

Headlines

Issue 98 • July/August 2025
ehsd.org

Harriet's Relaunch with Opportunity Junction

New HR Officer
James Peavey
Takes the Reins

MCSC:
20 Years Strong

Rainbow Color
Competition for
Pride Month





James Peavey Joins EHSD as New HR Officer

By Anissa Basoco-Villarreal, EHSD Chief Deputy Director,
Office of the Administration

Welcome to **James Peavey**, our new Departmental Human Resources Officer II. James officially joined us on June 16, and brings with him more than 26 years of public-sector HR experience—including 17 years with the City and County of San Francisco.

Most recently, James served as the Human Resources Manager for the City of Concord, where he led wide-ranging initiatives in recruitment, classification and compensation, labor relations, employee engagement, workplace safety, wellness, and risk management. His strategic and collaborative approach to HR aligns well with our values and vision here at EHSD.

James holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from San Francisco State University and a Master of Public Administration from Cal State East Bay. He now reports to the Office of the Administration and will serve as a key advisor to our Executive Team. His focus will be on developing a comprehensive departmental HR strategy, enhancing our data and compliance practices, and strengthening efforts across recruitment, workforce development, and employee and labor relations.

We're excited to have James on board and look forward to the leadership and insight he brings to this important role. Please join me in giving him a warm EHSD welcome!

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

Iliana Choate Takes on New DEIA Role

By Patricia Perez, Division Manager, Policy & Planning

Iliana Choate is stepping into a new and meaningful chapter at EHSD as the inaugural Program and Projects Coordinator in the Policy & Planning Unit. In this newly created role, she will help guide and strengthen EHSD's continued work around diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) for both staff and the community we serve.

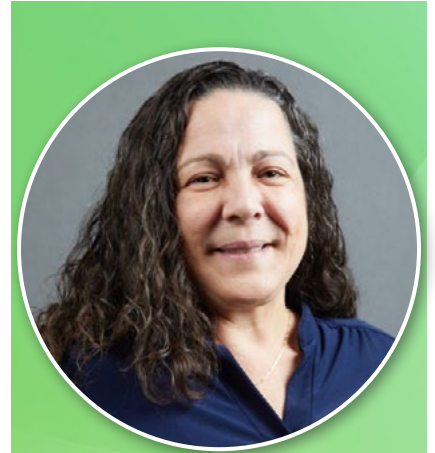
With over 25 years at EHSD, Iliana brings a wealth of experience, insight, and heart to her new position. She began her career as a Clerk in the Medi-Cal OJT unit and later became a bilingual Eligibility Worker, helping customers navigate CalWORKs, CalFresh, and other vital programs. Her dedication to service carried her through roles as a Social Service Program Assistant in Welfare to Work—where she led Job Club and Job Search sessions in English and Spanish—and most recently, as a Staff Development Specialist.

In Staff Development, Iliana created and led mandatory and professional development training, both in-person and online. She also coordinated the EHSD Mentoring Program since 2017, supporting the growth and development of her colleagues across the department. As a member of the DEIA core team, Iliana helped develop key initiatives that continue to shape a more inclusive EHSD.

Her commitment to equity has extended beyond her official roles. She has contributed to state and national efforts through her involvement with the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE), the Racial Equity and Inclusion Collaborative, and REIB (Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) through CDSS.

Iliana is known not only for her professionalism but also for the deep connections she forms with coworkers and customers. Outside of work, she enjoys quilting, crocheting, reading, and puzzles—but it's time with her husband, five dogs, and beloved grandsons that brings her the most joy.

We are excited to see the impact Iliana will make in this important new role and grateful for the perspective and compassion she brings to every space she enters.



*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

Learning, Leading, and Innovating with CalSAWS

By Rosalie Uy, Workforce Services Division Manager

Attending the 2025 CalSAWS Conference and JPA Member Representatives Meeting in San Diego was an energizing and eye-opening experience. Over the course of two days, I joined fellow county leaders, state agency representatives, advocates, and community-based organizations from across California—all of us united by a common purpose: improving how we deliver critical social services that help Californians thrive.

Throughout the sessions, it became clear just how vital county alignment is to make the system as efficient and effective as possible. Understanding the broader strategy behind CalSAWS gave me a deeper appreciation for the vision driving our work. It's not just about technology—it's about creating a unified, client-centered approach to service delivery.

One of the most talked-about sessions introduced GenAI Call Summary Assist, a tool that uses generative AI to support call center staff by reducing post-call wrap-up time and generating high-quality summaries. The potential to ease the administrative burden on our frontline workers while enhancing client service is exciting. I walked



Members of the EHSD Workforce Services team attend the 2025 CalSAWS Conference in San Diego. (L-R): **Patricia Viveros** (CalSAWS Help Desk), **Cassandra Amador** (WFSS-WTW), **Terri Rose** (CalSAWS Imaging), **Rosalie Uy** (Division Manager – Intake Operations), **Lori Juarez** (WFSS-MCSC Call Center), **Karen Labanieto** (Supervisor – Staff Development), **Lorena Martinez Castillo** (Staff Development), and **Mario Pando** (Staff Development).

away with practical steps for how we might assess our readiness, prepare our teams, and measure our success with this type of innovation.

