

Headlines

A woman with dark hair, Alice Levy, is smiling and posing in a white UFC Gym gi. She has her fists raised in a celebratory gesture. The background shows a gym setting with a black punching bag on the left and a blue mat on the floor. The UFC Gym logo is visible on the gi and the punching bag.

Alice Levy Protecting the Elderly

*Meet CSB's New Director
Aaron Alarcón-Bowen*

The CA Rent Relief Program

Meet New CSB Director, Aaron Alarcón-Bowen



Aaron Alarcón-Bowen, CSB Director

Aaron Alarcón-Bowen is the new executive director of the Community Services Bureau. His first day on the job was June 1st. Aaron brings more than 20 years of experience in public service, most recently as the executive director of the In-Home Supportive Services

Public Authority of Marin County. Prior to working in the Bay Area, Aaron spent several years as the family services program director for Catholic Charities of Dallas, Texas. He also worked with foster parents with the ChildNet Youth and Family Services in Long Beach, CA, and as a guardianship specialist and guardianship program director for the legally and mentally incapacitated in Texas.

Aaron has a deep commitment to addressing poverty and ensuring equity and access to our

children’s programs and through our Economic Opportunity Council. One of his proudest achievements is the implementation of a collaborative project in Marin County to bridge the child care system with IHSS caregivers in order to expand employment opportunities and to improve the quality of both programs.

“One of the social issues that I am most passionate about is economic justice,” Aaron pointed out. “After seven years working with older adults and individuals with disabilities in Marin County, I am extremely excited for the terrific opportunity to put my 21 years of public service experience towards achieving economic justice among families and children in Contra Costa County.”

Aaron earned his B.A. from the University of Texas at El Paso, his Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of North Texas, and is only a few months away from completing his PhD in Public Policy and Administration at Walden University.

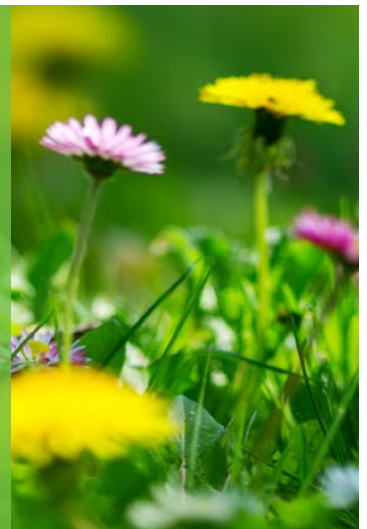
Welcome to EHSD, Aaron!

Summertime News, Get in While it’s Hot!

The *Headlines* team is once again rolling two months of EHSD news into one “hot” summer issue. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, July 20th, and we will publish our special summer *Headlines* during the first week of August.

Do you have a coworker you want to acknowledge as a Customer Service Champion (CSC)? Send us your write-up and a photo of the staff member. See the points of contact below for emailing CSCs, story ideas, short articles (2-3 paragraphs) or photos for possible inclusion.

[Roz Guillory](#) for Workforce Services; [Laura Malone](#) for Children & Family Services; [Cheryl Leonor](#) for Personnel Unit; [Monique Young-Edwards](#) for CSB; [Maura Connell](#) for Policy & Planning; [Claudia Lam](#) for Gateways for Growth; and Headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us for all other submissions.



Tapping Into CA Rent Relief Funds Still Possible

Extra help catching up on rent can provide welcome relief to renters who are struggling with late rent due to COVID-19. Although the CA Rent Relief Program appears to be off to a slow start, there are still funds to tap into if you qualify. As mentioned in *Headlines* over the past couple of months, EHSD is at the forefront of spreading the word about the CA Rent Relief Program along with several county departments and agencies.

Program advocates are encouraging social services workers to help inform California tenants facing financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic so they can take advantage of the CA Rent Relief Program. In Contra Costa County, there are more than 25,800 households at risk with approximately \$5,200 in estimated total rent debt per household.

The CA Rent Relief Program provides housing subsidies to cover both rent arrears and prospective rent and utilities.

The State launched the CA Rent Relief Program in March to provide emergency rental assistance to tenants and landlords impacted by the pandemic. Contra Costa County's award was more than \$75 million in direct rental assistance.

Renters can apply for the program on the [CA Housing is Key website](#), and find many [local partner resources](#) available to help in various languages.

In addition to the state supports, EHSD also operates the [Season of Sharing COVID Relief Fund](#) through its Volunteer & Emergency Services.



Ron'Neysha Patton (right) and her sister, London (Left,) received more than \$3,000 in rent assistance from the Seasons of Sharing Program (SOS). They are now on stable financial footing and are grateful for the many programs available.

Eligible applicants can get help with costs resulting from the COVID pandemic, including rent or mortgage payments, deposits and utilities, furniture, transportation and medical equipment.

To learn more and get information into the hands of EHSD customers, please share and print EHSD's COVID-19 Rent Relief flyer on the next page.

The COVID-19 Rent Relief flyer is currently available in English and Spanish on EHSD.Org.

Additional languages will be added to the [Housing & Homeless Services](#) page as soon as translations are available.

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

COVID-19 Rent Relief Program

Need help paying rent and utilities due to COVID-19's impact on your finances?

If you're a renter or landlord struggling with past due rent, you may be eligible for assistance.

Who Can Apply?

Renters who have experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19, have past due rent or utilities, and have a household income that is not more than 80 percent of the area median income.

Landlords who have income-eligible renters experiencing a financial hardship due to COVID-19 with past due rent.

Check eligibility, apply, and find resources at HousingKey.com or call **(833) 430-2122**.

Local Partner Resources

211 or Contra Costa Crisis Center
Dial 211 or **(800) 833-2900** or text **HOPE** to **20121**

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Institute **(888) 428-7615**

CityServe Network **(661) 371-2650**

Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond **(510) 412-9290**

East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation **(510) 287-5353**

International Rescue Committee, Inc. **(510) 452-8222**

Monument Impact **(925) 682-8248**

Northern California Land Trust **(510) 548-7878 ext. 2**

Richmond Neighborhood Housing Services **(510) 237-6459 ext. 1601**

SHELTER, Inc. **(925) 335-0698**

Programa de ayuda de renta COVID-19

¿Necesita ayuda para pagar la renta y las utilidades debido al impacto ocasionado por el COVID-19 en sus finanzas?

