

# Headlines

A woman with long dark hair, Anita Luu, is smiling and resting her chin on her hand. She is wearing a green sweater and a yellow watch with Chinese characters. In front of her is a Mah-jongg table with tiles and a red box labeled 'MAH-JONGG'.

## Why Anita Luu Wrote a Book About Mah-jongg

**EHSD Makes Its Case for 2024-25 Budget**

**Meet the Newest Social Casework Assistants**

**Aaron Perez Goes Beyond the Call of Duty**

CONTRACOSTA  
COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT &  
HUMAN SERVICES

*Building Brighter  
Futures Together*

# EHSD Weighs in on FY24-25 County Budget

EHSD joined other County departments to present its plans for Fiscal Year 2024-25 during the Board of Supervisors Budget Hearings on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**EHSD's** Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Access team members **Lorena Martinez-Castillo** of Staff Development, and **Cynthia Mallory**

of Personnel joined Director **Marla Stuart** for a comprehensive presentation before the Board. They outlined the needs that compel community members to access our services, the services we provide, the recommended budget for the coming fiscal year, and the value EHSD services bring to all County residents.

EHSD's FY 2024-25 recommended and balanced budget reflects more than \$718.5 million in expenditures funded

with restricted revenues from state and federal programs, grants, and Measure X funds. It represents a 12% increase over the current fiscal year with all expenditure upturns funded by state, federal, and local sources, and no increases supported by net county cost.



EHSD Team awaits the start of the Budget Hearings in Board Chambers



**Lorena Martinez-Castillo** of Staff Development, **Cynthia Mallory** of Personnel, and Director **Marla Stuart** prepare to deliver EHSD's FY 2024-25 budget recommendation.

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## EHSD Weighs in on FY24-25 County Budget

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Those who contributed to the development of the EHSD budget and presentation included **Navdeep Singh**, Chief Financial Officer and the Fiscal team; **Erick Untal**, Research & Evaluation Manager and Policy & Planning staff; EHSD's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Committee; the Executive Team and their bureaus' leadership

and staff; and **Tish Gallegos** and the Community Relations team.

You can view the FY 2024-25 budget on the Contra Costa County website: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/770/Budget-Documents>

"I appreciate all of your team... for just the tremendous work they do. And, again, when we get to recognize social workers, we thank them. These are the boots on the ground that are making a difference in lives of the most vulnerable people and so having this very comprehensive overview is very, very helpful."  
- Board Vice-chair Supervisor Andersen, District 2



EHSD team following the 2024-25 budget presentation:  
Front, (L-R): **Angela Bullock-Hayes, Iliana Choate, Marla Stuart, Tamia Brown**  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: **Tish Gallegos, Roslyn Gentry, Cynthia Mallory**  
3<sup>rd</sup> row: **Patricia Perez, Tamina Alon**  
5<sup>th</sup> row: **Scott Thompson, Lorena Martinez-Castillo**  
Back row: **Mélody Saint-Saëns, M.J. Robb**



# New Social Casework Assistants Ready for Action

By Mari Solis, CFS Staff Development

Children and Family Services (CFS) is thrilled to announce that the Social Casework Assistant (SCA) Induction training was successfully held on April 2nd & 3rd.

SCAs provide valuable support to CFS social workers through a variety of tasks and responsibilities, which is crucial in working with children & families. Countywide SCA duties primarily consist of assisting with visitation supervision, ensuring safe and positive interaction between children and their families, and transportation. Additionally, program-specific SCA duties include a variety of activities across

the spectrum of CFS: Emergency Response, Court, Discovery, Family Reunification/Family Maintenance, Emergency Shelter, Family Finding, Resource Family Approval, Children’s Residential Placement, Transition Age Support Services, and Adoptions.

A huge thank you to our SCA trainers who took time away from their very busy schedules to provide their knowledge and expertise. Without their commitment, this achievement wouldn’t have been possible.

A warm welcome and congratulations to our new SCAs!

(L-R): Valerie Memnon (Social Work Supervisor II); Taneya Lott, Charhonda Bean, Delean Carson, Angil Morris, Yvette Linares & Nova Gates (new SCAs); Cheryl Orr, Chloe Terry & Chinwe Ehenemba (SCA trainers). Not pictured: Mollie Fischer (SCA trainers).



Gigi Carruth,  
SCA trainer



Hayley Augustine,  
SCA trainer



Mari Solis,  
CFS Staff Development

*Welcome & Congratulations!*



## Denim Day in Style

The Alliance to End Abuse and millions across the globe wore denim on Wednesday, April 24th to show support for survivors and educate others about all forms of sexual violence.



