

# Foster Care Provider Guilty

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eral government for foster care services in the black community, including hiring and screening foster parents for community placements, compensating foster parents for services and placing foster children in residential or group homes.

From 2009 through 2015, Ayala exercised sole and complete control over the Give Us This Day finances, officials said. No other employee or board

member had access to the organization's bank accounts or statements during this time. With no internal controls in place, Ayala wrote checks, used the foster home's debit card and withdrew cash at will, using the organization's bank accounts as her own, authorities said.

Additionally, she used the money to fund other business ventures including a media company and Big Mary's, a fish and ribs restaurant in Portland, and to purchase and flip a commercial property,

officials said.

In total, Ayala was found guilty of stealing nearly \$1 million. As a result, her employees, foster parents and foster children in her care suffered tremendously, officials said. Children from the residential center and house managers complained about a lack of basic necessities, including but not limited to food, toiletries and cleaning supplies.

Ayala will be sentenced on May 29 by U.S. District Court Judge Marco A. Hernandez.

# A Long History of Health Disparities

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icans in medicine, the National Medical Association.

Forty years after Williams made history by performing one of the first open-heart surgeries in the US, African American physician Dr. Myra Adele Logan became the first woman to perform the procedure in 1943. It was thought to be the ninth time the procedure had been performed worldwide.

Dr. Charles Drew pioneered methods of storing blood plasma for transfusion and organized the first large-scale blood bank in the

US during World War II. Drew, who was African American, helped develop a blood storage program at the American Red Cross but resigned shortly after officials segregated the blood of African Americans. He later became chief surgeon at Freedman's Hospital and the first black examiner for the

American Board of Surgery.

In 1993, Dr. Joycelyn Elders became the first black female physician appointed as US Surgeon General by President Bill Clinton, who previously, as governor of Arkansas, appointed her as director of the that state's Department of Health in 1987.

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