Si es un inquilino o un propietario/arrendador con problemas para pagar su renta, usted puede calificar para esta ayuda.

¿Quién puede aplicar?

Los inquilinos que han sufrido dificultades financieras debido al COVID-19, que tienen renta o servicios públicos atrasados, y tienen un ingreso familiar que no supere el 80 por ciento del ingreso medio del área.

Los propietarios/arrendadores que tienen inquilinos con ingresos elegibles que han sufrido dificultades financieras debido al COVID-19 con rentas vencidas.

Verifique elegibilidad, aplique, y encuentre recursos en HousingKey.com o llame al **(833) 430-2122**.

Recursos de Nuestros Socios Locales

211 o El Centro de Crisis de Contra Costa Llame al **211** o **(800) 833-2900** or envíe un mensaje de texto con la palabra **HOPE** al **20121**

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Institute **(888) 428-7615**

CityServe Network **(661) 371-2650**

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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

Housing Help for Youth Formerly in Foster System

By Lynn Peralta, Policy & Planning Division Manager

In May, Children and Family Services won an opportunity to expand services to Transition Age Youth (TAY) who are at risk of homelessness. The **Transitional Housing Program (THP) and Housing Navigators Program (HNP)** grants were awarded to CFS by the state Housing & Community Development (HCD), in partnership with Contra Costa H3 (Health, Housing & Homelessness Division) and Policy & Planning (P&P).

EHSD received two rounds of \$113,600 for THP and \$116,980 in HNP funding to ensure homeless foster youth receive housing navigation, case management, and financial assistance to return to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

When left without support or resources, young adults aged 18 to 25 years may face huge barriers to finding safe, affordable homes. Since

2019, HCD has made these vital programs available to counties and their child welfare agencies to help young adults find and maintain housing, with priority given to those formerly in the foster care or probation systems.

“We were very pleased to receive this funding to continue the support for young adults,” said **Kathy Marsh, CFS Director**. “Resources like these help us to serve more youth who truly benefit from housing, case management and financial assistance as they navigate their independence.”

A special thanks to the CFS team, **Kathy Marsh, Roslyn Gentry, Laura Malone, Laura Volante, Lori Castillo, Don Graves,** and **Tim Hamp**, who provided guidance and vision for this initiative. We are pleased to continue expanding innovative programs and partnerships with state support to help vulnerable youth gain the connections and supports they need towards lives of independence.



June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month

Margueriette Walker, Aging and Adult Senior Staff Assistant



To address social isolation, fraud and elder abuse, Adult Protective Services (APS) is collaborating with the Contra Costa Family Justice Center, Area Agency on Aging and Ombudsman of Solano, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties to host four zoom events/webinars on various topics during Elder Abuse Awareness Month in June. Various agencies will be presenting on different topics. If you are a service provider, or if you work with the elderly and dependent adult population, you may register for the events/webinars ([see flyer](#)).

Some of the ways we are spreading abuse awareness and promoting outreach to the elderly and dependent adults in Contra Costa are:

- Older Adult Mental Health has been working with Comcast to air commercials targeting social isolation, elder abuse and vaccine scams.
- Elder Abuse Awareness Month June Virtual Events
- Proclamation with Board of Supervisors in recognizing June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month

The elderly can get connected through the following ways:

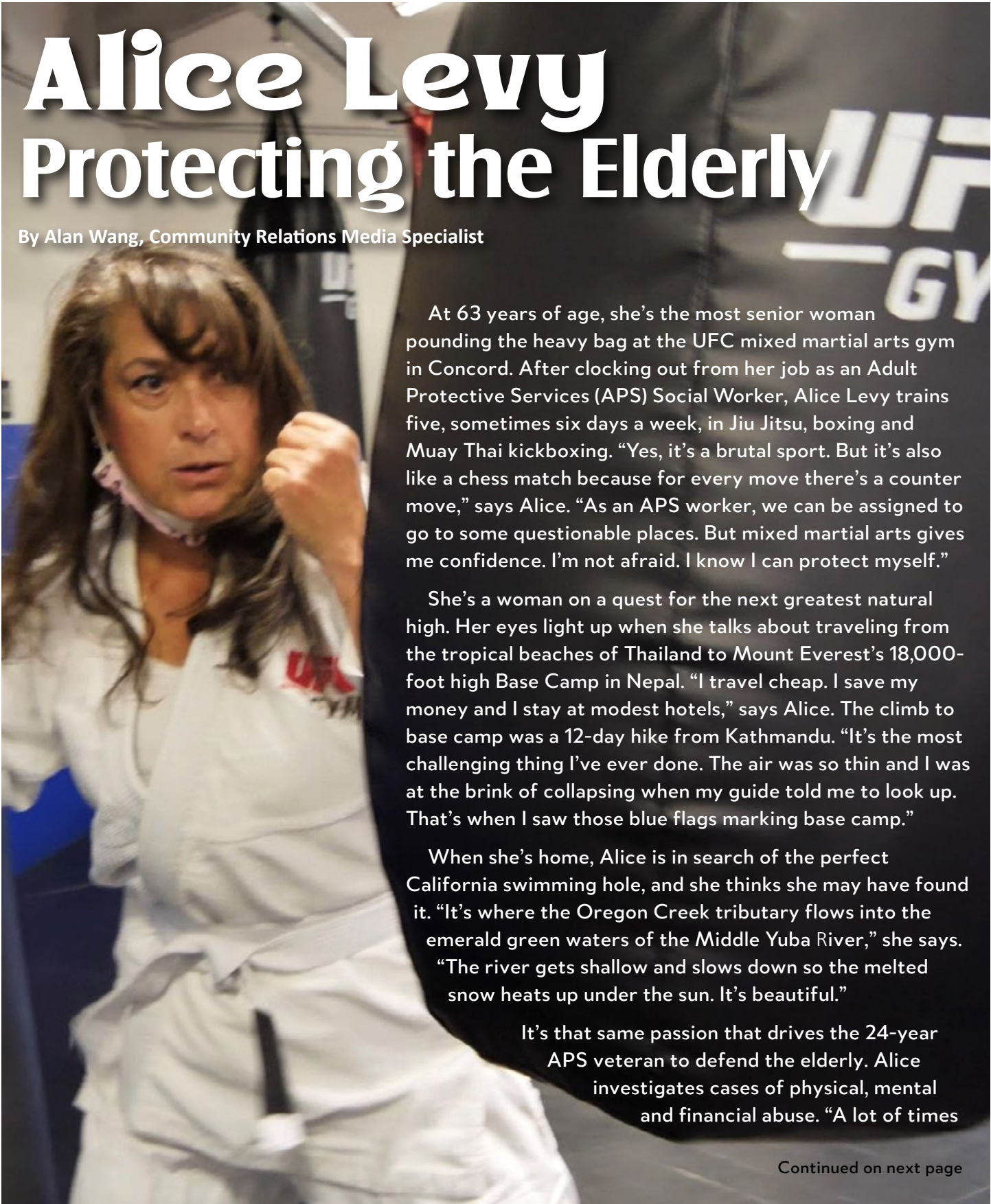
- **Institute on Aging Friendship Line** (800) 971-0016
- **Meals on Wheels Diablo Region** (925) 937-8311
- **Contra Costa Information and Assistance Helpline** (800) 510-2020
- **Covia Social Call** (877) 797-7299
- **Senior Peer Counseling** (925) 521-5653