The Workforce Development Board showing support for denim day: **LaTosha Stockholm, Patricia Conley, Kenneth Austin, Noramah Burch, Serena Moore, Dunni Adeyemi, Tamia Brown, Charles Brown III, Maureen Nelson, Veronica Ramos, Brandi Cleveland, Byron Devera, Yelena Miakinina, Jon Rodriguez, Rochelle Soriano**

Policy & Planning and Alliance to End Abuse: **Melissa Anino, Patricia Perez, Erick Untal, Veronica Bercaives, Tamina Alon, Marla Stuart, Luz Zaragoza-Gonzalez, Claudia Gonzalez, Melody Saint-Saens, Oravanh Thammasen, Jacquie Mesner**



Pleasant Hill GA Unit: **Reina De La Rosa, Stephanie Morales, Sandra Motta, Mercedes Jaime, Magdalene Gabel, Karla Gilliam**



Community Relations, **Larena Baldazo**

## Compassion in Action: CFS Social Worker Graduates Ready to Make a Difference

By Pat Ensley and Ariana Martinez, CFS Staff Development Specialists

A small but mighty group of recent Children and Family Services (CFS) social worker graduates embarked on an innovative journey to celebrate their permanent assignments. To infuse excitement



(L-R): Joann Martinez, Precious Jones and Misty Mathiasen

into the graduation process, they organized a unique placement reveal event. With meticulous planning and unwavering enthusiasm, the graduates transformed a simple gathering into a momentous occasion. Amidst cheers and anticipation, each graduate unveiled their new position and location, showcasing a diverse array of impactful roles within communities. This initiative highlighted their accomplishments and demonstrated their commitment to social service. As they stood together, united by their shared passion and dedication, it was evident that these graduates are poised to make a profound difference in the world of social work.

CFS celebrated the graduation of this remarkable group of three new Child Welfare Social Workers on January 30, 2024. CFS Interim Director, **Roslyn Gentry** welcomed the group with inspiring words remotely during a hybrid graduation ceremony. CFS Division Manager, **Vicky Quinto** awarded them graduation certificates in person alongside their Division Managers and Supervisors in attendance via Zoom and in person. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest Child Welfare Social Workers:

### WEST COUNTY

- **Precious Jones** – Emergency Response

### EAST COUNTY

- **Joann Martinez** – Emergency Response
- **Misty Mathiasen** – Emergency Response

We look forward to their continued passion and dedication to support the children and families in our community.



Joann Martinez



(L-R): Joann Martinez, Precious Jones and Misty Mathiasen

# George Miller III Center Celebrates 20 Years

By Alan Wang, Community Relations Media Specialist

Teachers, students, parents and elected officials celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the County's George Miller III Center (GMIII) where childcare and other program operations have made a profound impact on the community.



About 2,100 Contra Costa County children receive the high-quality education that the Head Start program offers.

The center was created to provide the opportunity for children to attend a high-quality, family-focused preschool in their community. The center and the Head Start services provide aid for children and families in a comprehensive way that supports individual needs and growth.



County officials reveal a new playground that will be installed at the George Miller III Center.

The County-operated center has helped countless families and children in the community to receive low-cost, high quality services and childcare. The education and resources provided through the Head Start program at GMIII has prepared families to be lifelong learners and educators, as well as helped ensure children are successful in their next school experiences.

The center is named after former Congressman George Miller III, who represented California from 1975 to 2015, and steered major education reforms, including No Child Left Behind, during his time representing Contra Costa County. Congressman Miller was also the co-chair of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Early Childhood Initiative, which looks at how the nation can better support young children and their families to reach their full potential.



(L-R) Demnlus Johnson (representing CC County Board Chair Federal Glover, District 5), John Gioia (CC County Supervisor, District 1), Harpreet Sandhu (Senior District Representative, Office of Congressman John Garamendi), Amy Wells (CSB), MJ Robb (CSB)

## Happy Public Service Recognition Week, EHSD!

MAY 5 - 11  
2024



**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
— RECOGNITION WEEK —



Thank you to all our EHSD staff members for your care and dedication in delivering exceptional customer experiences every day as public servants in our community.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

*Public service is about serving all the people,  
including the ones who are not like you.*

— Constance Wu



Asian American  
Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month

## Anita Luu, for the Love of the Game

By Alan Wang, Community Relations Media Specialist

Mah-jongg is more than a game. It's an obsession. And it's not uncommon to hear people talk about their Chinese parents or themselves staying up until the wee hours of the morning playing this ancient game. EHS Departmental Fiscal Officer, **Anita Luu**, loved the game so much she published a book about it called "Mah-jongg, From Shanghai to Miami Beach."

