

Headlines

Issue 78 • November 2023
ehsd.org

Bat Dog, Bentley, Wins Pet Costume Contest



**Policy & Planning Takes
Spotlight at CWDA**

**Upcoming Karaoke Contest
Featuring EHSD Talent**

**Susan Childers –
Customer Service Champ**

CONTRACOSTA
COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT &
HUMAN SERVICES

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

EHSD Presenters Shine at Statewide CWDA Conference

By Tish Gallegos, Community/Media Relations Manager

EHSD brought some star power to the 2023 California Welfare Directors Conference in Anaheim October 11th through 13th. Not only did 32 of our staff members attend the three-day, sold out “Bringing It All Together” - themed gathering. But our Policy and Planning team was in the spotlight as it shared details about our powerful data sharing tools.

EHSD presenters **Erick Untal** (Research & Evaluation Manager), **Melissa Anino** (Planner/Evaluator), **Tamina Alon** (Director of Administration), and **Marla Stuart** (EHSD Director) drew a large room full of human services workers interested in the exciting set of [Public Information Sharing Tools available on ehsd.org](https://ehsd.org/public-information-sharing-tools). The attendees were clearly impressed with our department’s innovation in depicting and democratizing social services data through mapping and visualizations. The team shared its valuable insights with other California counties interested in expanding their own capabilities.

The EHSD presentation stood out among the various sessions for the 1,200 or so CWDA attendees and created quite a buzz through the rest of the conference – you could hear the excitement and comments about public-facing data sharing tools throughout the rest of the event. Way to go, Erick, Melissa, Tamina, and Marla!



Left: Attendees from EHSD gathered on the first morning of the conference.



Above: Melissa Anino at the “marquee” for our session on new mapping and visualization tools.

Other conference presenters covered topics ranging from the latest about service delivery, workplace efficiency, adapting to the



Job well done! Melissa, Tamina, Marla, and Erick breathe a sigh of relief following their info-packed and well-received CWDA presentation.

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Combined Charities – Easy Way to Donate!

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

The Combined Charities Campaign to create healthier communities continues through Friday, November 10th

You can help support health and wellness, research to cure diseases, food for families, plus efforts to reduce homelessness, protect the environment, save wildlife and so much more.

Combined Charities is a **100% online giving campaign**. [Click this link to donate one of two ways:](#)

1. Pledge 12 equal Payroll deductions with after-tax dollars beginning January 10, 2024.
2. One-time online donation (credit card, debit payment or bank transfer)

Pledge \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 or more per month and split your giving between one or more of your favorite charities. No pledge is too small!

The County goal is to raise \$100,000 or more and even surpass last year's \$118,000 that County staff raised. Together we can live up to this year's theme: ***Give Today for a Better Tomorrow.***

Donations are made with payroll after-tax dollars or one-time credit card or debit card payment. Charitable donations can be used for personal tax purposes.

EHSD staff is known for always making a difference within our communities. Thank you for considering a donation to this year's Combined Charities campaign!

Learn more from Combined Charities partners:

Creating Healthier Communities video: [\(3\) CHC Campaign Video - YouTube](#)

United Way Bay Area/Spark Point client stories: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTy9sMl6pE>

What a Dollar Buys For each pay period...

- **\$1** stains one tissue slide from a tumor biopsy to look for a predictive biomarker of cancer metastasis.
- **\$2** provides childcare while a breast cancer patient has a 3-4 hour chemotherapy infusion.
- **\$4** raises prostate cancer awareness and educates men on the importance of early detection, prevention, and free testing.
- **\$5** helps pay annual repair costs of wheelchairs or other medical equipment for someone living with muscular dystrophy.
- **\$7** provides a screening mammogram for a low-income person in need.
- **\$10** provides classes for 50 students in special education to help them plan for life after high school.
- **\$15** provides transportation for a dialysis patient to get home from a dialysis center or hospital.
- **\$50** provides hourly expertise from contractors to assess damage to a home caused by natural disasters.



YOU Make a Difference
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Donald Brown New Division Manager for GA, SSI Advocacy, and IHSS

By Carolyn Foudy, Interim Director for Aging & Adult Services



Donald Brown has been named as Aging and Adult's newest Division Manager of General Assistance, SSI Advocacy and IHSS Benefit Programs.

Don began his career with Contra Costa County in 2014 as an Eligibility Worker I and most recently held the position of EWTU Eligibility Work Supervisor. Don worked as a Multi-Program Intake Supervisor at Delta Fair, in Antioch, during the early stages of the pandemic and ensured that staff and customers were supported during this challenging period.

Don enjoys working with staff and strives to establish a strong foundation for new Eligibility Workers. He takes pride in seeing staff grow professionally. During his tenure as an EWTU Supervisor, he had the opportunity to participate as a CalSAWS Change Champion and served as support staff as the County successfully migrated to CalSAWS.

Don earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, East Bay.

EHSD Presenters Shine at Statewide CWDA Conference

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pandemic, equity and inclusion in leadership, recruitment, and retention. Plus, attendees heard compelling stories and derived inspiration from keynote speakers [Stephanie Land](#) and [Wesley Hamilton](#), as well as learned about Communicating in a Polarized World during the closing general session.