To report elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect, please call APS at **877-839-4347** or at reporttoaps.org (for mandated reporters). For abuse and neglect occurring in nursing homes and long-term care facilities please call Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa, Solano and Alameda County to make a report at **(925) 685-2070**. For emergencies please call law enforcement first.

We encourage you to wear purple during the month of June to support the cause of elder abuse outreach. Our community members are important, let's continue to reach out to our elderly and dependent adult friends, family and neighbors.

Alice Levy Protecting the Elderly

By Alan Wang, Community Relations Media Specialist



At 63 years of age, she's the most senior woman pounding the heavy bag at the UFC mixed martial arts gym in Concord. After clocking out from her job as an Adult Protective Services (APS) Social Worker, Alice Levy trains five, sometimes six days a week, in Jiu Jitsu, boxing and Muay Thai kickboxing. "Yes, it's a brutal sport. But it's also like a chess match because for every move there's a counter move," says Alice. "As an APS worker, we can be assigned to go to some questionable places. But mixed martial arts gives me confidence. I'm not afraid. I know I can protect myself."

She's a woman on a quest for the next greatest natural high. Her eyes light up when she talks about traveling from the tropical beaches of Thailand to Mount Everest's 18,000-foot high Base Camp in Nepal. "I travel cheap. I save my money and I stay at modest hotels," says Alice. The climb to base camp was a 12-day hike from Kathmandu. "It's the most challenging thing I've ever done. The air was so thin and I was at the brink of collapsing when my guide told me to look up. That's when I saw those blue flags marking base camp."

When she's home, Alice is in search of the perfect California swimming hole, and she thinks she may have found it. "It's where the Oregon Creek tributary flows into the emerald green waters of the Middle Yuba River," she says. "The river gets shallow and slows down so the melted snow heats up under the sun. It's beautiful."

It's that same passion that drives the 24-year APS veteran to defend the elderly. Alice investigates cases of physical, mental and financial abuse. "A lot of times

Continued on next page

Alice Levy — Protecting the Elderly

Continued from previous page



Alice Levy at the foot of Mount Everest after reaching Base Camp at almost 18,000 feet above sea level.

the abuse is happening right under our noses. Family members can be the abusers and the elderly victims don't want to tell on them." Alice was raised to help people. Born in the Philippines and of French decent, Alice explains "We were surrounded by abject poverty. My grandmother would say, 'There will always be poor people and all we can do is try to help them.'" Alice speaks six languages (English, Tagalog, French, Spanish, German, Italian and Portuguese) and is fluent in Tagalog. She even had an acting role in a 1976 Filipino movie called "Ganito Kami Noon Paano Kayo Negating" ("This is How We Were Then, How Are You Now?") which won Best Picture in the Filipino Academy Awards. "I consider myself a Filipino, but also

a citizen of the world," she says. "I don't look like a typical Filipino, so I surprise my fellow Filipino co-workers when I use Tagalog expressions at work."

If you talk to her long enough, you'll likely be more surprised at the things Alice has done in life. If you'd like to see Alice demonstrate some mixed martial arts on the author of this story, just click on the play button attached to the photo.



YEAR I
1st row: L-r: A. de Asa, R. Santos, A. Caliban, P. Gomez
2nd row: B. Carbone, C. Gaspang, E. Ayuda, E. Hernandez
3rd row: C. Bautista, M. Gomez, M. Francisco, M. A. Escobar
4th row: C. Lim, S. Garcia, J. Raza, M. L. Bantayan
5th row: L. Alvarez, M. Bautista, T. Dominguez, S. Uring
6th row: M. Alvarez, E. Bautista, A. Levy, V. Garcia

Which one is Alice? Growing up and going to school in the Philippines, Alice attended Assumption Convent, in Manila, from Kindergarten to college.



Alice was featured in a movie and a steamy, but PG-rated love scene. The film was widely viewed in the Philippines. After her parents saw the film, she says they never let her act again.

CLICK on the play button to watch Alice demonstrate mixed martial arts on Community Relations Media Specialist, Alan Wang.

BOTH PARTICIPANTS ARE COVID-19 VACCINATED AND HAD PERMISSION FROM THE UFC GYM TO REMOVE THEIR MASKS

Adult Protective Services Shows Resilience through Pandemic



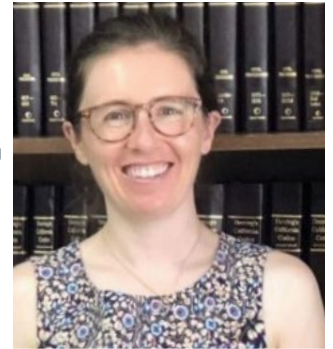
By Margueriette Williams, Aging and Adult Senior Staff Assistant

The Elder Abuse Prevention Project (EAPP) is helping the elderly get through the COVID-19 pandemic by addressing isolation and getting them connected to services, resources and support. COVID-19 did not stop services and community outreach operations, it just changed the trajectory by using a virtual and remote platform. Adult Protective Services (APS) is still facilitating their Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings (Elder Death Review, Financial Abuse Strike Team and Elder Abuse Prevention) and other victim service agencies via Zoom. These meetings are critical in combatting complex elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect cases by combining resources and knowledge. During the pandemic, APS continues to refer clients for restraining orders and eviction assistance from Senior Legal Services. The Family Justice Center is still providing service navigation, and Meals on Wheels Diablo Region continues to provide meal delivery services, case management and fall prevention to APS clients. APS Social Workers continue to cross-report to Law Enforcement and the District Attorney's Office regarding criminal cases as well as making referrals to the Mental Health Department.