"I love the social part of the game," says Anita. "The games can last a long time and I enjoy spending that time talking and laughing with my husband and two children."

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Asian American  
Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month

## Anita Luu, for the Love of the Game

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Described as being similar to the card game gin rummy, mah-jongg consists of 144 carved tiles (instead of cards). The goal is to collect winning sets of tiles. The game is known for its addictive nature and can last several hours. In fact, Community Relations Temp Program/Project Coordinator **Clifford Tracey** says he once played mah-jongg for 16 hours straight.

“Mah-jongg is like any other card game. It can get quite addictive because you’re dealing with chance and strategy. It requires skill but can also be swayed by pure luck,” says Anita.

Anita wanted to capture the social experience people enjoy while playing with family and friends. Her beautifully illustrated book documents the history of mah-jongg (including the craze that swept America), the varying rules, the rare collectible sets, even recipes for snacks and how to brew the perfect tea during those marathon games.

“The initial reason to write a book on mah-jongg was purely to teach readers how to play,” says Anita. “But as I researched more, I found that there’s such a rich heritage and history surrounding the game. Ultimately, the book became a way to share the culture surrounding mah-jongg.”

**Popular Chinese folklore characters playing mah-jongg. CLICK the play button to watch our interview with Anita Luu.**



Anita Luu and her family playing a friendly game of Mah-Jongg.

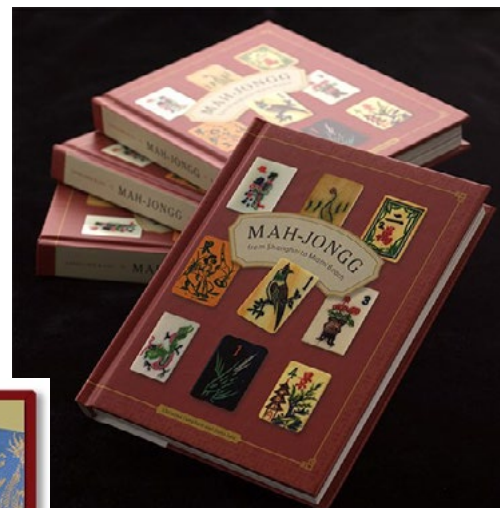
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Asian American  
Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month

## Anita Luu, for the Love of the Game

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Anita, who has a background in design, says her husband encouraged her to write and design the book. It was a daunting task that took two years to research and complete, but Anita says, “You just have to take it one step at a time. Don’t let yourself get overwhelmed. Just break the task into small ones and concentrate on that one task.”



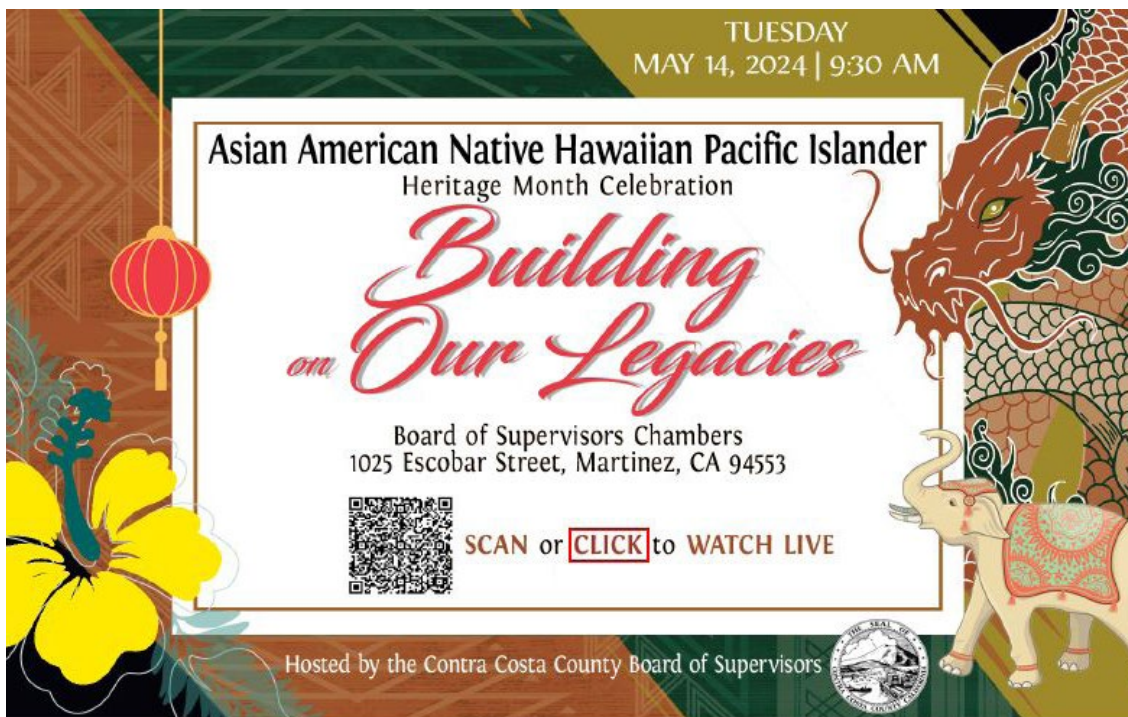
### When She's Not Playing Mah-jongg...