EHSD brought back insights and ideas for advancing our work to improve the wellbeing of children, families, older adults, and individuals in Contra Costa County. Terrific speakers, content, and networking throughout the three days, including our stars from EHSD!

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

Mission Possible, Preventing Domestic Violence

By Claudia Gonzalez and Mélody Saint-Saëns, Alliance to End Abuse

On October 17th, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Together, the Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse and STAND! For Families Free of Violence presented the proclamation.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors used to exert power and control over another, affecting that person's physical, emotional, mental, sexual, spiritual, financial well-being and/or relationships. Domestic violence occurs among intimate partners and close familial relationships and impacts the whole community.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence estimates that the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$8.3 billion per year in the United States and found that an abusive partner's access to firearms increases the risk of female victim homicide by 1,000%.



Claudia Gonzalez (left) and Oravanh Thammassen (right) of the Alliance to End Abuse with our partners from STAND! helped proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Everyone plays an important role in preventing domestic violence:

1. If you or someone you know needs help, contact [STAND!'s](#) 24/7 crisis hotline at 888-215-5555 or the [Family Justice Centers](#) (West County 510-974-7200, Central County 925-521-6366, and East County 925-281-0970).
2. Learn how to be a community action hero by completing the [Call to Action on Preventing Interpersonal Violence Modules](#). Together, we can build healthier, more supportive and caring communities that promote safety and resilience.
3. Attend the free [Mission Possible 2: Communities Ending Violence](#) conference taking place on November 8th, 2023.

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Mission Possible, Preventing Domestic Violence

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STAND! For Families Free of Violence (STAND!) is a founding partner of the Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse. STAND! provides families a complete spectrum of prevention, intervention, and treatment programs.

STAND!'s 24/7 Crisis and Support Hotline receives 12,000 to 15,000 crisis calls each year. In 2022, STAND! served nearly 2,000 people in the Contra Costa County community, including placement of 250 adults and 120 children survivors in emergency shelters.

MISSION POSSIBLE II: Communities Ending Violence

Register at

<https://tinyurl.com/kehpac7m>



PLEASANT HILL COMMUNITY CENTER

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

8:30AM - 4PM



Bus Ads Highlight Connection Between Domestic Violence & Guns

Stay Safe Contra Costa has launched a transit ad campaign to provide potentially life-saving information to County residents about the intersection of gun violence and domestic violence. You can see this message on dozens of buses across the County.

When a gun is present in a domestic violence relationship, death is 20 times more likely to occur. In California, law enforcement officers must remove guns found at the scene, and people under restraining orders must relinquish any guns and ammunition within 24 hours of being served with the order.

California SB 320 (Domestic Violence and Firearms in California Family and Juvenile Dependency Court Matters, effective 1/1/2022) puts teeth into this safety regulation by requiring California courts to monitor and enforce compliance with the law. If proof of gun relinquishment is not filed in court within 48 hours, a judge must send law enforcement to collect the firearms and notify the District Attorney's office that the restraining order has been violated.

In Contra Costa County, 63% of domestic violence deaths are caused by guns (source: Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse, [Domestic Violence Death Review Team Report 2010-2019](#)). Those deaths are preventable, and help is available to those at risk.

About Stay Safe Contra Costa

Stay Safe Contra Costa raises awareness about domestic violence gun fatalities and how communities can support survivors. Launched by the Contra Costa Family Justice Center, STAND! For Families Free of Violence, and Bay Area Legal Aid, and supported by the Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse, Stay Safe Contra Costa is a network of county and nonprofit agencies, connecting with community members via [webinars](#), a [new website](#) in English and Spanish, written materials, and [social media](#), and provides one-to-one information to individual clients.



The Stay Safe Contra Costa transit campaign is funded by the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV), and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), [to help raise awareness about a range of safety options](#) for survivors, families, and community members.



Calling All Karaoke Contestants and Fans

\$500 in Cash Prizes

December 6th, 2023 • 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Retro Junkie, 2112 N. Main Street, Walnut Creek
Outdoor beer garden and on site food trucks

Contestants – Free Entry

Email EventsCommittee@ehsd.cccounty.us
by Nov. 30, 2023 to enter.

Include

- Name
- Job Title
- Bureau
- Two song titles with original artist's name

Judging based on talent, stage presence, audience engagement, props

Fans

Buy your tickets now! Cheer on your favorite singers!

\$5/ticket (max 4 tickets/person due to capacity limit)

Send Venmo ticket order to

@Alan-Wang-82 (Community Relations Media Specialist)

Venmo purchase must include:

- Name of ticket holder
- Number of tickets in Venmo description box

Name and ID required for entry

Questions: Alan Wang awang@ehsd.cccounty.us

No-host bar. If under 21, please note it in Venmo when you submit your payment.

Head Start Book Program Takes Off

By Amanda Cleveland, ASAIII, Community Services Bureau



ALDV volunteers are brightening Head Start classrooms with reading time.

