention, thinking errors/cognitive distortions, and empathy skills. Provided and supervised individual, family, and group therapy, crisis intervention, and treatment planning. Responsible for teaching weekly intern seminar on topics including; juvenile delinquency, sexual offending behaviors, court testimony, substance abuse, and gangs. Provided clinical documentation to family court, OCFS, DSS, and ACS. Testified in court as needed. Attended regional, national, and international trainings on topics of sexual offending, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, gangs, and adolescent development.

**MercyFirst, Syosset, NY**

**PRE-DOCTORAL INTERN**      *09/98-09/99*

A.P.A. Accredited Primary Psychology Intern on Adolescent Sex Offender Unit/Clinical Department Residential treatment center for children and adolescents with presenting histories of sexual/physical abuse (victim or perpetrator), behavioral problems, neglect, psychiatric disorders, and substance abuse. Provided individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy. Conducted full battery psychological assessments, clinical interviews, and clinical presentations.

**The Children's Psychiatric Center, Hialeah, FL**

**STUDENT CLINICIAN**      *08/97-08/98*

Outpatient therapeutic facility primarily for children and adolescents presenting with histories of sexual and physical abuse, substance abuse, behavior problems, or recent migration to U.S. Provided Play therapy, individual therapy, and family intervention. Conducted full battery assessments, clinical interviews, and clinical presentations.

**Brown Schools of Florida, Pembroke Pines, FL**

**Elaine Gordon Treatment Center**

**STUDENT CLINICIAN** 01/97-08/97

A residential level eight (high risk) juvenile sex offender treatment program. Conducted psychological assessments, clinical interviews, attended weekly rounds with residents and provided brief individual therapy.

**Goodman Psychological Services Center, Miami, FL**

**STUDENT CLINICIAN** 08/96-12/96

Outpatient Mental Health Clinic.

Conducted initial intakes of new clients and provided limited individual therapy to children and adults.

**Florida International University - Social Development Lab, Miami, FL**

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT** 05/94-05/95

Data entry, data coding, research and data gathering, presentations and public speaking in high schools.

**OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES**

05/94-08/98 **Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Broward County.**

Volunteer · Helped children develop their full potential through understanding and involvement.

10/94-05/95 **Children's Psychiatric Center All-Aboard Program for "at risk" Kindergartners.**

Volunteer· Assisted students in development of self-esteem, visual motor, counting, classification, and oral-written language skills.

10/94-05/95 **Youth Motivators Dropout Prevention Program -Broward County public high schools.**

Volunteer· Assisted students in developing short term, long term, and personal-academic goals.

**AFFILIATIONS**

American Psychological Association-APA  
New York State Substance Abuse Coalition  
Nassau County Coalition for Child Abuse and Neglect  
New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers  
Community Based Care West Palm Beach Provider Forum  
The National Honor Society in Psychology-Psi Chi

**EDUCATION**

2001 Psy.D. Albizu University A.P.A. Accredited Clinical Psychology  
1996 M.S. Caribbean Center for Advanced Studies Miami Institute of Psychology- Psychology  
1995 B.A. Florida International University Psychology  
1993 A.A. Broward Community College Psychology

**ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

01/08-12/08 **Third Level**

Executive Coaching and Team Facilitation Training

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Proficient communication skills in Spanish and English