...Anita Luu finds her job extremely meaningful and fulfilling. “Most people don’t immediately think of the Fiscal unit when they think about serving our community in need. But Fiscal is always behind the scenes, making sure bills get paid, programs get funded – all of which help our social workers carry out their work.” When asked if there is a tip she can share with EHSD staff, Anita stresses the importance of Time Studying to the right program. “Filling out your time sheet might seem like a chore, but when you capture the time you work on a specific task, it directly equates to funding being provided towards that program. It’s really important to do it correctly.”

Asian American  
Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month

## Building on Our Legacies

EHSD Sponsors County's AANHPI celebration on May 14<sup>th</sup>



Philippine folk dances, Lion Dance performers, lived experiences of Japanese and Cambodian Americans, and aspirations of younger generations. The **2nd Annual Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI)** commemorative event will celebrate diverse and rich histories, traditions, and hopes for the future.

The multi-media event hosted by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and sponsored by EHSD, will be on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the County Administration Building in Martinez. Live interpretations in 7 languages will be available via Zoom.

See details on the County website's [AANHPI page](#) and our social media [@ContraCostaEHSD](#) (X, FB, & IG). Like and share to help spread the word!

If you would like to help with this event, we have various roles available, including set up, greeting guests, assisting performers, serving food, cleaning up, and more. Check with your supervisor for approval and [sign up here](#) to volunteer by Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Asian American  
Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month

## Famous Asian Americans

### Wong Kim Ark, Born in the U.S. to Chinese Immigrants

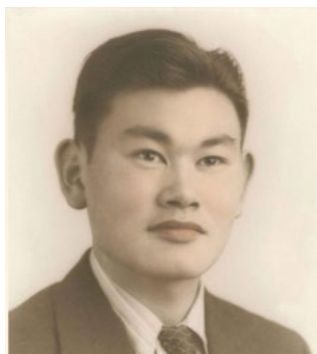
Wong Kim Ark was denied re-entry to the United States after a trip to China, on the grounds that the son of a Chinese national could never be a U.S. citizen. Wong sued the federal government, resulting in the Supreme Court's seminal decision that the government could not deny citizenship to anyone born in the United States. [Adapted from [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#) and PBS's "[Becoming American: The Chinese Experience](#)."]



On March 28, 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in [United States v. Wong Kim Ark](#), holding that children born in the United States, even to parents not eligible to become citizens, were nonetheless citizens themselves under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Wong was born in San Francisco to Chinese immigrants who were barred from ever becoming U.S. citizens under the [1882 Chinese Exclusion Act](#).

### Fred Korematsu, Denied Civil Liberties

Fred Korematsu (Jan. 30, 1919–Mar. 30, 2005), a U.S. citizen and the son of Japanese immigrants, had refused to evacuate when President Roosevelt ordered the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII. Korematsu, age 23, was arrested, convicted, and sent to the



Topaz Internment Camp in Utah. Persuaded by Ernest Besig, then executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Northern California, Korematsu filed a case on June 12, 1942. The premise of the lawsuit was that Korematsu's constitutional rights had been violated and he had suffered racial discrimination. However, the court ruled against Korematsu and he was sentenced to five years probation. Determined to pursue his cause, Korematsu filed an appeal with Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and, later, to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1944, in [Korematsu v. United States](#), the Supreme Court ruled against him, and confirmed that the denial of civil liberties based on race and national origin was legal.