Children in our Head Start classrooms are hearing stories from some new friends. Each week, a pair of volunteers from the Assistance League of Diablo Valley (ALDV) visits a classroom and reads one or two books to the children. After reading, they talk about what they read and leave a copy of the books in the class for the kids to continue exploring.

ALDV is committed to bringing literacy to young children and found that Head Start would be a great place to expand their reading program. The

Community Services Bureau (CSB) is honored to have ALDV in our classrooms. It was a long road to solidify this partnership, as Head Start classrooms were not open to volunteers as a precaution against potential COVID outbreaks. Now that we are (masks encouraged), the volunteers are visiting three Head Start sites and reading to our preschoolers.

We are so grateful to ALDV and look forward to their volunteers encouraging more literacy in our Head Start classrooms!

Innovative Talent Search for Early Childhood Educators

By Sarah Reich, ASA III, Community Services Bureau

Community Services Bureau (CSB) and the EHSD Personnel Unit joined together to hold a first-of-its-kind hiring event called Building Legacy Early Childhood Educator's Talent Expedition. The event was held at Contra Costa College on October 18th, 2023, and everyone was welcome, regardless of where they were on their educational and career journey. Those interested in working with children received information on CSB's Early Childhood Education (ECE) work study program and an opportunity to apply as a Teacher Assistant Trainee, while others already meeting teacher qualifications were interviewed and given conditional offers on site.

CSB collaborated with Contra College College Early Childhood Education Administrative staff to encourage ECE student participation, even offering extra credit for attending the hiring event.

We will use data from this inaugural event to replicate hiring efforts in other parts of the Contra Costa, with the goal of holding the next talent expedition in East County. Meanwhile, ongoing recruitment continues for CSB's teaching positions to reduce vacancies and increase capacity to serve children and families in the County-run Head Start centers across the county.



❶ Personnel staff helped with understanding teacher qualifications and navigating the application process. Individuals meeting teacher qualifications were offered an interview on the spot! Front (L-R): **Shirley Naoom**, Personnel Technician; **Anna Adriano**, HR Analyst II; **Sarah Reich**, Division Manager. Back: **Cameron Jewel**, Secretary

❷ CSB center directors were ready to conduct teacher interviews. Front (L-R): **Afi Fiaxe**, Education Manager & **Jennifer Kirby**, Site Supervisor III. Back (L-R): **Ruth Hunter**, Site Supervisor III & **Desiree Garland**, Site Supervisor II

❸ CSB team ready to introduce individuals to career opportunities and other resources. (L-R): **Linda Frazier-Stafford**, Assistant Director, **Cynthia Larios**, AD Clerk (seated), **Amy Wells**, Division Manager (standing)

Nursing Students Bring Health & Safety Lessons to Head Start Classrooms

By Catherine Lucero, Health Manager, Community Services Bureau

Teaming up is providing a valuable educational opportunity for Head Start children, families, and teachers, as well as nursing students. For more than 10 years, Community Services Bureau (CSB) has collaborated with the Cal State East Bay Nursing Program. Nursing students develop health-related lesson plans and present them in the classroom with our teachers' support..

During the Fall and Spring semesters, 8-10 students are assigned to various Head Start sites throughout Contra Costa County. Teams of two students are assigned to specific sites during their semester. To ensure each site has an opportunity to benefit from this curriculum enhancement, the sites are rotated every semester.

The nursing students complete an orientation with Head Start Health and Safety manager and an observation of one of the preschool classrooms at a host site. The students are provided with a lesson plan template and guidance for health and safety related topics to choose, supplies needed and classroom presentation. The students submit their lessons to the health manager for approval and any feedback before presenting to the children. The students are responsible for writing a letter to the parents explaining what their child learned that day. This provides parents with the opportunity to have further discussions at home with their child.

This collaborative effort results in opportunities for the nursing students to enhance their skills in observations of children and how to interact and engage young children in health and safety related

learning activities. The children benefit from the enhancements to health and safety topics. The teachers gain new ideas to support them in the classroom. The families receive health and safety information to encourage learning at home.



Cal State East Bay Nursing Students conducting a germ activity with the children at George Miller Center in Concord.

\$30,000 GOAL

VESTIA Helps EHSD Clients During Holiday Season

By Judith Peralde, President, VESTIA, Inc.

Pause momentarily and consider the everyday challenges confronting the working poor in Contra Costa. For many individuals, the essentials such as food, clothing, and shelter are not guaranteed, so the simple pleasure of sharing holiday gifts feels like an elusive dream.

With the festive season drawing near, we've set an ambitious target; to raise \$30,000 to assist the deserving residents of West, Central, and East Contra Costa County. This \$30,000 will be designated to our Holiday Helpers program to assist us and other nonprofits in Contra Costa County.

Our [2022 Annual Report](#) provides insights into our community's generous impact over the past year. Through valuable contributions of time and funds, we've distributed backpacks to eager students, awarded scholarships to Foster Youth, supplied hygiene kits and blankets to people without housing, and delivered emergency food supplies to those in critical need. Together, we've positively impacted over 7,600 vulnerable children and adults spanning all ages.