Another session that stood out to me was on harnessing analytics to support better decision-making. It explored CalSAWS' evolving data architecture and efforts to modernize how we gather and use data. As someone deeply involved in service delivery, I see the real value in using analytics to guide everything from staffing to program design—decisions that ultimately impact the people we serve.

What really came through at the conference was that innovation, especially when it comes to AI and data, is going to play a big role in how we move social services forward. But it's not about chasing the latest tech just to say we're innovative. It has to make a real difference for the people we serve.

Staff Development offers
CalSAWS course – see next page

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

CalSAWS Navigation for Admin

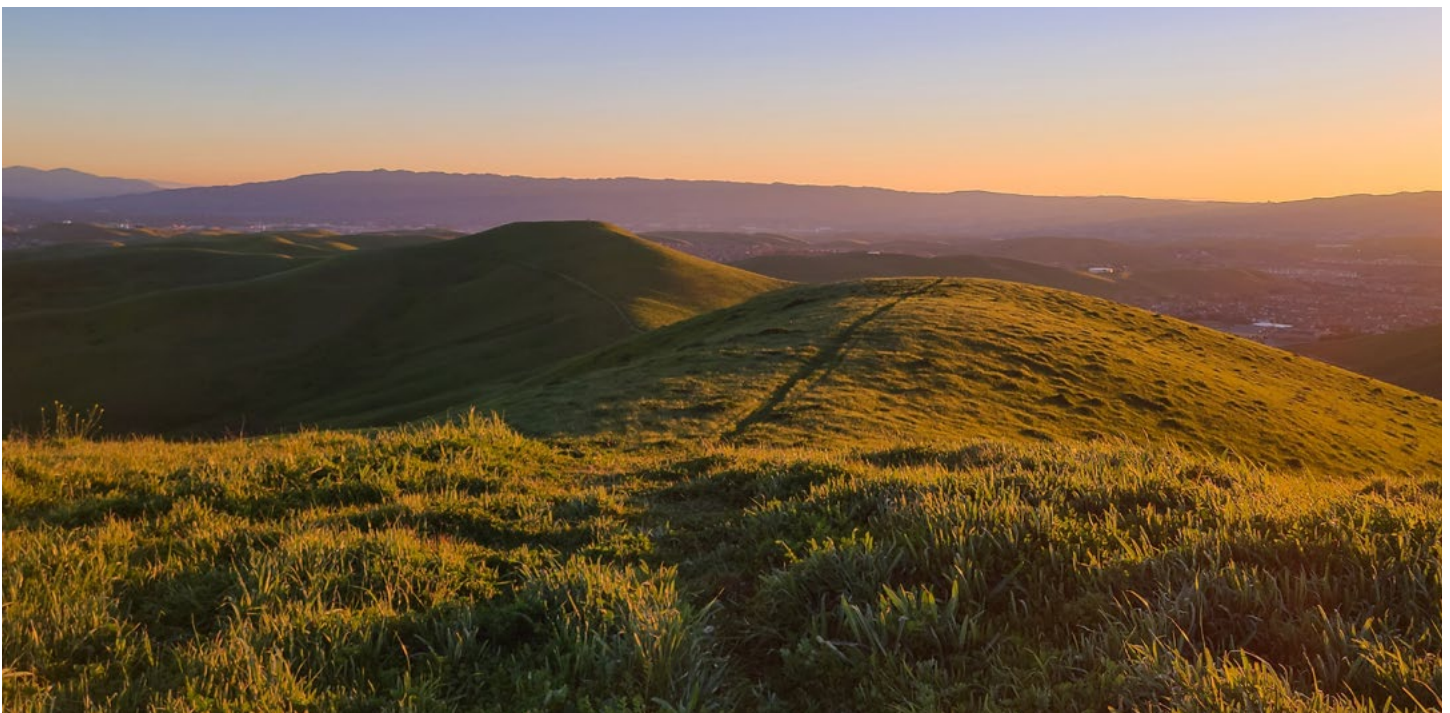
Staff Development is offering an essential training session on navigating CalSAWS.

Designed specifically for administrative staff, the session will cover topics including:

- **How to log in to CalSAWS**
- **How to look up a client**
- **How to look up a case**

The session will help ensure you are confident and efficient when using CalSAWS.

Sign up via SMART (with Supervisor approval) for the class on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The location for the CalSAWS Navigation for Admin training is 2600 Stanwell Drive in Concord.



Celebrating 20 Years of Innovation at MCSC

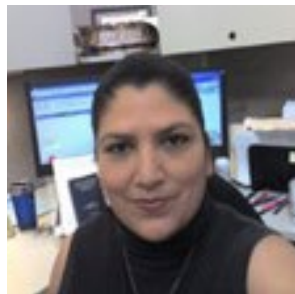
By Alan Wang, Community Relations/Media Specialist

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Medi-Cal CalFresh Service Center (MCSC), a bold initiative that reshaped how Contra Costa County supports some of its most vulnerable residents. Launched in 2005, what started as an ambitious concept—merging two major public benefit programs into a single, centralized, paperless, task-based contact center—has evolved into a powerful model of innovation, teamwork, and service.