In 1983, Prof. Peter Irons, a legal historian, together with researcher Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, discovered key documents that government intelligence agencies had hidden from the Supreme Court in 1944. The documents consistently showed that Japanese Americans had committed no acts of treason to justify mass incarceration. With this new evidence, a pro-bono legal team that included the Asian Law Caucus re-opened Korematsu's 40-year-old case on the basis of government misconduct. On November 10, 1983, Korematsu's conviction was overturned in a federal court in San Francisco. It was a pivotal moment in civil rights history. [From the [Fred T. Korematsu Institute website](#) and [Of Civil Wrongs and Rights](#) website.]

On Jan. 30, 2011, the state of California celebrated Fred Korematsu Day, the first day named after an Asian American in the United States, now recognized by six states.

Learn more about [the case](#) and additional resources on the Japanese internment.

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Asian American  
Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month

## Famous Asian Americans

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### Anna May Wong, Taishanese American Actress

Widely regarded as the first Chinese American actress of Taishanese descent to achieve superstardom

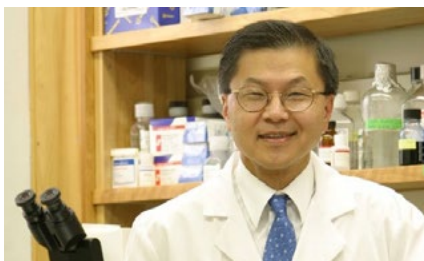


[Anna May Wong in a publicity still from Toll of the Sea \(1922\)](#)

in Hollywood, Wong was born in Los Angeles in 1905 and started acting at an early age. Her varied career spanned silent films, the first color films, television, and radio. Although many of her early roles played into ethnic stereotypes, Wong was a vocal advocate for greater representation of Asian Americans in film and television, and she gained both critical and popular acclaim for her international acting roles. Wong famously lost the leading role of the Chinese character O-Lan in the film adaptation of Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth* to German actress Luise Rainer, who played the role in yellowface and went on to win the Academy Award for her portrayal

### Dr. David Ho, Taiwanese American Research Physician and Virologist

Born in Taichung, Taiwan, in 1952, Dr. David Ho moved to Los Angeles at age 12 with his mother and younger



brother to reunite with his father, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1957. After earning his bachelor of science in biology from the California Institute of

Technology and his medical degree from Harvard University-Massachusetts Institute of Technology Division of Health Sciences and Technology, Dr. Ho performed his clinical training in internal medicine and infectious diseases. When he was a resident at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, he came into contact with some of the first reported cases of what was later identified as AIDS. Since then, Dr. Ho has been at the frontlines of AIDS research and more recently, coronavirus research.

### Tammy Duckworth, Thai American Army Veteran, and U.S. Senator

Born in 1968, in Bangkok, Thailand, to an American father and Thai mother, Tammy



Duckworth is the first [Official portrait of U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth \(D-Illinois\) via Wikimedia Commons](#)

Thai American woman elected to the U.S. Congress, the first person born in Thailand to be elected to the U.S. Congress, the first woman with a disability elected to U.S. Congress, the first female double amputee in the Senate, and the first U.S. senator to give birth while in office.

A former U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and veteran of the Iraq War, Duckworth lost both of her legs and some mobility in her right arm after her helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by Iraqi insurgents, causing severe combat wounds. Despite her injuries, she sought and obtained a medical waiver that allowed her to continue serving in the Illinois Army National Guard until she retired as a lieutenant colonel in 2014.