As a vital arm of the Employment and Human Services Department, VESTIA has tirelessly advocated for the working poor since 1986.



Photo by Pixels.com/Jill Wellington



Holiday Helpers Program

VESTIA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so every donation is tax deductible.

Visit www.vestiainc.org to learn more about the Holiday Helpers Program, Angel Tree Project, Emergency Food Programs, West Contra Costa Food Pantry, and wish list items for hygiene kits. Donations are accepted online. Wish list items should be sent to VESTIA, 400 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Lifetime Achievement Award for CAPC's Carol Carrillo, MSW

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

One of our County's foremost advocates for keeping children safe has won a prestigious award recognizing her lifetime of work.

Carol Carrillo, executive director of the [Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County](#) (CAPC), received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter, in Burbank on October 20th. This is well-deserved recognition for Carol's dedicated leadership and advocacy on behalf of children and families.

"Carol is a passionate leader and champion of our County's children, and a longtime CFS supporter and partner," says **Kathy Marsh**, Children & Family Services Director at EHSD. "I am thrilled that she is receiving this recognition for her incredible body of work and many years of supporting our children and families. Carol is always willing to go the extra mile to help a child or family and leads with true compassion and resourcefulness. We are very fortunate to have Carol serving the Contra Costa County community and it is so appropriate that she is recognized by those in the helping profession."

Carol has worked for 35 years in Child Welfare, developing programs and public awareness

campaigns to promote child abuse prevention, child safety, injury prevention, and family support.

For the past 25 years, she has served as CAPC's

Executive Director, developing and managing peer support programs, parent education programs for at risk families, community education and child advocacy programs. Before assuming the top leadership role, she volunteered on CAPC's Board of Directors.

Carol also held positions at statewide organizations such as the Salvation Army Residence for Children in St. Louis, Children's Home Society in Los Angeles and Oakland, and the Court Appointed Special Advocates in San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties.

Carol has a Master of Social Work degree from Washington University Brown School of Social Work in St. Louis and a postgraduate certificate in Human Service Administration from San Francisco State University.

We are grateful to work closely with Carol and continue EHSD's valuable partnership with CAPC. Our congratulations to her for this tremendous lifetime achievement!



"Carol is a passionate leader and champion of our County's children, and a longtime CFS supporter and partner."

—KATHY MARSH

New Fall Grads, 2023 CFS NWTU Graduation

By Ariana Martinez, CFS Staff Development Specialist



Tammi Cason reading her poem for the group at graduation

New Social Workers
Graduating Class (L-R):
Rachel Pozos, Elizabeth Phillips, Andrew Jones, Alexcia Turner, Katie Nakasone, Daveion McGee, Montserrat Vazquez, Rosa Corona-Silva, Tammi Cason

Children and Family Services (CFS) celebrated the graduation of nine new Child Welfare Social Workers on September 19, 2023. This cohort exemplified exuberance and camaraderie from the first day they met with a bond that continued to flourish as they spent more time together. Their humor, lightheartedness, and creativity knows no bounds. One of the new workers even presented a beautifully crafted poem for each of their colleagues and training team during a hybrid graduation ceremony. The attention to detail in personalizing it for each individual brought a smile to everyone's face. We welcome the following new workers:

West County

Andrew Jones – Court
Katie Nakasone – Emergency Response
Montserrat Vazquez – Emergency Response
Rosa Corona-Silva – Emergency Response
Rachel Pozos – Continuing Services
Tammi Cason – Continuing Services

East County

Daveion McGee – Emergency Response
Alexcia Turner – Emergency Response

Central County

Elizabeth Phillips – Continuing Services

Please join us in extending a warm welcome and congratulations to our new CFS Child Welfare Social Workers!

New EWTU Grads

By Leilani Scharff-Lunch, Staff Development Specialist & EWTU Training Coordinator

Congratulations to our most recent EWTU graduating class. This class spent May through September learning the Medi-Cal and CalFresh Programs. The class graduated on September 29, 2023 and are now on to their next assignment.

We wish them all the best of luck!



(Front row L-R): Caryn Bailey, Laurie Havas, Lena Phoummatthep, Jada Sylvain, Jillana Davis, Brittany Austin, Diana Santiago, Kameelah Salter, Mierl Sanchez

(Back row L-R): Heather Mulvany, Satman Singh, Miranda Pena, Jeffrey Cullup, Daniel Hernandez, Sarah Simpson, Kathryn Dwiggins





Bat Dog, Bentley, Wins Pet Costume Contest

By Alan Wang, Community Relations, Media Specialist

He may not realize it, but Bentley, the crime-fighting Bat Dog took Best in Show honors at EHSD's Halloween Pet Parade costume contest. The contest was held on Tuesday, October 31st, during a live webinar originating from Contra Costa TV in Martinez. Bentley is one of 30 pets whose photos were entered into the competition by their EHSD employee owners. Bentley's owner, **Brianna Morris**, is a Social Service Program Assistant for Aging and Adult Services at 400 Ellinwood in Pleasant Hill. She described Bentley as being "proud to protect his home from noises, the wind, shadows and the occasional bird flying outside." She also says Bat Dog's arch enemy is... his tail.