At the time, shifting from individual caseloads to a task-based model sparked skepticism. The transition from CDS to CalWIN, and from paper files to digital systems, was groundbreaking—and not without its challenges. But a team of determined professionals stepped forward, ready to embrace the unknown and reimagine how public assistance could be delivered.

“... [our team was] united by a shared commitment: to provide our customers with the services they’re eligible for, delivered with the dignity and respect they deserve.”

— Lori Juarez



Lori Juarez, Workforce Services Specialist

“I was part of the original team that joined the MCSC when it opened in the summer of 2005,” said **Lori Juarez**, Workforce Services Specialist. “The launch of the MCSC marked another significant transformation... this new approach was designed to streamline our processes and improve accessibility for the customers we serve.”

Lori briefly left the Service Center in 2006, returning in 2014 to discover a workplace that had evolved dramatically.

“The second-floor conference room once stacked high with documents was now a memory. In its place was a highly efficient team... united by a shared commitment: to provide our customers with the services they’re eligible for, delivered with the dignity and respect they deserve.”

“MCSC shaped my entire outlook. Strategizing thousands of tasks, managing high-pressure projects, and navigating phone queues taught me skills I still use today.”

— Rosalie Uy



Rosalie Uy, Workforce Services Division Manager

Rosalie Uy, now Division Manager, began her MCSC journey as a mail clerk in 2006. Her reflections capture the determination and camaraderie that helped staff navigate long, high-pressure days.

“On Thursday or Friday afternoons, we played hoops using a small plastic basketball and a ring hung on our supervisor’s door... even the smallest things are worth celebrating.”

“MCSC shaped my entire outlook. Strategizing thousands of tasks, managing high-pressure projects, and navigating phone queues taught me skills I still use today.”

Continued on next page

Celebrating 20 Years of Innovation at MCSC

Continued from previous page

“Some thought the contact center model would fail. But here we are 20 years strong...It’s been incredibly fulfilling.”

— Emilio Alvarez



Emilio Alvarez, Workforce Services Specialist

Emilio Alvarez, who started in 2006 as an Eligibility Worker I, recalls early doubts about the contact center model—but also the pride of proving those doubts wrong.

“Some thought the contact center model would fail. But here we are 20 years strong. I’ve had the privilege of watching it grow and thrive. Training new staff and helping them serve our community has been incredibly fulfilling.”

“The workload was intense... But it turned out to be the best decision I ever made. I became a better listener through phone interviews and embraced every challenge.”

— Janeen Lawson



Janeen Lawson, Social Services Program Assistant

For **Janeen Lawson**, who joined in 2011 during the Great Recession, joining MCSC was both a personal and professional turning point.

“When I first arrived at Cavallo, the parking lot was full and for the first time in decades, I didn’t know everyone in the building. We were transitioning from paper files to Compass Pilot and rolling out online applications...”

“The workload was intense... But it turned out to be the best decision I ever made. I became a better listener through phone interviews and embraced every challenge.”

Now, 20 years later, MCSC stands as a powerful example of what’s possible when bold ideas are met with resilience, collaboration, and a deep commitment to community. From paper stacks to digital systems, from growing pains to lasting progress—MCSC hasn’t just adapted. It has led the way.



Lori Juarez reflects that after 11 years since rejoining the Service Center, she is as inspired as ever. “I’m excited to see the MCSC continue to grow and adapt to meet the changing needs of our community.”

CLICK on the play button to hear more from MCSC staff.

Building Brighter Futures Together

For further insight, see the companion article on the next page.

MCSC: Legacy of Compassion, Commitment, and Community

By Renita Johnson, Secretary-Journey Level, Medi-Cal CalFresh Service Center

Twenty years of service at the Medi-Cal CalFresh Service Center (MCSC) is a milestone built on the strength, dedication, and heart of every staff person who has walked through our doors.

At MCSC, our mission has always been clear: to serve our community. What we provide goes far beyond access to Medi-Cal or CalFresh. We offer peace of mind. The comfort of knowing that someone who needs to see a doctor, feed their children, or navigate difficult times is not alone. That's what makes our work so impactful. We remove the worry, ease the burden, and give hope.

We do it together, because here at MCSC, we're more than coworkers - we're family. Over the past two decades, we've faced changing systems, shifting policies, economic challenges, and the unexpected. Through it all, we've remained committed, unified, and mission driven.

We also bring our values to life through meaningful moments like family trick or treating and most notably, Bring Your Sons & Daughters to Work Day where we welcomed our children into MCSC, served breakfast, and presented what we do with pride. They took part in mock interviews, updated sample cases in our training region, and saw firsthand what it means to serve. These experiences planted seeds for future generations to understand the power of supporting our community.