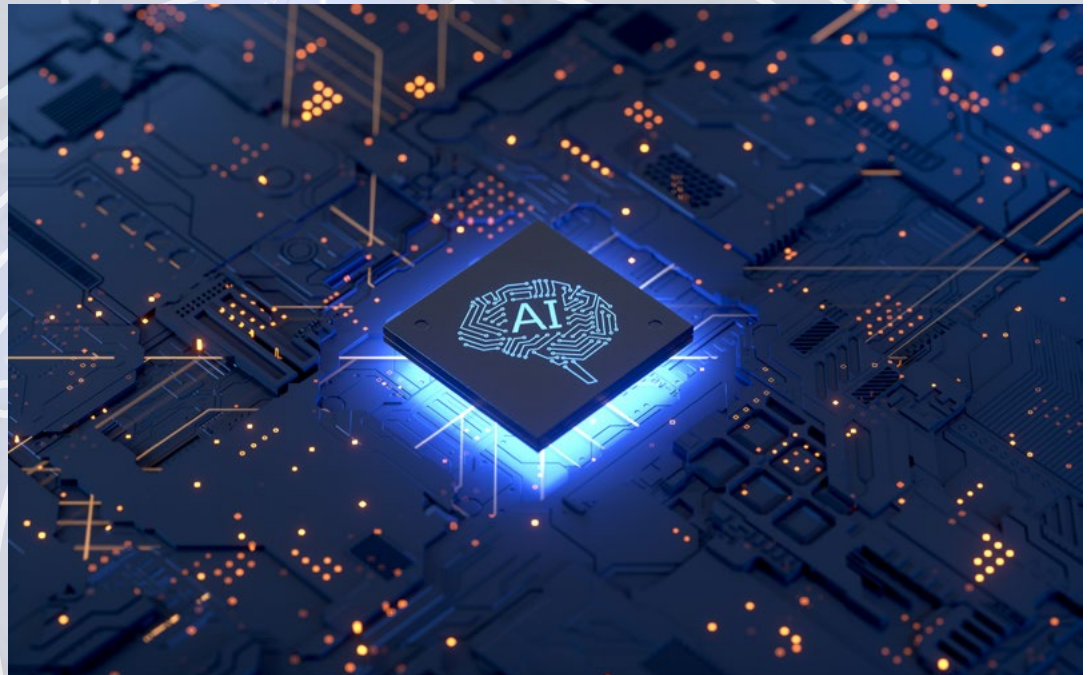
## Artificial Intelligence Survey

By Tamina Alon, Director of Information & Systems

You've probably seen a lot of news about Artificial Intelligence ("AI") lately, and you may already be using AI applications yourself. Because this is a rapidly developing field with many opportunities as well as potentially negative implications, vigilant organizations and legislatures around the world are taking steps to identify known – and emerging – impacts. Here in California, numerous AI regulatory framework bills have been introduced in the Legislature this year.

In March, the Contra Costa County Administrator's Office (CAO) requested all departments fill out an eight-question survey describing their current AI activities, areas of future interest and any existing AI guidelines. This input will help to inform work that the CAO, Office of Communications and Media and Department of Information Technology (DoIT) have undertaken to develop policy guidelines for utilization of AI in County operations and services.

Every EHSD bureau provided responses to the survey, which were then summarized and submitted to the CAO. So far, there is limited use of AI tools in the Department, but several divisions did report utilizing ChatGPT for



research and analysis, interview questions and assistance with language and formatting. In addition, AI design and imaging tools have been applied to create presentation slides and flyers. At least one division has had internal discussions of restraint related to certain uses of AI.

In the weeks ahead, the Executive Team will delve further into the topic of AI within EHSD and continue to engage with staff on this important topic. We also look forward to an opportunity for EHSD to participate in a county-wide AI policy discussion.

In the meantime, EHSD staff members should be extremely cautious in regard to AI. At a minimum, no confidential or Personally Identifiable Information (PII) should be entered into any AI application, but there may be other risks as well. When in doubt, check with your supervisor who will elevate questions as appropriate.



## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Child abuse is 100% preventable. On Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, County leaders and partners came together at the Board of Supervisors meeting with a strong reminder that it is up to all of us to help eliminate child maltreatment and give our children hope, security, and safety.

Executive Director Carol Carrillo of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County and EHSD Children & Family Services Interim Director **Roslyn Gentry** delivered the Child Abuse Prevention Month presentation. EHSD Director **Marla Stuart**, DA Diana Becton, Parent Partners, CFS workers, Alliance to End Abuse representatives, and joined them at the podium for an impressive show of support.



Children & Family Services Interim Director **Roslyn Gentry**



Carol Carrillo, Executive Director of the Child Abuse Prevention Council, supported by Parent Partners, EHSD staff and community members



# Outreach Roundup

## 2024 Spring Internship & Job Fair

Los Medanos College's hosted this event on April 30th at the Pittsburg campus, providing an opportunity for 4OurFamilies Navigators **Joanne Thieme** and **Casey Costa** to meet and talk with a variety of students.

They shared the rewards and possibilities of working in the field of human services.

## The Alliance to End Abuse

The Alliance to End Abuse team has been connecting with community members at recent outreach events. At the Victim Rights Resource Fair on Thursday, April 25th at the District Attorney's Office in Martinez, ASA III **Claudia Gonzalez** offered information and resources.

The Alliance's Program/ Projects Coordinator **Oravanh Thammassen** did the same at the Family Justice Center in Antioch on Friday, April 26th. The DA's Office hosted both events to provide immigration consultation, benefits assistance, counseling, and support to attendees.