EHSD employees, who were viewing the live webinar, were able to cast their ballots using the Zoom polling tool. They also chose Bailey and Dory as the 2nd place runners up. The clown duo is owned by **Toni Thomas**, a WFS Social Service Program Manager. Third place honors went to Luna a red toy poodle owned by **Veronica Heath**, who works in the Contracts Unit for Administrative Support Services.



Bentley, 2023 Halloween Pet Parade Winner
Brianna Morris, Social Services Program Assistant, Aging and Adult Services



Bailey & Dory – "The Ringling Pooches"
2nd place runners up.
Toni Thomas, Social Service Program Assistant, WFS



Luna – Nurse • 3rd Place
Veronica Heath, Contracts and Grants Division, Admin Support

Pet Parade hosts, **Alan Wang** (Frida Kahlo), **Denicia Watley** (Black Mamba) and **Bobby Stange** (Teen Wolf). [CLICK](#) on the play button to watch the entire EHSD Pet Parade



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EHSD Halloween Pet Parade Costume Contest

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Raven – Witch
Rebecca Darnell, Deputy
Director, WFS



Nacho – Dracula
Beverly De Annunzio, Senior
Level Clerk, WFS



Larry – Frida Kahlo
Maria Ibarra, Infant Toddler
Associate Teacher, CSB



Raya – Triceratops
Jennifer Chalco, Clerk
Specialist, CFS



Daisy – Pumpkin
Stephen Quesada, Eligibility
Work Supervisor, WFS



Logan & Mylo – Bugs
Chinda On, Front Desk Clerk,
WFS



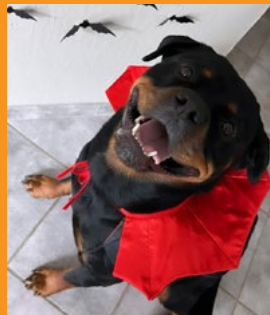
Hobbs – Race Horse with Jockey
Laurie Havas, Eligibility Worker,
WFS



Lucy – “Franken-Lu”
Carolyn Shirley, Senior Level
Clerk, Admin. Services



Caterina – Lion
Richard Garcia, Experienced
Level Clerk, CFS



Maya – Vampire
Monse Vazquez, Social Worker
III, CFS



Bella Belleza & Rune – Union Reps
Karina Eddy, Clerk-Senior Level,
WFS



Luna, Suki & Padme – Piglet,
Eeyore, and Tigger
Ariana Martinez, Staff
Development Specialist, CFS



EHSD Halloween Pet Parade Costume Contest

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Bentley – Office Worker in Bowtie
Monica Russo-Olson, Data Coordinator Clerk Specialist, WFS



Koa – Lobster
Jacquie Mesner, Clerk Specialist, Policy & Planning



Angel – Crab
Kevin Balderston, Information Systems Specialist III, Admin Services



Mr. G – Banana
Melissa Anino, Planner/Evaluator B, Policy & Planning



Ginger – Sleeping Diva
Beatriz Salgado, Registry Specialist, AAS



Furry – Wizard
Lorena Tobar, Program Supervisor, Parent Partner Program, CFS



Bessie – Crab
Jeanette Vargas, Social Worker, AAS



Daisy & Gizmo – Beetle Juice & Pennywise
Renata Pierce, Social Work Supervisor, AAS



Jake – Ice Cream Sundae
Karla Davis, Social Services Program Assistant, WFS

In Other Halloween News...

Chickens Peck Self Portrait in Pumpkin

This one falls under the category of “Farm Animal Phenomena.” AAS Social Work Supervisor, **Renata Pierce**, claims that she left a pumpkin in her chicken coop as a treat for her pets, and when she returned the hungry hens had pecked out a hole in the shape of a chicken. Renata says it was a group effort and their names are Paige, Phoebe, Prue, Piper, Spike, Colonel Sanders, Elizabeth, Hennretta, Wendy and Yummy.



Deploying Remote Work Equipment

By Bruce Milani, EHSD Information Technology

EHSD's IT Team is preparing to deploy the new Work from Home/Remote Work (WFH/RW) equipment package to staff currently working away from the office. IT will be replacing the Tiny PC's and older laptops used at home with newer laptops and docking stations. The new package will consist of the following:

- Lenovo Laptop
- 2x Docking stations – One for the office and one for home.
- Keyboard, Mouse – For Home only, if it does not exist.
- Cables (Network, Power etc.) – For Home only, if it does not exist.

Here is the upcoming schedule for the deployment EHSD-wide and what to expect. Please take a few moments to carefully read this important information about how this will work. The goal of this upgrade is to offer better uniformity of equipment, and continuity of service across all Bureaus.

