My name is Juanita Brigman. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of Georgia, currently serving as the Mental Health Program Manager for Easter Seals North Georgia and as the CEO of Full Blossom Behavioral Health Consultants, LLC. I will be transitioning out of my role at Easter Seals into full-time practice on April 3, 2017. I am excited to nominate myself for the George Goodman and Ruth P. Brudney Social Work Award. I have never nominated myself for an award, but feel this award is appropriate given my commitment, dedication, and tenacity to the work of serving various individuals and communities throughout my 20 year career.

Currently, I oversee the Mental Health services for an Early Care and Education Grantee that serves over 1,500 students. We provide direct intervention and prevention services to our families in an effort to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of the whole family. As the CEO of Full Blossom Behavioral Health Consultants, I work hard to extend early intervention services to families on an outpatient basis by offering individual and family counseling. Through Full Blossom we also educate parents, teachers and the broader provider community on early childhood mental health identification, prevention and intervention. My drive to see children and families happy and stable has undergirded my service throughout every position I’ve ever held.

Children are my passion and I have worked most of my adult life looking for ways to improve their trajectory. I have provided direct intervention as a Clinical Case Manager, Family Treatment Manager, Parent Training Coordinator – ensuring proper placement for foster children, Utilization Review Manager, ensuring children received care for as long as was necessary before returning to their families and communities, to name a few.

My doctoral research focused on the knowledge Head Start parents have regarding Early Math resources. My desire was to improve the educational outcomes of children whose parents may lack the knowledge of how to access and adequately prepare them with the resources like early math and STEM related materials. Thus my commitment is not just to the social and emotional health of children and their families, but to the academic success of every child as evidence in my book “Mommy, Daddy, Look What I Can Do! A Parent Guide to Teachable Moments for a Great Academic Future!” – I know it’s a long title, but it’s a great little book for parents to help them see that preparing their children for success is doable.

I appreciate your consideration of my nomination and hope to see you in June.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach me at 678-668-5483. My email address is fullblossombhc@gmail.com