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*Media Contact: Ron Gold*  
Marketing Works PR  
[ron@marketingworkspr.com](mailto:ron@marketingworkspr.com)  
516-297-1637

## **Human First CEO Appointed to Mental Hygiene Advisory Board**

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK, February 27, 2018**—Cheryelle Cruickshank, Chief Executive Officer of New York nonprofit Human First, has been named to the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee of the Community Services Board of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

As a member of the subcommittee, also known as the Mental Hygiene Advisory Board, Cruickshank will advise on issues pertaining to the City's programs and services for individuals with mental health challenges and developmental disabilities. The Board meets quarterly at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Gotham Center, located in Long Island City, Queens. Cruickshank will serve on the Board through December 31, 2018.

A longtime leader in the mental health field, Cruickshank has nearly three decades of nonprofit executive management experience. As CEO of Human First, she provides advocacy and strategic direction that has been instrumental in growing the agency's vital programs for developmentally disabled individuals in New York City and Long Island. Prior to her appointment as CEO in 2016, Cruickshank served as Associate Executive Director at Unique People Services where she oversaw 22 programs for individuals with special needs. She also led a distinguished 20-year career at Services for the Underserved, where she developed several essential programs including Adult Day Services, After-School Programs and Residential Services. She currently serves on the boards of the New York State Association of Community Residential Agencies, the InterAgency Council and the New York Association of Emerging Multicultural Agencies.

"I'm pleased to be appointed to the Mental Hygiene Advisory Board and for the opportunity to address important issues impacting New Yorkers living

with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges,” Cruickshank said. “Many thanks to Mayor Bill de Blasio, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett, and Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services Dr. Herminia Palacio for this great honor.”

### **About Human First**

Human First, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 2001. As a multicultural agency serving the developmentally disabled communities of New York City and Long Island, Human First is committed to creating positive relationships, safe environments and enhanced opportunities for individuals to reach their personal goals and thrive in the community. The agency currently serves more than 1,400 families in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island, as well as Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

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