



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT CHILD CARE RESOURCES

Deeann Burtch Puffert named interim as Auerbach moves
to statewide public-private partnership

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Seattle — Deeann Burtch Puffert, Chief Program Officer of Child Care Resources, has been named Interim Chief Executive Officer at the nonprofit. Outgoing CEO Nina Auerbach has been appointed CEO of Thrive by Five Washington and will start in November.

Auerbach moves to Thrive by Five Washington, a statewide public-private partnership founded in 2006 to develop a sustainable system for statewide early learning improvement.

Child Care Resources and Thrive by Five Washington have worked together closely for the past few years, especially in implementing the Quality Rating and Improvement program in White Center.

Auerbach, founder and CEO of Child Care Resources for 18 years says, "CCR is well-positioned to move into the next chapter of its history. We have made great inroads in bringing early learning to the forefront of families, community partners, funders and policy-makers."

In announcing Puffert as Interim CEO, Auerbach says, "Deeann has been my right hand for 18 years and I know that with her knowledge of the field, her leadership, and passion for CCR, the organization will only continue to thrive and flourish under her leadership."

Trish Davis, President of Child Care Resources' Board of Directors, commented on Auerbach's move saying, "The board is grateful for the extraordinary work Nina has accomplished in building an agency poised for continued growth. Her work at Thrive by Five Washington will further reinforce the importance of early learning throughout the state."

In reference to Puffert's new role, Davis added, "We are confident Deeann has the qualities needed to provide a seamless transition. She has been an invaluable member of the management team since CCR's inception, and she will bring continued passion to the mission of ensuring every child has a great start in school and in life."

"Nina is an amazing leader who I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with for the past 18 years. Together, we have forged a partnership that has laid the foundation for a strong and solid organization. It's an honor to step in at this time of transition," says Puffert. She added, "I look forward to continuing to work with Nina on our common goals of improving early learning in our community."

(more)

In 1990, Puffert was initially responsible for opening the Child Care Resources' East County office located in Bellevue. Since that time, her primary responsibilities have been overseeing the day-to-day operations and service delivery at the nonprofit in addition to all human resources and personnel functions for the organization.

Prior to working at CCR, Puffert was a Child Care Program Director and was responsible for the overall management and operation of four child care centers that served 180 families.

The Board of Directors of Child Care Resources will develop a plan for permanent leadership over the next few months.

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Child Care Resources (www.childcare.org) has a vision for every child to have a great start in school and in life. The nonprofit is based in King County and leads efforts to promote equity for children, community stability and school readiness by:

- 1) helping families access and choose high-quality child and after-school care,
- 2) partnering with child care providers and caregivers to offer excellent care
- 3) advocating for child-care solutions that strengthen communities.

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