We've never forgotten to appreciate the people who make it all possible: our staff. From pancake breakfasts and ice cream socials, to our legendary Summer BBQs, we celebrate the incredible people that help make it happen. For a few

hours, we get to pause, relax, and enjoy a good meal together as a reminder that our work is important, but so is our well-being as we strive to stay MCSC Strong.



A few of the MCSC "family" including article writer Renita Johnson on the right.

New Faces Join EHSD Eligibility Team

By Leilani Lunch, Staff Development Supervisor



Standing (L-R): **Yadira Martinez, Natasha Huffstuttler, Fabian Landeros, Eilan Zeng, Britnae Jacobs, Blanca Gonzalez, Matthew Szczepanski, Madhav Budhathoki, Ayodeji Oladejo, and Doritina Phoenix**
 Seated (L-R): **Linda (Jamie) Yamaguchi, Brianna Collard, Eddy Vien, Alma Robles-Castro, and Anh Lam**

We are proud to celebrate a wonderful group of new Social Service Program Assistant I's who recently completed their training with the Eligibility Training Unit (ETU). These dedicated individuals spent the past four months immersed in an intensive program focused on mastering both CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Graduating on July 3, 2025, this cohort demonstrated professionalism, perseverance, and a strong commitment to learning. Each of them successfully completed classroom training and simulations that laid the foundation for the important work they will be doing to serve our community.

They have now joined the On-the-Job Training (OJT) Unit at the Multi-County Service Center (MCSC), where they'll continue building their knowledge and skills under the guidance of experienced mentors and trainers.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to the newest members of our EHSD team. We're excited to see how they grow in their careers and contribute to our shared mission of supporting individuals and families across Contra Costa County.

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

Smart Food Lockers

Contributed by Lissette Davis, CC County Office of Communications & Media

The Food Bank of Contra Costa County and Solano is making food access more convenient and discreet for those in need of healthy, nutritious food. They are now providing food lockers where eligible individuals can retrieve meals anonymously and at their convenience.

Modeled after systems like the Amazon Hub Locker, the food lockers are available in banks of 20 climate-controlled units installed either indoors or outdoors at various locations around the county. Users place their food orders electronically and receive a unique code for easy pick-up. Each locker bank has the capacity for up to three fills per day, potentially serving up to 60 families or households daily.

CLICK to see how the Smart Food Lockers Project works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9S6HpVs66c&t=1s> (English)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTyDhbAaeU8&t=13s> (Spanish)

This important initiative is a project of The Innovation Fund that is supported by Measure X



Smart Food Locker at Refuge Church in Concord where community members can pick up emergency groceries.

sales tax proceeds. The innovation Fund is making a tangible difference in our community by funding vital services that strengthen safety-net programs, early childhood development, and other county initiatives.

Learn more about The Innovation Fund and the positive impact it's having throughout Contra Costa County: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/10270/Innovation-Fund>

Standing Together to Prevent Gun Violence

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



Board of Supervisors proclaims Gun Violence Prevention and Awareness Month on June 24, 2025: Back (L-R): Dr. Sefanit (Sofe) Mukuria, Leysy Palayo, Nadine Argueza, **Ashley Palomino**, Hisham Alibob, Eddie Sousa, Supervisor Ken Carlson, **Marla Stuart**, Aaron Jones, **Anissa Basoco-Villarreal**, **Mélody Saint-Saëns**, Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston, Supervisor John Gioia, Victor Tiglao. Front (L-R): Supervisor Diane Burgis, Yvette Alcala, Natalie Oleas, Alana Mathews, Kira Lee, District Attorney Diana Becton, Supervisor Candace Andersen.

June is recognized as Gun Violence Prevention and Awareness Month—a time to honor lives lost, support survivors, and shine a light on ongoing prevention efforts. Gun violence continues to pose a serious threat to public health and safety. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 48,000 firearm-related deaths occurred in the United States in 2022, including 3,484 in California alone. That same year, Contra Costa County law enforcement responded to 3,218 domestic violence calls. Approximately 2% of those incidents involved a firearm, per data from the U.S. Department of Justice.

On Tuesday, June 24th, the District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Alliance to End Abuse, presented before the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and highlighted the range of



At the podium: Kira Lee. Back (L-R): **Marla Stuart**, DA Diana Becton, Natalie Oleas, Victor Tiglao.

efforts underway in our community to reduce and prevent gun violence:

Survivor-Centered Support

The Contra Costa District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with the Family Justice Center, is working to support survivors of unsolved shootings. Even when justice isn't served through the legal system, survivors are being connected with vital resources and healing services.

Continued on next page

Standing Together to Prevent Gun Violence

Continued from previous page

Coordinated Enforcement and Training

A countywide Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, co-led by the District Attorney's Office and the Alliance to End Abuse, includes representatives from local law enforcement and community partners. This group focuses on ensuring compliance with firearm relinquishment orders and delivering training to help officers prioritize survivor safety in situations involving interpersonal violence.

School-Based Prevention in East County

Contra Costa Health's Violence Prevention Program is building safer school communities through mentorship, social-emotional learning, and restorative practices. These strategies are designed to support youth in East Contra Costa and help prevent cycles of violence before they begin.