Building	Start	Finish
40 Douglas	10/24/2023	11/6/2023
300 Ellinwood	11/7/2023	11/22/2023
400 Ellinwood	11/27/2023	12/5/2023
500 Ellinwood	12/6/2023	12/18/2023
1275 Hall Ave	12/19/2023	1/8/2024
1305 MacDonald	1/9/2024	1/16/2024
151 Linus Pauling	1/17/2024	1/22/2024
1535D Fred Jackson	1/23/2024	1/23/2024
1875 Arnold Dr	1/23/2024	1/24/2024
2731 Systron	1/23/2024	1/24/2024
2530 Arnold Dr	1/25/2024	1/26/2024
2600 Stanwell	1/29/2024	1/31/2024
3105 Willow Pass	2/1/2024	2/1/2024
3755 Alhambra	2/1/2024	2/1/2024
4071 Port Chicago	2/1/2024	2/1/2024
151 Sand Creek	2/2/2024	2/2/2024
1650 Cavallo	2/5/2024	2/13/2024
4545 Delta Fair	2/14/2024	2/28/2024
4549 Delta Fair	2/29/2024	3/4/2024
CSB WFH	3/5/2024	3/5/2024



What to expect:

1. Staff members should bring in the current Tiny PC or laptop for the deployment.
2. A demo display of the equipment will be available at the locations during deployment, for you to see in person how the connections and laptop work together.
3. You will receive documentation with pictures on how to set up the Docking station at home.

We appreciate your partnership in this major endeavor that will enhance the technological landscape at Employment and Human Services significantly. If you have any issues, the Help Desk will be available at 1-7200 or email ehsd_helpdesk@ehsd.cccounty.us.

Mentors/Mentees Team Up in Escape Room

By Staff Development Coordinators Iliana Choate & Antonio Vasquez



Mentors and Mentees working together to solve the exciting and challenging puzzles during the Escape Room activity.

The EHSD Mentoring Program had its mid-session event on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. Both the mentees and mentors attended this mid-session event, which included a fun and exciting escape room activity. The escape room activity was a success, promoting camaraderie and teamwork amongst all the participants. After the activity there was a debrief session about what went well and what to do differently in the exercise.

The second part of the event included a round table where questions were asked to the mentors about their experiences, career highlights and

suggestions they had for the mentees. This also sparked delightful discussion.

The event was led by Steven Cozart and Heidi Glunz from Brain Squared Solutions

Our mentors and mentees will continue their journey through the Mentoring Program into early next year, building new skills, relationships, and knowledge together.

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

"A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you, than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you."

— Bob Proctor

Is This You? Becoming a mental health ally

Mental health allies are people who understand the isolating, often debilitating discomfort of mental health problems. Such allies create safe spaces where others can feel comfortable discussing their mental states and seeking treatment. Allies share their own mental health stories, and they encourage struggling individuals to seek help.

Educate yourself and your colleagues about behavioral health issues. Prepare to talk one-on-one with teammates who might be struggling and encourage your workgroup to be sensitive to others' mental health challenges.

When someone is experiencing a mental health problem, it's usually difficult for them to request help. Start conversations that create a safe space for someone to talk about their problem so they can move toward assistance without needing to ask.

By sharing your own mental health experience—whether it's with a serious, lifelong mental illness or your daily struggles with anxiety—you open the door for people to see themselves in your story and feel less alone.

Browse more articles at <https://member.magellanhealthcare.com/>



Magellan Ascend

UPCOMING WEBINAR: Reducing Anxiety in the Moment and Beyond – November 8

This webinar will help you:

- Define signs and symptoms of anxiety
- Identify skills you can develop to manage anxiety
- Describe how to implement these techniques on a day-to-day basis

Missed the live webinar?

Webinars are listed in your Dashboard under “Upcoming”. If you haven't signed up to use the County Employee Assistance Program yet, follow these two easy steps:

Step 1: Go to <https://member.magellanhealthcare.com/> and click on “Sign up.”

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

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.](#)

Honoring Our Military Veterans at EHSD

On November 11th we celebrate U.S. military veterans who served. We also honor our EHSD employees who proudly served their country. Originally celebrated as Armistice Day, the day was dedicated to the cause of world peace and primarily set aside to honor World War I Veterans. It became known as Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all Veterans.. Ceremonies are held each year at the [Tomb of the Unknowns](#), and floral tributes are placed on the graves of service men and women and at memorials throughout the country. Naturalization ceremonies have come to be an important part of the day's activities. Thank you to our EHSD Veterans who served.



We Care...You Care

We Care...You Care is how we recognize our peers, emphasizing internal customer service. **We Care...You Care** nominations tie directly to one or more of our six Core Values. The program gives you the opportunity to show your coworkers how much you appreciate them. If you work with someone who deserves special recognition for internal customer service, check out the We Care...You Care link to the guidelines, then fill out a nomination form and submit it to the supervisor of the person you are nominating.