Oravanh Thammassen was at the Family Justice Center in Antioch for Victims Rights Week and, as the AANHPI celebration co-chair, she made sure attendees also knew about the upcoming AANHPI celebration.

A large banner for National Foster Care Month. On the left, a large blue ribbon is shaped like a heart. The text "MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH" is written in white. In the center is a circular logo with a house icon and the text "Change a Child's Life... and Your Own.". On the right, the text "Is there room in your home for one more?" is written in pink. Below this is a paragraph about becoming a Resource Parent/Family. At the bottom, silhouettes of children are shown holding hands against a sunset background.

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Change a Child's Life... and Your Own.

## Is there room in your home for one more?

To become a Resource Parent/Family for a child 0-18 years of age, check out a Children & Family Services' free virtual orientation. Visit the [Resource Family page](https://ehsd.org) on [ehsd.org](https://ehsd.org) to learn more and see the schedule of upcoming sessions held in English and Spanish.



# Awareness Month

Access to safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food is a basic human right and is essential to human health. CalFresh food benefits stretch household budgets, enabling recipients to afford nutritious food, including more fruits, vegetables, and other healthy options.

Income-eligible adults can participate in the CalFresh program and may apply on behalf of their children. This includes non-citizen parents who may apply on behalf of their U.S.-born children.

CalFresh food benefits can be used at most grocery stores, farmers markets, convenience stores, and even select online retailers.

Contra Costa County is one of 34 counties in the state to offer the CalFresh Employment and Training Program, providing training and assistance towards job readiness, job security, work norms, and access to higher education for CalFresh participants.



## CalFresh in Contra Costa County

- In December 2023, 101,294 Contra Costa County residents received CalFresh
- The first year ever that total CalFresh recipients exceeded 100,000 in a single month was in 2023
- CalFresh benefits contributed \$224 million to our economy from April 2023 through March 2024

If you know of someone who may need help in meeting their nutritional needs, tell them to apply for CalFresh by visiting [BenefitsCal.com](https://BenefitsCal.com) or [GetCalFresh.org](https://GetCalFresh.org).





We Care that You Care

## Excellence in All We Do: Aaron Perez, WFS Division Manager

By Patricia Lund, Secretary Advanced Level, AAS

**Aaron Perez** has been of great value to me in providing assistance and information when I have needed help resolving customer complaints that come to the Administration office. He has always been kind, responsive and respectful but most importantly, he is effective! In a recent interaction with a customer who needed a form completed to receive a fee waiver from the DMV, I contacted Aaron to ask for guidance on how to best advise the customer on what steps to take in getting the form. Not only did he explain to me that WFS has its own form, but he made calls to insure that the form would be completed and ready to be pick-up by the customer! I was able to tell the customer that he could go pick up his form in the intake office and he was truly thankful. I am truly thankful that I work with such a knowledgeable, helpful, and kind person in Aaron Perez.



*If you know of a deserving co-worker, please fill out the We Care Nomination form and send it to [Headlines@EHSD.cccounty.us](mailto:Headlines@EHSD.cccounty.us).*



## 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:** [WeCareThatYouCare Guidelines\\_FINAL.pdf](#)

**We Care nomination form:** [WeCareThatYouCare Nomination Form\\_FINAL.pdf](#)



## SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

### SERVICE AWARDS

#### 35 YEARS

Robyn Currie, EHS Division Manager, WFS  
Karen Walls, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS

#### 25 YEARS

Monica Cummings, Social Work Supervisor II, CFS  
Martha Espinoza, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Cassandra O'Neal, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS

#### 20 YEARS

Ann Barrett, EHS Division Manager, Admin  
Anne Dimas, Social Worker III, CFS  
Debbie Penovich, Clerical Supervisor, CFS  
Ryan Madison Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Thomas Miller, Social Worker, AAS  
Maria Vargass Carrera, Acct Clerk-Advanced Level, Admin

#### 15 YEARS

Juan Bernal, Community Svcs Bldg Svc Wrkr-Pr, CSB

#### 10 YEARS

Ivan Alvarado, Community Svcs Bldg Svc Wrkr-P, CSB (Jan 2024)  
Maria Arrambide, Comprehensive Svcs Asst Mgr-Pr, CSB  
Ronald Berry, Info Sys Technician II, Admin  
Janice Corrales, Social Worker III, CFS  
Margaret Crabtree, Social Work Supervisor II, CFS  
Jacqueline Mendiola, Soc Svc Sr Welf Fraud Fld Invs, Admin  
Nancy Opek, Sr Soc Svc Info Sys Analyst, Admin (Jan 2024)  
Angelique Robinson, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS (Feb 2014)  
Nelida Villanueva, Social Worker III, CFS  
Niluka Wann Arachchilage, Teacher-Project, CSB