Restorative SHAWC and Community Empowerment

Restorative Safety, Health and Wellness Council (SHAWC)—Contra Costa's first safety stakeholders' association—brings together more than 40 community-based organizations and leaders. This coalition recently hosted the Juneteenth Silence Our Violence Leadership Summit, elevating BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ voices, and offering tools for prevention, intervention, and long-term healing.

These collective efforts reflect a shared commitment from local leaders, community advocates, and service providers to end gun violence in Contra Costa County. By formally recognizing Gun Violence Awareness Month, the Board of Supervisors has amplified these efforts and reaffirmed their support for policies and partnerships that promote safety, healing, and long-term community wellness. Together, we are building a safer, more resilient future for all.

These collective efforts reflect a shared commitment from local leaders, community advocates, and service providers to end gun violence in Contra Costa County... Together, we are building a safer, more resilient future for all.

Data Dashboard Symposium Sparks Regional Innovation

By Stephanie Booth, Planner/Evaluator A, Policy and Planning

On June 10th, our Policy and Planning team, under the leadership of Director of Administration **Tamina Alon**, hosted the first-ever Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) Dashboard and Data Visualization Symposium in San Jose. The event brought together 29 data professionals from nine Bay Area counties to explore new ways to make data more accessible, meaningful, and impactful.

Our Data Unit led two sessions during the symposium. The first offered an overview of our public-facing dashboards, giving participants a peek behind the curtain at how we extract and prepare data. The second session introduced an innovative mapping approach that uses open-source tools to identify areas of unmet need. Both sessions

reflected our team's commitment to using data in creative, transparent, and practical ways to support better decision-making.

One of the most inspiring moments came when a colleague from Napa County shared that our GIS mapping work was the catalyst for their own dashboard efforts. It was a powerful reminder that the work we do locally can spark meaningful progress beyond our county lines.

By hosting this symposium, we reaffirmed EHSD's role as a regional leader in data innovation. It was exciting to connect with our peers, exchange ideas, and see firsthand how our shared efforts can lead to smarter services and stronger communities across the Bay Area.



Attendees from nine Bay Area counties gathered for the inaugural BASSC Data and Visualization Symposium in San Jose. EHSD's Policy and Planning team members pictured: **Tamina Alon** (Director of Administration), **Manickalakshmi Chithraputhra Pillai**, **Roseetha Albert**, **Daniel Busch**, **Aaron Graifman**, and **Erick Untal** (Research and Evaluation Manager).



Erick Untal fields questions after presenting the Public Information Sharing Tools at the BASSC Symposium



Planner/Evaluator **Aaron Graifman** sharing a presentation on public use tools for data visualization

Honoring EHSD's 2025 BASSC Graduates

By Tracey W. Lee, Staff Development Division Manager

We are thrilled to recognize **Vicky Quinto** and **Alice Dietrich**, two exceptional EHSD leaders who graduated from the **2025 Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) Executive Development Program (EDP)**, an intensive program for human services professionals.

Learning, Leadership, and Innovation in Public Service

BASSC's EDP is a rigorous, five-month leadership initiative designed to prepare mid- and senior-level managers in Bay Area human services agencies for executive roles.

Participants gain hands-on experience in critical topics such as budget and finance, policy and advocacy, leadership, coaching, data use, racial equity, and community engagement. The program also includes inter-county collaboration and the completion of a policy-focused research project or case study.

Balancing demanding day jobs, the EDP, and personal commitments is no easy task. Vicky and Alice exemplify the thoughtful, mission-driven leadership that EHSD values. Their work enhances our programs and uplifts our entire county through service innovation and compassion.



EHSD's 2025 BASSC graduates:
Vicky Quinto and Alice Dietrich

Vicky Quinto – Strategic Leader and Lifelong Learner

With more than 25 years of experience in child welfare, **Vicky** exemplifies dedication and excellence. A graduate of San Jose State University, Vicky's professional journey spans Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties, as well as national engagement with Casey Family Programs. Since returning to EHSD in 2015, she has led major initiatives in Children & Family Services policy, staff development, and eligibility operations.

For her BASSC project, Vicky examined **Sonoma County's Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)**, a model developed to address the pressing shortage of placement options for high needs foster youth. Her research provides valuable insights and a potential roadmap for Contra Costa to explore local STRTP partnerships to better serve youth with complex needs.

Colleagues describe Vicky as a compassionate, strategic, and vibrant leader. Whether she's traveling the world, tending her garden, or enjoying spicy cuisine, she brings energy and curiosity to everything she does.

Continued on next page

Honoring EHSD's 2025 BASSC Graduates

Continued from previous page

Alice Dietrich – Innovator and Advocate for Staff Development

Alice is a Division Manager for In-Home Supportive Services and has been a pillar of EHSD since 2011. Her leadership spans multiple programs, including CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and CalWORKs. Before joining EHSD, Alice practiced law in Pennsylvania and worked in diversion courts, experiences that deeply informed her commitment to access, equity, and public service.

