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Wellnest Welcomes 3 New Members to its Board of Directors With Focus on Housing and Community Building

Los Angeles, CA, March 23, 2021: Wellnest, L.A.'s leading nonprofit provider of emotional health and wellness services for children and families, has announced the addition of three new members to its Board of Directors, strengthening its knowledge base in community building, affordable housing and homeless solutions.

Joining the nearly 100-year organization are affordable housing expert Alejandro Lara, MBA, MPP; community reinvestment and business development executive Salvador Mendoza; and public health specialist Levente Orosz.

"With our proactive involvement in addressing housing insecurity in Los Angeles, we appreciate the expertise and insights our three newest members bring to our seasoned Board of Directors," said Charlene Dimas-Peinado, LCSW, EML, President and CEO of Wellnest.

Alejandro Lara, principal in Good Housing Partnership LLC, has nearly two decades of real estate development experience—from nonprofit community development corporations to private affordable housing consulting firms and real estate investment banking, where he helped facilitate multi-billion dollar mergers and acquisitions.

Lara gained additional management experience with stints at such Fortune 500 companies as Intel Corporation and GE Capital. He holds an MBA from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, where he was a Toigo Fellow; a Master of Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow; and earned his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of California, Berkeley.

He previously served on the financial advisory committee for Culver City and the executive committee of the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival.

Salvador Mendoza is senior vice president and manager of City National Bank's Community Reinvestment Department, where he supports Community Reinvestment ACT (CRA) loan development and outreach efforts by City National banking offices. He also provides research and development support for its Hispanic new business development and outreach initiative.

Mendoza serves as chair of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services and on the boards of Public Counsel, People Assisting The Homeless (PATH) and the San Fernando Valley Financial Development Corporation. He earned a bachelor's degree in business and social science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a certificate in human resources management from UCLA.



Levente Orosz is a vaccine account specialist in the Division of Public Health at Pfizer, a Fortune 100 company and one of the most respected biopharmaceutical firms in the world.

His responsibilities include ensuring that patients throughout Los Angeles County are screened, educated and appropriately vaccinated at each step of their healthcare journey. As a vaccine account specialist, he analyzes healthcare trends, develops plans for new programs, collaborates with key stakeholders and works to engage patients with providers.

An L.A. native, Orosz is fluent in Spanish and Hungarian, with a working knowledge of French. He holds an MBA from UCLA Anderson School of Management, where he was a Riordan MBA Fellow, and a bachelor's degree in political science from UCLA. He is a proud graduate of John Marshall High School.

Wellnest recently announced a capital campaign, *Housing for Promise*, to raise funds for completion of its first permanent supportive housing development, The Nest on Florence, a 51-unit, 40,808 square-foot building in South Los Angeles.

The Nest on Florence will be home to young adults ages 18-25, and young families who are at risk for homelessness or already experiencing housing instability. Its tentative completion date is December 2021.



Alejandro Lara

Salvador Mendoza

Levente Orosz

ABOUT WELLNEST

Wellnest is a nationally acclaimed and leading provider of emotional health and wellness services to the children, young adults, families and communities that we serve. We were founded as the Child Guidance Clinic of Los Angeles in 1924.