### NEW EMPLOYEES

Christina Aragones, Clerk-Experienced Level, CFS  
Valarie Baker, Clerk-Experienced Level, CFS  
Nayeli Bravo, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB  
Aracely Camarena, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS  
Larissa Cerdas, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB  
Delilah Franco, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB  
Anita Goehring, Social Worker, AAS  
Jennifer Guerrero, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS  
Erwin Hsu, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS  
Maria Ibarra, Associate Teacher, CSB  
Crystal King, Social Work Supervisor II, CFS  
Bahar Lalchandani, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB

Jackqueline Medina, Social Worker, AAS  
Brittany Moniz, Intermediate Clerk Project, CSB  
Courtney Murphy, ASA III, Admin  
Soleda Ochoa, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB  
Tu Nguyen, Social Worker, AAS  
Andres Parangan, Social Worker, WFS  
Samantha Perez, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB  
Kyle Stockholm, ASA III, Admin  
Steven Thysell, Administrative Analyst, Admin  
Tavare Warfield, Social Worker, AAS  
Daryl L. Washington, Social Worker, AAS

### RETIREES

Zenaida Manalo, Clerk-Specialist Level, Admin

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](mailto:djohnson@ehsd.cccounty.us) or (925) 608-4808.**

## Community Action Celebrates 60 Years

### MAY IS COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

Building up communities and promoting economic stability are essential contributions that Community Action programs make across the nation. For 60 years, Community Action has inspired a spirit of hope and created opportunities for millions of people.



EHSD's Community Services Bureau (CSB) implements our Community Action in collaboration with 13 nonprofit partners in Contra Costa County.

In 2023, Community Action in our County provided vital services in the priority areas of housing, job training, mental health, and food security to 13,918 individuals. The program also served 3,333 children and their families by providing childcare, shelter, family support, nutrition, employment support, and mental health services.

The County's Community Action work includes conducting capacity-building activities in a dozen community coalitions, and public hearings to learn about lived experiences and the needs of low-income families.

EHSD thanks our partners for coming together to improve the lives of our County residents through Community Action.

## We Love Contra Costa County Public Works!

We celebrate our Public Works staff and thank them for keeping up our County's 150+ buildings; maintaining more than 660 miles of County roads and 150 miles of streams, channels, and other drainage; operating Print & Mail; providing services such as Parks and Recreation, Sandbag Distribution and Flood Control throughout unincorporated areas; and operating two airports – Buchanan Field in Concord and Byron Airport. [www.cccpublicworks.org](http://www.cccpublicworks.org).



Watch the latest episode of Inside Public Works at [Inside Public Works, Episode 4 - YouTube](#)

# SPREAD THE WORD

## May 2024

- COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH
- CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH
- OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
- FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION MONTH
- MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH
- ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH
- JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
- MAY 5 – Cinco De Mayo
- MAY 5-11 – Public Service Appreciation Week
- MAY 6-10 – Teacher’s Appreciation Week
- MAY 12 – Mother’s Day
- MAY 14 – CC County AANHPI Commemorative Event
- MAY 15 – Peace Officers Memorial Day
- MAY 21 – Cultural Diversity Day
- MAY 22 – Harvey Milk Day
- MAY 27 – Memorial Day (holiday)



## June 2024

- LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH
- ELDER & DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH
- MEN’S HEALTH MONTH
- JUNE 9 – National Abused Women & Children’s Awareness Day
- JUNE 14 – Flag Day
- JUNE 15 – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- JUNE 19 – Juneteenth (holiday)
- JUNE 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day

## We Care... You Care

CLICK here to learn more about nominating a coworker.  
 Updated We Care...You Care nomination form: click here  
 and see page 18

## 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

May 2 or 16 • 4 to 6 p.m.

June 6 or 20 • 4 to 6 p.m.

July 18 • 4 to 6 p.m.



For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at [www.ehdsd.org](http://www.ehdsd.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](mailto:ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us)

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

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 Instagram @HumanaCosta  
 Like us on Facebook



FORMERLY KNOWN AS TWITTER



The next Issue of *Headlines* will publish in early June Email EHSD *Headlines* at [Headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:Headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us), by **Tuesday, May 21st** if you have an upcoming event, article, or idea you would like to submit.