

[McKelvey New Chief Program Officer at MercyFirst](#)



Written by Fred Scaglione

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Jacqueline McKelvey will be the new Chief Program Officer at MercyFirst. McKelvey is currently the Senior Vice President of Foster Boarding Home and Adoption Services at MercyFirst. She takes the position made available when Elizabeth McCarthy left to become the Executive Director of Episcopal Social Services of NYC. The appointment was made after an extensive search was conducted with almost 200 resumes submitted for consideration. She will assume her new position February 1.

Jacqueline

McKelvey

"I am delighted that Jackie will be our new Chief Program Officer and have the opportunity to bring her strengths, commitment and knowledge of child welfare services to all the programs of MercyFirst," said Gerard McCaffery, President/CEO of MercyFirst.

McKelvey began her career as a Caseworker with Angel Guardian Services and worked her way up to Supervisor and then Program Director while earning her MSW from Fordham University. She was appointed Associate Executive Director of Angel Guardian in 2002 prior to their merger with St. Mary's Children and Family Services. Following that merger in 2003, McKelvey was appointed Senior Vice President overseeing Foster Boarding Home and Adoption Services in Brooklyn and Queens for MercyFirst.

McKelvey played a key role in MercyFirst's re-accreditation with COA in 2009 and earning Sanctuary Certification earlier this year. At the time, MercyFirst was the largest agency in the country to receive Sanctuary Certification. As a trauma-informed approach to working with children in residential care, MercyFirst was the first agency to earn Sanctuary Certification for all the programs it provides, including Prevention and Foster Boarding Home Services. McKelvey has also been a member of COFCCA's Foster Boarding Home Committee that meets with ACS on a regular basis to plan and problem-solve the provision of these services in NYC.

"I have worked my whole career in child welfare and am deeply committed to the development and implementation of best practice strategies," said McKelvey. "In my new position I will have the opportunity to collaborate with staff across the agency in this very challenging work. I will do my best to help see that all our children and families receive the high quality services they need to ensure safety and achieve permanency in a timely manner."