For her BASSC project, Alice focused on **Alameda County's Simulation Lab (SimLab)**, an innovative training approach using video-supported roleplay to build staff capacity in interviewing, empathy, safety, and regulation compliance. Her work lays the foundation for Contra Costa to adopt similar immersive training models that better support adult learners in human services.

Outside of work, Alice is a teacher, leatherworker, horsewoman, and even a budding farrier, an inspiring example of balancing personal passion with professional excellence.



Celebrating at the BASSC graduation ceremony (L-R): Anissa Basoco-Villarreal, Tracy Murray, Vicky Quinto, Roslyn Gentry, Tracey Lee, and Alice Dietrich

On behalf of our Executive Team and the entire EHSD community, congratulations to our 2025 BASSC graduates! May you continue to grow, inspire, and lead with integrity.

Learn more about BASSC: [Home](#) | [Mack Center](#)

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

Celebrating Juneteenth with BASSC

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

EHSD joined the first regional celebration for Juneteenth to connect with colleagues across our Bay Area counties. On June 18th, the day before the Juneteenth holiday, the Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) held a virtual event with a special presentation and trivia activity.

Staff from several EHSD locations joined the BASSC Regional Celebration via Zoom while also connecting in person, enjoying potluck dishes, and learning more about the history and significance of Juneteenth.

The buildings who hosted a Juneteenth event and BASSC Regional Celebration viewing included 4545 Delta Fair, Antioch; 1275 Hall Ave, Richmond; 1470 Civic Court, Concord; 40 Douglas Drive, Martinez; 300 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill; and 2600 Stanwell Drive, Concord.

Thank you to our event coordinators **Evette Thomas, Tammi Cason, Patty Perez, Gian Gutierrez, Mari Solis, Cynthia Mallory, Patty Lund, and Tracy Murray**, and to all who participated!



Juneteenth celebration at 1275 Hall Avenue, Richmond



Carolyn Foudy, Alice Dietrich, and Mari Solis at 300 Ellinwood

Bumping Up Email Security

Contributed by Michael Roark, IT Information Systems Manager

We have an exciting improvement to our County's email system. The Contra Costa County Department of Information Technology (DoIT) enabled Email Warning Tags on July 18th. This feature in the Proofpoint Email Security environment is available to all EHSD Microsoft 365 users, including First 5.

Why are we doing this?

To boost email security against phishing, spoofing, and other threats, Email Warning Tags allow you to be more aware of certain types of emails that may contain suspicious content or pose risk. They allow you to report to the Proofpoint automated system for further investigation, whether on desktop, mobile, or web.

What does this mean for you?

You will see banner tags that appear on tops of specific emails, primarily from external domains, to help indicate those emails are from external sources and may contain suspicious content.

To learn more about common warnings and what they mean, see examples, report a suspicious message, and know more about email security best practices, view the [Email Warning Tags Guide on insidecontracosta.org](https://insidecontracosta.org) (County intranet site). You can also contact the DoIT Customer Care team at doitcustomercare@doit.cccounty.us or (925) 313-1250.

EMAIL SECURITY BEST PRACTICES



Do This

- ✓ Stay alert and read warning tags carefully
- ✓ Use the "Report Phishing" button in Outlook to report suspicious emails
- ✓ **Verify unfamiliar senders**
- ✓ **Report suspicious emails**



Don't Do This

- ✗ Ignore warning tags or assume all emails are safe
- ✗ Assume an email is safe because it uses familiar names
- ✗ Click suspicious links or attachments
- ✗ Respond to emails flagged as suspicious

Keeping Track of IT Equipment

Contributed by Michael Roark, IT Information Systems Manager

It's inventory time at EHSD. Now through September 30th, IT will be visiting our EHSD buildings to account for the on-premises equipment. Inventory stations will also be set up to catalog work-from-home and mobile equipment.

Examples of items on desks that we will need to scan:

- ☐ PCs
- ☐ Monitors
- ☐ Printers
- ☐ Scanners
- ☐ Signature Pads

Inventory schedule:

Saturday, July 26th	4545 Delta Fair	4549 Delta Fair
Saturday, September 13th	500 Ellinwood	2600 Stanwell
Sunday, September 14th	300 Ellinwood	400 Ellinwood
Saturday, September 20th	40 Douglas	1470 Civic Ct.
Sunday, September 21st	4071 Port Chicago	1875 Arnold
Saturday, October 11th	151 Linus Pauling	
Sunday, October 12th	1275 Hall	1305 MacDonald
Saturday, October 18th	1650 Cavallo	151 Sand Creek

During the next few weeks, IT will scan equipment at these smaller buildings on weekdays:

3105 Willow Pass
 2371 Syston
 2530 Arnold
 3755 Alhambra
 1535 Fred Jackson
 2020 N. Broadway
 4005 Port Chicago (First Five)

EHSD staff who have equipment for remote use will soon receive an email with the 2025 WFH Inventory sheet (IT04).