Oravanh Thammasen, the West Center director of the Contra Costa Family Justice Center, is one of the many partners of the Elder Abuse Prevention Project (EAPP).

Emily Milstein, Contra Costa Senior Legal Service attorney (EAPP Partner) provides restraining orders and eviction assistance to APS/EAPP clients and other elder clients.



Margueriette Williams, APS EHSD Senior Staff Assistant manages and analyzes EAPP client data and shares EAPP program outcomes and trends with grantors.

Stefany Martinez, APS SWIII, is one of the SWs who investigates elder and dependent adult abuse cases. She refers some of her clients to EAPP and provides services and resources along with the EAPP Partners.



Susun Kim is the executive director of the Family Justice Center

Master of Social Work Graduates Take Advantage of CFS Program

By Donna Thoreson, Social Work Supervisor II, CFS Intern Program



CFS Graduating Interns. L-R: Nancy Uzegbu-McGhee, Nelida Villanueva-Rasheed, Kimberly Clark and Janice Corrales. Martha Ayala is not pictured.

Congratulations to the 2021 graduates of the Contra Costa Title IV-E Internship program! Graduating with their Master of Social Work (MSW) from San Jose State University are **Nancy Uzegbu-McGhee, Martha Ayala, Janice Corrales, Kimberly Clark and Nelida Villanueva-Rasheed**. For the past two years, these five staff members have taken online classes after work and completed internships in Children and Family Services (CFS) while they continued in their regular work assignments part time.

This program began in 2004 as an effort to support the professional development of Social Workers for CFS in partnership with California State University East Bay (CSUEB). After CSUEB discontinued its program, a new partnership began in 2019 with San Jose State's online part-time MSW

program and Cal State Long Beach's Distance Education part-time program. In 2021 Sacramento State will also be a part of the program. In cooperation with the university Title IV-E program, approved candidates are given financial support for tuition and fees and some school-related expenses.

This opportunity is currently open to all EHSD permanent, full-time staff. Employees must meet certain criteria and be willing to work for at least two years post-MSW in the Contra Costa Children & Family Services Bureau as a Social Worker, Analyst or Supervisor. Information sessions are held in the fall of each year. All candidates must apply and be accepted into one of the EHSD-approved MSW programs. For more information about this program, see the [CFS Social Worker Internship Program for Existing EHSD Employees Policy](#).

Four Major Pandemics at Once

By Ariana Martinez, CFS Staff Development Specialist on behalf of the CFS Healthy Workplace Committee



On April 7–8 and 14–15, CFS Staff had the opportunity to attend a series of virtual workshops hosted by the Bay Area Academy (BAA). “Innovations for a Trauma-Informed Workforce” is a virtual series aimed to inspire and inform professionals in child welfare. It focused on the themes of Integrated Race Equity and Trauma-Informed Systems, Leadership and Implementation, Worker Resilience and Organizational Change, and Neuroscience of Conversations.

Many experts believe we are collectively experiencing the negative impacts of trauma caused by four major pandemics over the past year: COVID-19, economic distress, political chaos, and racial injustices.

Kenneth Hardy, PhD, addressed the complexities of ‘Race and Rage’ and the ‘Centrality of Whiteness’ in our nation through his keynote and subsequent workshop. He facilitated safe spaces for participants to share, acknowledge, and reflect on their everyday experiences of racial trauma. Gloria Morrow, PsyD, took a different approach to heal from racial trauma by helping participants develop strategies for “building the beloved community through cultural humility.”

National Native Children’s Trauma Center presented a culturally responsive approach to implementing a systems change project. This workshop focused on the processes used to partner with and support tribal systems to account for each community’s unique environmental, social, and cultural characteristics.

The second week of the virtual series focused on micro and macro approaches to being trauma informed. Yasmin Sayyed, EdD, presented a workshop on “resilience strategies for service providers to attend to participants’ self-care routines to nourish and bolster our own resilience.”

María Escobar-Bordyn taught the neurochemistry of conversations to have healthy, productive conversations. As a result, participants gained a better understanding of how our neurochemistry affects trust and determines the quality of a conversation.

To obtain information and resources from the Trauma Informed Care Conference including the article by Dr. Kenneth Hardy, go to <https://www.bayareaacademy.org/resources>.

Learn at Lunch to be Well

Healthy cooking, healing with nature, meditating, and building immunity. You can learn about these topics and more during your lunch hour through a new series of Wellness Webinars available to all County employees. In partnership with Health Net, County HR Employee Benefits is offering the free webinars starting this month with *Wonders of Guided Imagery: Mind Body Healing* on June 9th, and continuing through December 2021. The live webinars will be on various days of the week, during the mid-day lunch hour period. You can also find the webinar recordings when they are posted to the County website, and view them on your own time at home if that's more convenient. The schedule of topics, dates, and times with links to register for the Wellness Webinars is now available on the Employee Benefits page of the County website at <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/8205/Wellness-Webinars>.

You do not need to be enrolled in a Health Net medical plan to register for the Wellness Webinars. All County employees are welcome to participate.

If you have questions, please email HR Employee Benefits at Benefits@hrd.cccounty.us

Thank You for Participating!

By Cheryl Leonor, Administrative Services Assistant III

Our Personnel survey is now closed. To all of you who took the time to submit your feedback, we really appreciate it!

You will hear more about Personnel's next steps in the following issues of *Headlines* and through *STARS*.