We Care Guidelines: [click here](#)

We Care Nomination Form: [click here](#)



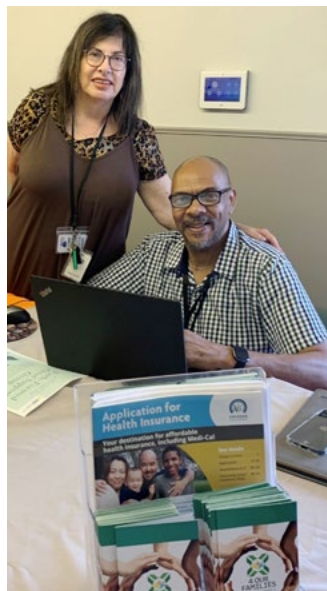
Outreach Roundup

EHSD Reaching Out to the Community

Contributed by Al Gibson, 4 Our Families Navigator, and EHSD Staff

6th Annual Bethel Island Health & Safety Fair

More than 30 service providers and agencies gathered to share information and services with the community at the Bethel Island Health & Safety Fair on Saturday, October 7th. Held at Scout Hall & Community Park, the event primarily focused on providing resources and support for older adults, bringing together a diverse array of organizations and agencies. EHSD 4 Our Families Navigators, **Al Gibson** and **Susan Padan** offered invaluable assistance to attendees applying for essential programs such as CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, and CalFresh. Beyond this, they also provided information on various county services that could greatly benefit seniors in their daily lives.



Susan Padan and Al Gibson

The fair provided a one-stop opportunity for seniors to get resources, support, as well as Covid-19 and flu vaccinations, a crucial aspect of safeguarding their health and well-being. The event stood as a shining example of a community coming together to support its elders, ensuring they have access to the resources and care they deserve.

Medi-Cal Overview for Contra Costa Health staff

EHSD Medi-Cal Analysts Dana Wargo and Barbie Guardino gave a Medi-Cal overview

presentation on October 10th to approximately 50 Contra Costa Health staff members via MS Teams. The overview included the Medi-Cal application process, renewal process as well as the Older Adult Expansion for individuals 26-49 years of age, and the Asset Elimination scheduled for January 1, 2024.

Third Annual Lowriders at the Library, San Pablo

Navigators **Sandra Figueroa** and **Susan Padan** reached out to community members at the Third Annual Lowriders at the Library event in San Pablo on October 28th. The fun event featured pumpkin painting, a cornhole contest, prizes, candy, great costumes, and of course customized lowrider cars and culture! Our EHSD Navigators served with many other community providers at this festive celebration.



Sandra Figueroa and Susan Padan with "Garfield" who filled his bag with candy during the event.

Continued on next page

Outreach Roundup EHSD Reaching Out to the Community

Continued from previous page

Cancer Awareness Community Event, Bay Point

On October 14, 2023, the Bay Point Community All-N-One Health Collaborative hosted a Cancer Awareness Community Event at the West Pittsburg Community Church. Among the attendees were the Navigators from 4 Our Families, **Al Gibson** and **Sandra Zepeda-Lopez**. This event, which brought together residents and community resources, was a significant step in raising awareness about cancer prevention and early treatment. Government leaders attended, including District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover and Mayor of Pittsburg Shanelle Scales-Preston. These leaders reinforced the importance of community-driven initiatives in the fight against cancer.

The event provided an array of resources and organizations there to help empower and educate community members, offering valuable insights into cancer prevention techniques and early treatment options.



4 Our Families Navigators **Sandra Zepeda-Lopez** and **Al Gibson** with EW Supervisor **Keisha Stephney**. Keisha was a guest speaker and shared her testimony as a two-time cancer survivor. Keisha encourages women and men to have yearly checkup/mammograms for early detection.

Community Resource Fair, Pittsburg

Sandra Figueroa and **Al Gibson**, Measure X Navigators with EHSD - 4 Our Families, made a significant impact at the Pittsburg Unified School District's Community Resource Fair held on Saturday, October 21st at Pittsburg High School. The fair, designed to foster stronger community ties and empower families, featured a broad array of local organizations and support services. Sandra and Al's commitment to community engagement and family support was evident throughout the event, where they provided valuable information, answered questions, and ensured that families left with a sense of connection and direction.



A folklorico performer joins **Sandra Figueroa** and **Al Gibson** at the 4 Our Families table

The Community Resource Fair was a day filled with vibrant cultural experiences and live performances. Attendees were treated to the mesmerizing rhythms of a drumming group, the electrifying energy of step dancers, and the enchanting grace of Mexican folklore dancers. These performances emphasized the rich tapestry of cultures and talents within the community.

Customer Service Champion

This individual is being recognized for going the extra mile by delivering excellent service to our customers. She went above and beyond in her willingness to help and demonstrate EHSD's emphasis on providing exemplary customer service. Congratulations on a job well done!

Susan Childers

By Julie Peck, EHSD Ombudsperson

Susan Childers, Medi-Cal Program Assistant at 4545 Delta Fair Blvd, deserves recognition for excellent customer service. Susan went above and beyond in assisting a customer, whose severely disabled twins had to be relocated post-surgery to a facility in Los Angeles County. The parent was distraught as there were Medi-Cal issues involving billing, county aid codes and continuity of care. Susan contacted program analysts, the State Medi-Cal Ombudsman, the facility staff in LA County and initiated conference calls between the State Medi-Cal Ombudsman and facility staff. Her supervisor, **Martha DeLa Torre** said, "Susan has worked diligently on this case for two days." This was a very complicated case. The parent, who had spent hours on the phone trying to get resolution, was very appreciative for all the work Susan did so her children could finally get the care they needed. Kudos to Susan Childers!