At-home equipment includes:

- ☐ PC
- ☐ Laptop
- ☐ Monitors
- ☐ UPS Battery Back up
- ☐ Cloudgenix
- ☐ Surface Pro
- ☐ iPhone
- ☐ iPad



We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in ensuring a smooth and efficient inventory process.

Empowering Families through Community Action

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

Contra Costa County celebrated a 61-year-old program known as Community Action at the June 24th Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Community Action in Contra Costa County has a role in reducing poverty, strengthening communities, and empowering families, and is part of a national effort that launched in 1964 with President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty" and the Economic Opportunity Act.

EHSD administers the Community Services Block Grant in Contra Costa County, with guidance from the Economic Opportunity Council. In 2024, our Community Action Program, working with 11 nonprofit partners, served 15,986 individuals with critical services like housing, job training, mental

health services, and food security. Highlights include:

- 267 individuals received job-readiness training;
- 120 unemployed adults secured jobs;
- Of these, 58 received pay up to a living wage, and 62 received a living wage or higher;
- And 2,231 children and families accessed childcare, shelter, and other supportive services.

EHSD's Community Services Bureau (CSB) leads these initiatives, helping families build stability and opportunity in Contra Costa County.

Desiré Medlen, Chair of the Economic Opportunity Council, holds the Community Action proclamation surrounded by her children, partners, and CSB staff members.

Building Brighter Futures Together



COMMUNITY
ACTION MONTH

A New Chapter for Harriet Norteye

By Alan Wang, Community Relations/Media Specialist

When Harriet Norteye decided to rejoin the workforce after years of raising her children and caring for aging relatives, she faced a sobering truth: the job market had changed—and she hadn't kept up.

Without up-to-date computer skills, Harriet struggled to find opportunities that matched her motivation and heart for service. That's when she discovered Opportunity Junction, a longtime partner of EHSD.

Drawn by its mission to help motivated job seekers launch careers leading to financial security, Harriet enrolled in free job training classes. There, she not only learned the computer skills she needed, but also built the confidence and life skills to pursue a meaningful career.

Harriet's determination caught the attention of her instructors, who connected her with a temporary placement as Activities Director

Continued on next page



COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

A New Chapter for Harriet Norteye

Continued from previous page

at Presidio Village Senior Housing. It was the perfect match. Her natural empathy, life experience, and new technical skills allowed her to thrive.

The residents loved her, and so did her employer.

Before her temporary assignment ended, Presidio Village made her an offer for full-time employment. Harriet accepted with pride, knowing this wasn't just a job, it was the start of a new chapter.

Thanks to Opportunity Junction and her own perseverance, Harriet didn't just return to the workforce, she launched a fulfilling second career serving others.



CLICK on the play button and watch how Harriet found her dream job through Opportunity Junction.

Harriet Norteye, a graduate of the [Opportunity Junction](#) Administrative Careers Training Program, overcame life circumstances through the support she received.

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

Building Awareness about Elder Abuse

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

Older adults make up the fastest growing segment of Contra Costa County residents. In recognition of June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month and June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, EHSD's Aging & Adult Services staff spoke before the Board of Supervisors on June 10th about the ongoing need to *Grow the Conversation, Recognize the Signs and Reduce the Risks*.

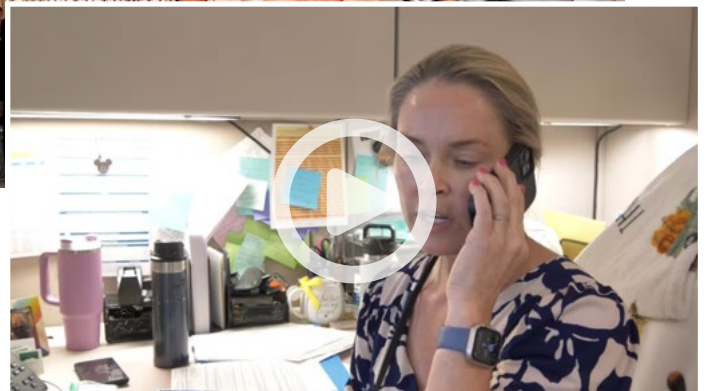
In Contra Costa County, 23 percent of our population are individuals who are 60 years or older. In 2024, our Adult Protective Services (APS) staff received 7,784 elder and dependent adult abuse reports. Of these, 6,030 were assigned for investigation.

Among the different types of elder abuse taking place in America, financial abuse is on the rise. Most notably because of the advancements in technology combined with the emotional toll of loneliness that leads older people to seek friendship. The Board of Supervisors heard from APS Social Worker **Suzanne Perry** about how to help protect older and dependent adults from this type of exploitation.

Anyone who is concerned about an older or dependent adult and suspects elder abuse can call our APS hotline at **(925) 229-8434** or **(800) 510-2020**. The reporting party's name always remains confidential.



