

# CHRISTOPHER LONG, Ed. D

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*An enterprising, community-focused, strategic non-profit healthcare leader with 3 decades of experience in expanding organizational capacity and developing solutions to some of the most complex healthcare needs. An enterprising problem solver that keeps “can’t” out of the conversation with budget-friendly ideas and the ability to see downstream trends, shifting obstacles, roles, and processes that allow an organization to flourish.*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Chief Executive Officer/President of Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (2009-present)**

*In the Chief Executive role characterized by both strategic planning and immediate response, dramatically expanded FREE, Inc. 's reach by securing over \$100m in funding since taking the helm as CEO. Expanded FREE, Inc. 's programming on a national level with entities in 3 states and 1 territory.*

- Provide ongoing strategic direction for the FREE, Inc. network of services, including its affiliate organizations and the FREE Foundation.
- Responsible for the oversight of a \$170+ million-dollar operating budget that supports diverse services over 200 locations throughout Long Island and New York City.
- Develop and communicate a shared vision, mission, and strategic direction for the organization. Works directly with the Board of Directors to align future goals and position the organization to remain a premier provider of services.
- Assess and place talent effectively, structuring growth progressions to advance strengths and careers. Provide a safe place for ideas and issues, a passionate executive and advocate of team members and the greater community.
- Lead the advancement of the organization's strategic goals by diversifying and deepening funding sources.
- Promotes and serves as an Ambassador for the organization's DEI initiatives.
- Facilitate cross-departmental collaboration and strengthen internal communication.
- Oversee a senior executive team of eight Chief Program Officers of operating, administrative, and support divisions.
- Work collaboratively with government and private entities to secure funds necessary to operate innovative supports and services.
- Reviews, approves, and participates in the design of all proposal, grant, and foundation requests to expand services. Responsible for FREE, Inc. being awarded over 100 new grant funding opportunities.
- Performs oversight of affiliate organizations within the network of supports and services
- Leads effort to consolidate affiliates while promoting overall efficiency.

### **Senior Vice President, FECS, Inc. (1999-2009) NYC**

*In a senior leadership role that led to significant organizational expansion and improved efficiencies, led the day-to-day human services operations for the \$250 million nonprofit.*

- Operated over 100 community-based housing opportunities supporting adolescent and adults with a wide range of severe developmental disabilities
- Responsible for the supervision of all senior management and clinical staff working within the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Divisions to ensure the delivery of the highest quality of care.
- Lead efforts to ensure compliance with all local, state, city, and federal requirements and regulatory standards
- Wrote grants, secured funding, and oversaw all government contracts related to the Developmental Disabilities Division.
- Oversaw respite, family support, at-home residential habilitation, and capital improvement grants
- Directly managed 50-million-dollar operating budget that included funds from the federal, state, city, and local governments as well as the private sector

***Associate Executive Director, Long Island Head Injury Association (1996-1999)***

*In a senior executive role, oversaw all service divisions and drastically expanded the breadth of services and operating budget for the \$40 million nonprofit.*

- Responsible for the operation of the agency's landscape of housing and day service operations that served survivors of traumatic brain injuries.
- Presented and developed all training courses and conducted adult education courses for all middle and senior management staff
- Supervised all medical personnel to ensure the delivery of high-quality health care to the individuals served throughout the agency.
- Created and implemented the Traumatic Brain Injury Medicaid Waiver Program throughout Long Island, including the responsibility for securing all grants and performance-based contracts.

## **EDUCATION**

Doctor of Education, Nova Southeastern University  
*Specialization: Special Education*

Master of Science, Mercy College  
*Specialization: Educational Leadership*

Master of Arts, Nova Southeastern University  
*Specialization: Special Education*

Master of Arts: University of Massachusetts at Lowell  
*Specialization: Forensic Psychology/Criminology*

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

- New York State Permanent Teacher Certification-Special Education
- School Building Leadership Certification (permanent)

- Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC-Level 2)

### **HONORS/ AWARDS**

- Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, Farmingdale State College (2023)
- Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, St. Joseph's University (2022)
- Newsday Award, Long Islander of the Week (2021)
- Long Island LGBT Center, Board Member (2019-2021)
- UPCEA National Award-advancing leadership in professional education (2019)
- Recipient of Executive Circle Award, LI Business News-Executive Award (2019)
- NYC ACS Award-Foster Parent of the Year (2018)
- Recipient of the prestigious Zella Bronfman Award (2017)

### **PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Diversified FREE, Inc.'s revenue and deepened its relationships with donors, community partners and other stakeholders and secured over 100m in additional funding since assuming the role of CEO.
- Expanded FREE, Inc.'s reach to a national level by establishing additional entities in Florida, Massachusetts, and Puerto Rico.
- Championed the successful acquisition of four not-for-profit organizations with aligned missions.
- Secured the New York Statewide Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment Resources and Treatment (NYSTART)/ Crisis Services for individuals with intellectual disabilities
- Created and established the first hospital diversion program for persons with serious persistent mental illness.
- Created integrated mental health clinics in multiple local public schools.
- Secured an Integrated Outpatient license through the NYS Office of Addiction and Support Services (OASAS) to provide services to persons with co-occurring disorders.
- Successfully established SMART homes for community-based housing services for persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.
- Successfully led the organization to be the first to transition to an electronic medication administration record in all certified housing environments.
- Led the effort to establish the first collaborative degree program with the State University of New York for employees of a not-for-profit organization.
- Developed a series of graduate course for Stony Brook University's collaborative off-site degree programs in Human Services/Liberal Studies.
- Developed the forensic psychology transition assessment program in partnership with the Office of Mental Health & the Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.
- Launched the first support and advocacy for LGBT+ people with disabilities (FREE to Be)
- Designed and secured funding for an extensive expansion of mental health services throughout Long Island, in partnership with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) and the Office of Mental Health.

- Secured 3 million dollars in funding to establish a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in Long Island serving the underinsured.
- Designed “Project Return” transition plan for students who successfully met the requirements for graduation and will return to district schools.
- Secured funding to establish over 50 community-based homes for children, adolescents, and adults with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.
- Secured funding to establish and expand services for children in out-of-state residential treatment homes to return to their place of origin in Long Island.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Long, Christopher. *Stop the Bounce: A Child's Journey Through Foster Care*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform , 2016.

Long, Christopher. *Swimming in a Pool of Peanut Butter: Living with ADHD*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014.