THANK YOU
FOR GIVING
YOUR FEEDBACK

Managing Work-Life Balance

Plan a fun summer regardless

Contributed by Personnel Services

Magellan Ascend



Even if COVID-19 restrictions close down pools, summer camps, theaters and concerts, you can still engage the kids in fun. Schedule a daily workout (bike ride, walk or dance party). Camp out under the stars in in your back yard. Check out area public lakes for swimming options. Take a culinary vacation, bringing the flavors of far-flung cuisines to your home kitchen; have the kids help out. Plan a scavenger hunt or socially-distanced party.

Your Employee Discounts – Save on Major Brands & Everyday Essentials

Save with your Employee Discounts on LifeMart, your online members-only discount center, where you can save big on major purchases like travel, tickets, attractions, electronics, cars vacations, or on day-to-day essentials like groceries and child care. And best of all, access is free!

[Click here to access the LifeMart Discount Center in your web browser.](#)

UPCOMING WEBINAR: *3 Secrets to Having Your Best Relationship* June 9

Register for this webinar to:

- Learn different ways to communicate with your partner
- Discover ways to deescalate arguments
- Increase intimacy in your relationship

Missed the live webinar?

Don't worry, you can access webinar recordings by clicking on "Learning Center" and selecting "Webinars." If you haven't signed up to use the County Employee Assistance Program yet, follow these two easy steps:

Step 1: Go to www.magellanascend.com and click on "Sign up".

Step 2: Complete the online registration form and click on "Get Started".

CalSAWS – Happening Now

By Terri Rose, CalSAWS Conversion Core Team Lead

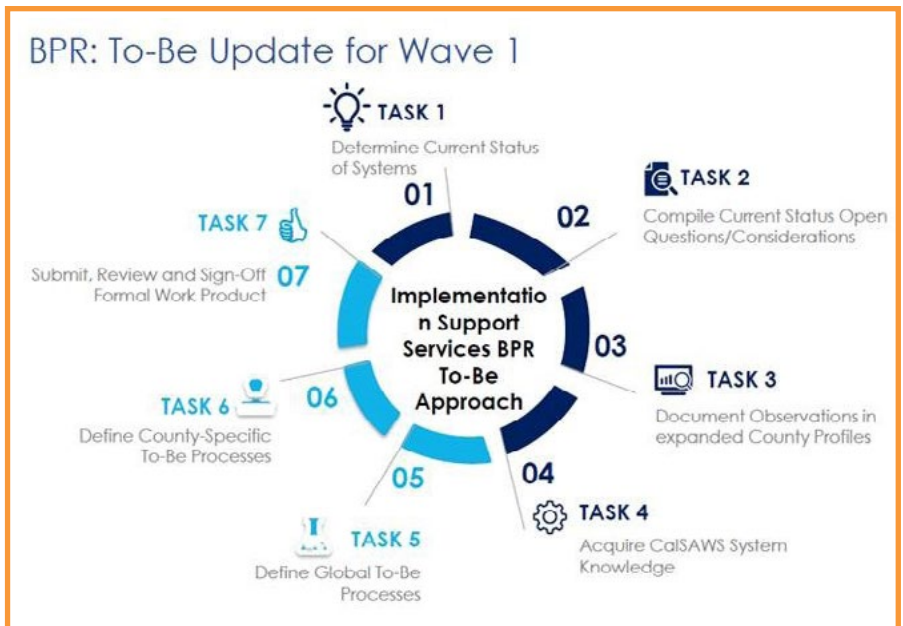
Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR) is in full swing in Contra Costa. We view the business processes as being in one of two groups. The “As-Is” activities are those we currently use, and the “To-Be” activities are those we will transition to as we implement CalSAWS.

We recently completed Tasks 1 through 3 during the BPR As-Is activities. These included 1) determining the current status of systems, 2) compiling current status open questions and considerations, and 3) documenting observations in expanded county profiles. Task 4 involves acquiring CalSAWS system knowledge. This will be an ongoing effort as the team reviews materials, watches videos and works in the CalSAWS Sandbox in order to familiarize as much as possible with the system’s functionality.

Currently, the EHSD CalSAWS Team is mostly focused on Task 5, defining global BPR To-Be processes, as we prepare to begin working on them.

Below, you can take a high-level look at what’s ahead on the Wave 1 To-Be Schedule. The pre-meet and preparation meetings will take place the first two weeks of June. During those meetings, we will determine schedules and invite workgroup members who assisted with the As-Is processes.

As you can see, the CalSAWS Team is working diligently and achieving each milestone toward full implementation in October of 2022.



MAY WAVE 1 CHECK IN MEETING

BPR | Wave 1 To-Be Schedule

This table is intended to provide Counties with the key dates for the To-Be milestones for Wave 1 counties.

Wave 1 To-Be Session Schedule							
County	Session Start Date	Session End Date	First Review Start Date	First Review End Date	Start Final Review	County Sign-Off on To-Be	DWP BPR Plan Submit
Contra Costa	6/21/2021	7/23/2021	7/26/2021	8/6/2021	8/16/2021	8/20/2021	9/10/2021
Placer	6/21/2021	7/23/2021	7/26/2021	8/6/2021	8/16/2021	8/20/2021	9/10/2021
Yolo	7/12/2021	8/6/2021	8/9/2021	8/20/2021	8/30/2021	9/3/2021	9/10/2021



EHSD Voices Input to Plan for Measure X Funds

By Lynn Peralta, Policy and Planning Division Manager

EHSD is contributing valuable input for planning how Contra Costa will spend an estimated \$112 million in total annual revenue over the next 20 years. Last November, voters approved Measure X, a half-cent sales tax increase that adds discretionary dollars to the County's budget for essential community services to protect vulnerable populations.

This past February, the County Board of Supervisors approved creating a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to oversee the planning process for these funds. The intended use includes investments in the regional hospital, community health centers, fire protection, safety net services, behavioral health, housing and homelessness, and other county services.

EHSD is very involved in the Measure X CAB series of presentations for the Board of Supervisors. On June 9th, Children and Family Services (CFS) will present on Youth & Young



The Measure X Community Advisory Board met (via Zoom) to hear AAS Director, Tracy Murray's request for nearly \$2 million in funding for senior resources.

Adults, and on July 14th Workforce Services (WFS) will present on Safety Net services.