"As Susan's supervisor I am very proud and grateful to have her in my unit. She has always shown herself to be helpful, resourceful, and most importantly kind in extending a hand to all needing assistance. This is just one example of the excellent work she delivers each day. Thank you Sue for all you do."

– Martha DeLa Torre

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

Building Brighter Futures Together

The U.S. Administration for Community

Living (ACL) developed this Faces of Caregiving video, highlighting individual family caregiver stories that depict the complex and demanding responsibilities caregivers take on. During **National Family Caregivers Month**, celebrate the millions of parents, partners, spouses, adult and minor children, friends, and neighbors who provide billions of dollars in unpaid assistance to loved ones.



November is
**NATIONAL
FAMILY CAREGIVERS
MONTH**

Workplace Violence & Active Shooter Trainings

Workplace violence affects thousands of American workers every year and can happen at any time. County Risk Management is offering important training opportunities: Active Shooting Incident Procedures and Workplace Violence Prevention Training Classes. These two-hour, in-person trainings are highly encouraged for all to learn more about responding to emergencies and violence in the workplace. They are held at the Risk Management Training Room on Arnold Drive in Martinez. Approval from your Supervisor is required to attend. To register, complete the [Onsite Class Registration form](#) available on the County intranet: [InsideContraCosta.org](https://insidecontracosta.org).





SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

SERVICE AWARDS

20 YEARS

Karla Davis, Social Service Program Assistant, WFS



10 YEARS

Jennifer Chalco, Children's Services Clerk Specialist, CFS

Amber S. Elliott, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS

Chris Gulden, Clerk-Senior Level, CFS

Shirly Naoom, Personnel Technician, Administrative Support Services

Satrina Waiwaiole, Social Casework Assistant, CFS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Misty Mathiasen, Social Worker III, CFS

Joann Martinez, Social Worker III, CFS

Anna LaCourt, Social Casework Asst, CFS

Angie Mora, Social Casework Asst, CFS

Nailah Wayne, Social Casework Asst, CFS

Andrea Neal, Clerk Experience Level, ADMIN

Rafael Arroyo, Clerk Experience Level, WFS

Al Chu, Clerk Experience Level, WFS

Tina Hutton, Clerk Experience Level, WFS

Maureen Kiernan, Social Svs Program Assistant, CFS

Geneffer De Vera Rother, Clerk Experience Level, WFS

Mohammad Matti, Clerk Experience Level, WFS

Barbara Ryan, Clerk Senior Level, CFS

Daniel Cifuentes, Clerk Experience Level, CSB

RETIREES



Donielle Brown, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS

Renee Giometti, EHS Division Manager, WFS

Ernest Senzer, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS

Are you planning a retirement celebration for a staff member and would like to present them with a retirement certificate? **If so, please contact Tish Gallegos at tgallejos@ehsd.cccounty.us or (925) 608-4808.**

SPREAD THE WORD

November 2023

- ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH
- NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH
- NOVEMBER 1-2 – Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
- NOVEMBER 5 – Daylight Saving Time Ends
- NOVEMBER 9 – EHSD Live!
- NOVEMBER 10 – Veterans Day (Observed)
- NOVEMBER 10 – Combined Charities Campaign ends
- NOVEMBER 12-18 – Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week
- NOVEMBER 20 – Holiday Food Fight Kick off (through 12/31)
- NOVEMBER 23 – Thanksgiving Day (Holiday)
- NOVEMBER 24 – Day after Thanksgiving (Holiday)

December 2023

- DECEMBER 1 – Rosa Parks Day
- DECEMBER 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- DECEMBER 7 – Hanukkah Begins at Sundown
- DECEMBER 15 – Bill of Rights Day
- DECEMBER 21 – Winter Solstice (shortest day of the year)
- DECEMBER 23 – Festivus
- DECEMBER 25 – Christmas Day (Holiday Observed)
- DECEMBER 26 – Kwanzaa Begins
- DECEMBER 31 – New Year's Eve

We Care... You Care

CLICK here to learn more about nominating a coworker.
[We Care...You Care nomination form: click here and see page 22](#)

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 needs your support to provide care for children 0–18 years of age. Please join us for a virtual orientation and learn more about becoming a caregiver.



FREE VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

November 2 or 16 • 4 to 6 p.m.

December 7 or 21 • 4 to 6 p.m.



For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at www.ehds.org. If you belong to an organization or community group interested in learning more about Resource Family Approval/ foster parenting, we can schedule an individual session for your group, in English or Spanish.

To register for a class, please call (925) 655-4230 or email ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us

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

Facebook and X @ContraCostaEHSD
 Instagram @HumanaCosta
 Like us on Facebook



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES
Building Brighter Futures Together

The next Issue of Headlines will publish in early December. Email EHSD Headlines at Headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us, by **November 9th** (note early submission date due to upcoming holidays) if you have an upcoming event, article, or idea you would like to suggest.