Tracy Murray, Aging & Adult Services Director, and co-presenter Caitlyn Sly, Meals on Wheels Executive Director, kicked off the series on May 12th with compelling testimonials on the topic of [Seniors, Disabled People, Veterans](#). On May 26th, First 5 Contra Costa, in coordination with the Community Services Bureau (CSB) presented on [Early Childhood](#).

The Measure X CAB presentations are scheduled on Wednesdays through August 11, 2021, (except June 2nd), with representatives from county departments and agencies covering a range of topics.

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EHSD Voices Input to Plan for Measure X Funds

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The CAB shares 95 percent of advisory decision making with the Board to make final budget decisions by August. Proposals are currently under review now through July.

For more information on the Measure X Community Advisory Board's public meeting schedule, visit the [County website](#).

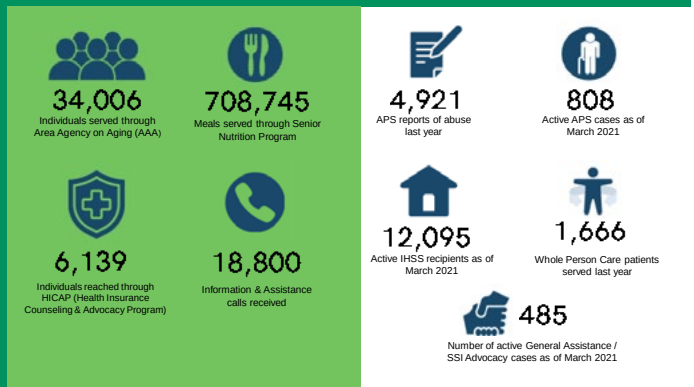
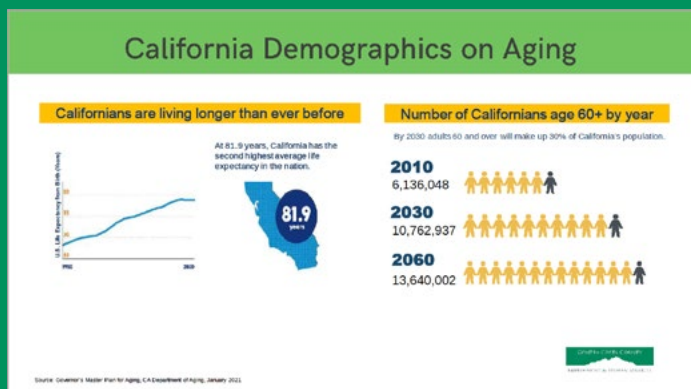
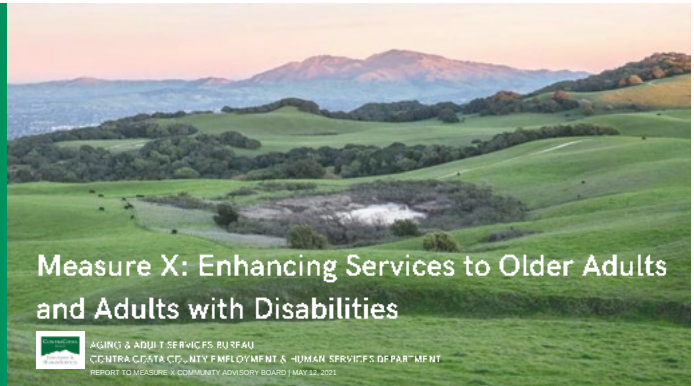
EHSD partners with the community to deliver quality services to ensure access to resources that support, protect, and empower individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency.



You can check out the PowerPoint decks that EHSD presented to the CAB in May at these links:

[Measure X: Enhancing Services to Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities](#)

[Measure X: Making the Case for the Early Years](#)

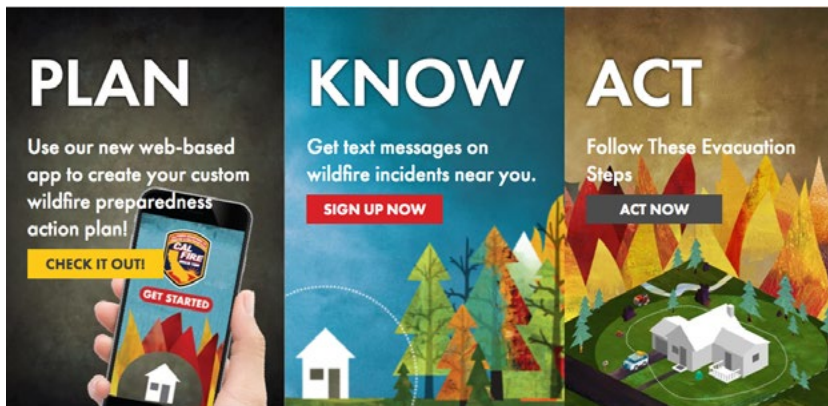


- ### Bold Transformational Ideas
- The Master Plan on Aging:** In partnership with CBO's, local leaders, and advocates, AAS must embrace and shepherd a county wide adoption of Healthy Aging.
 - Protection from Abuse and Neglect:** Increase tangible services funding to assist victims of neglect or abuse and improve coordination with medical and behavioral health services.
 - Move forward with the formation of an Aging Disability Resource Connection,** which provides streamlined connections for older adults and adults with disabilities.
 - Pilot a flexible fund for Aging Services** in order to meet emerging needs, like Case Management and Transportation/Assisted Transportation.

Early Fire Season Sparks Need for Red Cross Shelter Training

By Tom Ta, EHSD Facilities Manager

As you may know, fire season started extremely early this year. Cal Fire's website has valuable information for you to protect your home and family this fire season. The website also has an app to help you create your own wildfire preparedness action plan. While there, you can sign up to receive a text message alerting you of a wildfire incident near you. Please go to <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/> to begin preparing for this fire season.



EHSD is working with Red Cross to provide shelter training for staff in preparation for this fire season. Staff who were trained prior to 2020 will need to be re-trained, as the training did not include COVID guidelines related to health and safety. For this reason, EHSD is working to rebuild our roster for shelter trained staff. When available, the Red Cross shelter training information and instructions will be communicated to you via STARS.

Contra Costa Offering Required School Immunization at COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

Contra Costa Health Services

COVID-19 vaccination clinics that [Contra Costa Health Services \(CCHS\)](#) is conducting on school campuses this summer will now also provide no-cost immunizations for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) upon request.

Tdap is a required immunization for students entering the seventh grade in California, and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) also recommends a Tdap booster every 10 years for adults. Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis are severe infections that, before widespread vaccination campaigns, would cause tens of thousands of deaths each year in the U.S., primarily in young children.



“With school-age students and their families now visiting our COVID-19 vaccination clinics at campuses around the county, now is the time to get ready for fall and make sure all of your required school immunizations are up to date,” said Dr. Chris Farnitano, Contra Costa County’s health officer.

Anyone who is 12 or older can receive a safe, effective, no-cost COVID-19 vaccine in Contra Costa County. The current health guidance from the CDC and CCHS supports patients receiving COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccinations, including children.

School-based vaccination clinics in the county are open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday and do not

require appointments, though patients who wish to reserve a time can do so by scheduling on the [CCHS appointment](#) page or calling (833) 829-2626.

Patients younger than 18 do need the consent of a parent or guardian to get vaccinated. More information and downloadable consent forms are available at the clinics or the [CCHS Get Vaccinated](#) page.

Tdap boosters are available on the below dates at Contra Costa Health Services vaccination clinics:

- June 1 to June 5: Acalanes High (Lafayette), Dallas Ranch Middle (Antioch), Kennedy High (Richmond)
- June 8 to June 12: Antioch Middle, De Anza High (Richmond), California High (San Ramon), Las Lomas High (Walnut Creek)
- June 15 to June 19: Dougherty Valley High (San Ramon), Helms Middle (San Pablo), Pinole Valley High (Pinole), Pittsburg High
- June 22 to June 26: Acalanes High (Lafayette), Dallas Ranch Middle (Antioch), Kennedy High (Richmond), San Ramon Valley High (Danville)
- June 29 to July 3: California High (San Ramon), De Anza High (Richmond), Las Lomas High (Walnut Creek)
- July 6 to July 10: Helms Middle (San Pablo), Dougherty Valley High (San Ramon)
- July 13 to July 17: San Ramon Valley High (Danville)

More information about coronavirus and vaccines is available at cchealth.org/coronavirus.

A Return to Normalcy... Sort of

County Recorder's Safe and Organized "Walk Up" Services

Anyone wanting in-person Clerk-Recorder services may now go to the new "Walk Up" service window at the Contra Costa Clerk-Recorder Division in Martinez. Customers will be placed in the queue for assistance. Once in the queue, customers can wait safely in their cars until they receive a text telling them they can enter the lobby to be served.

The Clerk-Recorder Department continues to take precautions to keep constituents and staff safe. Strict COVID-19 protocols are in place and all customers must wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines. Customers will need to remain outside until it is their turn.

The Department offers the following services Monday through Friday at **555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553**:

- In-person County Clerk services 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- In-person recording services are available at the outreach trailer in the parking lot through the trailer's windows from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- In-person marriage services are available by appointment only. To schedule a ceremony visit <https://www.ccclerkrec.us>. Before the ceremony, couples must obtain a marriage license at the Martinez office.
- In-person Election services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

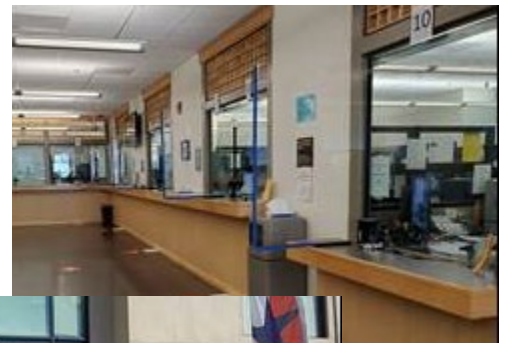
For more information about Clerk-Recorder services and office hours, go to <https://www.ccclerkrec.us/>.

In-person County Clerk services from 8 am to 4 pm at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez



< In-person recording services are available at the outreach trailer in the parking lot. Services will be provided through the trailer's windows 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

In-person marriage services are available by appointment only. Schedule a ceremony online at <https://www.ccclerkrec.us>. Before the ceremony, couples must obtain a marriage license at the Martinez office.



< In-person Election services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Colors of Summer Reading

Contra Costa County Library

The [Contra Costa County Library](https://www.ccclib.org) is getting colorful with Summer Reading starting this month. This year's **Reading Colors Your World** program is the Library's annual effort to keep kids reading during the summer months, preventing "brain drain." This year's theme celebrates everything about color. Summer Reading will include programming, activities and challenges – all designed to bring a wide spectrum of bright and fun colors into to your life.

Special programming will include a craft demonstration, sign language story time, nature journaling, Happy Birds Performing Parrot Show, Magical Nathaniel, watercolor for beginners, a live drawing tutorial and a class on how to re-purpose jewelry. All programs will take place via Zoom and registration is required to attend.

Readers of all ages can participate online or use a paper reading passport available at any community library. Return completed paper passports no later than Saturday, July 31st. All finishers will receive a book and a pin or sticker, and be entered into a drawing to win big prizes.

Summer Reading runs from Tuesday, June 1st through Saturday, July 31st. Visit [ccclib.org/summer](https://www.ccclib.org/summer) for all the details or to sign up.



G4G Virtual Kick Off and Survey

By Tamina Alon, Interim Assistant Director, Policy & Planning, and Gilbert Salinas, Contra Costa Health Services Gateways for Growth Award Planning Team

We have been hard at work since Contra Costa County received the Gateways for Growth (G4G) Technical Assistance Award from [Welcoming America](#) and [New American Economy](#). The Gateways for Growth project launched with a Virtual Kick Off Week, May 17th through 21st, 2021. Our [G4G website](#) is now live and we are excited to partner with the community to ensure all residents are welcome and have pathways to success.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS. We need input from individuals who immigrated to the United States. Please take a moment to complete our **Community Input Survey** by following the link of your preferred language below. Additional languages will be posted on the [G4G website](#).

[English Survey](#)

[Spanish Survey](#)

[Chinese \(Traditional\) Survey](#)

[Tagalog Survey](#)

In addition to gathering input using the surveys, we are hosting listening sessions, focus groups, and attending virtual community gatherings. Please contact Jacquie Mesner at jmesner@ehsd.cccounty.us or call (925) 608-4886 for inquiries or requests.

Get involved! We need help with language interpretation and translations, particularly Hmong, Vietnamese, Lao and other minority languages. To follow our progress, like our [Gateways for Growth Facebook](#) page.

The image is a composite graphic. On the left, there is a vertical menu of green buttons with white text, each containing a survey link: 'Welcoming Plan for Immigrant Inclusion', 'Language Access Plan', 'About Contra Costa County', 'How Can We Help?', 'Are you an Immigrant? Take our Survey!', 'Data and Information', 'Gateways for Growth Advisory Committee', and 'Contact Us'. Above this menu is the 'GATEWAYS for GROWTH' logo, which includes a stylized red map of the United States. To the right of the menu is a large, vibrant collage of diverse people from various ethnicities and ages. Overlaid on this collage is the word 'WELCOME' in large, bold, blue letters, surrounded by smaller 'WELCOME' text in many different languages and scripts, including English, Spanish, Chinese, and others. At the bottom left of the collage is the official seal of Contra Costa County, California, which depicts a landscape with a bridge, a river, and mountains.

Heartwarming Pandemic Stories

By Christina Reich, CSB Division Manager

On May 11th, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution declaring May as Community Action Month. CSB is the county’s Community Action Program, which was founded in 1964 as part of President Johnson’s War on Poverty.

The program continues to thrive today by administering Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds, which are used to fight poverty. The Economic Opportunity Council reports to the Board of Supervisors and oversees the block grant funding. It celebrated Community Action Month by holding a virtual Provider Roundtable on May 13th to honor the work of the CSBG subcontractors and their exceptional work during the pandemic. We heard heartwarming stories of these exceptional agencies overcoming the challenges of the pandemic and the havoc it caused for children, families, and seniors in our county. Providers were asked to provide words to describe how they are adapting and what has been their biggest challenge. These “Word Clouds” resulted from the surveys, which were very impactful and inspirational – just like the work they do!



Adaptations “word cloud”



Challenge “word cloud”



Roundtable event participants

CSB and DVC Team Up to Give Kids a Smile

By Michelle Mankewich, CSB Admin Assistant

On Friday April 16th, the Community Services Bureau’s Head Start program combined the Give Kids A Smile Day (GKASD) event with ‘The Week of The Young Child’ Family Day event and provided free dental services and education to children in need.

CSB collaborated with the Diablo Valley College (DVC) School of Dentistry. Dentist and dental hygienist professors performed oral assessments while the dental hygienist students applied fluoride, provided oral health education to the children and parents.



DVC professor and dental hygienist students



Dental exam at First Baptist Head Start Fairgrounds



Lavonia Allen children receiving Oral Health Education

More than 100 children signed up and received services at five host sites throughout the county. Host sites included West County centers George Miller III and Balboa, Central County centers George Miller Concord and Lavonia Allen, and East County center, First Baptist Head Start Fairgrounds.

Building Brighter Futures Together



SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

SERVICE AWARDS

25 YEARS

Denise August, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS
Maria Ortega, Associate Teacher-Project, CSB

15 YEARS

Kimberly Arnerich, Social Casework Assistant, CFS
Seema Walse, Info Sys Programmer/Analyst IV, Admin

10 YEARS

Arti Bhandari, Supervising Accountant, Admin
Veronica Calvario, Senior Clerk-Project, CSB
Megawati Gondosiswanto, Account Clerk-Advanced Level, Admin
Camie Hansen, Social Worker III, AAS
Imelda Martinez, Senior Clerk-Project, CSB
Cristi Ray, Clerk-Specialist Level, CFS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Aaron Alarcón-Bowen, Community Services Director, CSB
Arielle Cole, Clerk-Experienced Level, CFS
Rita Denton, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS

Manette Domingo, Clerk-Experienced Level, CFS
Bill Knight, Eligibility Worker III, WFS
Cora Young, Administrative Svcs Asst III, Admin

RETIREES

Gina Prediville, Accounting Technician, Admin

Maria Rosillo, Master Teacher-Project, CSB

Are you planning a retirement celebration for a staff member and would like to present them with a retirement certificate? **If so, please contact Deb Johnson at djohnson@ehsd.cccounty.us or (925) 608-4904.**

SPREAD THE WORD

June

- **ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**
- **JUNE 6** – National Cancer Survivor’s Day
- **JUNE 3** – Elder Financial Abuse, Scams & Identity Theft (virtual event)
- **JUNE 10** – Elder Criminal Justice & Elder Abuse (virtual event)
- **JUNE 13** – Abused Women and Children’s Day
- **JUNE 14** – Flag Day
- **JUNE 17** – Elder Justice Lunch & Learn: Bringing Light to Elder Abuse (virtual)
- **JUNE 19** – Juneteenth
- **JUNE 20** – Father’s Day / Summer Solstice (longest day of the year)
- **JUNE 23** – National Hydration Day
- **JUNE 24** – Coming out of COVID-19 – Connecting after Isolation (virtual)

July

- **JULY 4** – Independence Day
- **JULY 5** – Independence Day (County holiday)
- **JULY 22** – National Hot Dog Day
- **JULY 25** – Parents’ Day



Is there room in your home for one more?

Make a change in a child’s life and become a Resource Parent/ Family for a foster child. Contra Costa County has more than 1,000 children who need your help. Join a free virtual orientation during the COVID-19 Health Order. We will update the in-person orientation schedule as restrictions lift.

FREE VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

July 1 or 15 • 4 to 6 p.m.
August 6 or 20 • 4 to 6 p.m.
September 3 or 17 • 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at www.ehso.org.
To register for a class, please call (925) 602-6960, toll-free at 1 (866) 313-7788, or email ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us

We Care... You Care
<http://ehsdhome/Pages/Service-Champions.aspx>

Want to know what else we’re doing at EHSD?

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Like us on Facebook



Contact us at our **EHSD Headlines** email, headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us, if you have an upcoming event, article, our idea you would like to share.