Adult Protective Services, Alliance to End Abuse, and other EHSD team members in support of raising awareness to help prevent abuse of our vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities. Front row (L-R): **Carolyn Foudy, Dexter Peralta, Claudia Gonzalez, Lori Velasquez, Marcy Hara, Pamela Gernan, Tracy Murray, Frank Latcham.** Middle row (L-R): **Khiet-Vi Long, Erica Hsia, Kimberly Arnerich.** Top row (L-R): **Meghan Schulze, Suzanne Perry, Jennifer Shockley, Tish Gallegos, Mélody Saint-Saëns.**



CLICK on the play button and watch Adult Protective Services Social Worker **Suzanne Perry** explains why she believes financial abuse against the elderly is going to get worse.

60th Birthday Bash for Older Americans Act

By Glenda Pacha, Program Analyst, & Alicia Espinoza, Program Manager, Area Agency on Aging

On July 14th, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Older Americans Act (OAA) into law, affirming our nation's responsibility to support the well-being of older adults. Exactly 60 years later, on July 14, 2025, EHSD's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) partnered with local organizations to host a festive celebration honoring this important milestone.

More than 150 people gathered to recognize the OAA's lasting impact. The celebration included birthday cake, joyful connection, and the presence of 26 community agencies that deliver vital OAA-funded services—ranging from nutrition and caregiver support to other critical resources for older adults.

We were honored to welcome keynote speaker Susan DeMarois, Director of the California Department of Aging, who shared the historical significance of the OAA and acknowledged the dedicated agencies and individuals who make this work possible every day.

Tracy Murray, EHSD's Director of Aging and Adult Services, expressed gratitude to the community, the Advisory Council on Aging, and AAA staff for their continued commitment to enhancing the lives of Contra Costa's older adults.

Christina Mills, Executive Director of the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A), also addressed the crowd, highlighting the importance of bridging the aging and disability communities to ensure services are inclusive and far-reaching.

Continued on next page



CLICK on the play button and watch elected officials say Happy Birthday. (L-R): Emiliano Rosas (Sen. Cabaldon's Office); Wendy Fabian (Asm. Wilson's Office); Pa'tanisha Pierson (Asm. Avila-Farias's Office & Brentwood Vice Mayor); Cherise Khaund (Asm. Bauer-Kahan's Office); Theresa Anderson (Asm. Grayson's Office); Susannah Meyer, Mayor of Brentwood & Executive Director, Empowered Aging

60th Birthday Bash for Older Americans Act

Continued from previous page

Throughout the event, attendees were reminded of the value and impact of services that help older adults age with dignity and independence. The celebration ended with a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday” to the OAA, marking six decades of advocacy and progress.

While this was certainly a celebration, it was also a meaningful moment to reflect on the values that continue to guide our work. The heartfelt conversations, shared stories, and strong turnout demonstrated our collective commitment to honoring older adults and building inclusive, age-friendly communities. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to ensuring that every generation is supported, respected, and valued.



Christina Mills, Executive Director, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and ASL interpreter



Jennifer Gomes-Figueira, Area Agency on Aging



Event Attendees



Alice Dietrich, IHSS Division Manager

Celebrating Pride Month in West County

By Ellen Wienecke, Clerical/Building Supervisor, Children & Family Services

EHSD's Richmond office at 1275 A Hall Avenue celebrated Pride Month with a rainbow-themed potluck on June 24th and our Second Annual Rainbow Color Competition. Our Event's Committee split up the building staff into six teams and randomly assigned a different color of the rainbow to each team:

- **Yellow:** Foster Care/MCSC
- **Red:** IHSS
- **Blue:** Clerical/Translator/IT
- **Purple:** Court Unit/SCAs
- **Green:** Emergency Response/Parent Partners
- **Orange:** Continuing Services/Mental Health/CFT

Each team set up their own table with their color theme, which included food, drink, snacks, and decorations. Some teams experimented with food coloring while others brought items that were naturally colorful or packaged in their team's color. Some teams were very creative with décor, which included grass skirts, balloons, flowers, flags, and even a bubble machine. In addition, many people dressed in their team's color.

Two judges carefully assessed each table and assigned points in several categories. The Blue Team, last year's 2024 champions with the color green, took 2nd place this year for Best Message. This year's 2025 Pride Month Rainbow Color Competition Winner was the Orange Team who took 1st place for Best Use of Color.

Great fun was had by all and everyone is looking forward to celebrating again next year.



Blue Team (L-R): Anna Jackson, Ellen Wienecke, Cristina Montufar, Rajvir Gill, Virginia Paraizo, Tracy Walker, Karla Kattengell, Tania Anderson-Brown



Orange Team (L-R): Tammi Cason, Vernita James, Tonika Gillard, Michelle Wilson, Pierre Allison, Stacy Wood, Margaret Crabtree, Kis'sarria Johnson, Mollie Fischer



Green Team (L-R): Precious Jones, Porschea Brown, Heavenly Delgadillo, Nicole Koprek, Monse Vazquez, Natalie Lopez, Hayley Augustine, Yashawn Pettigrew



Tania Anderson-Brown (Team Blue) and Tammi Cason (Team Orange) showing off the trophies for 2nd and 1st place.

Celebrating Our Recent 2025 CFS Grads

By Pat Ensley, CFS Staff Development Specialist

Congratulations to our Six New CFS Social Worker II Child Welfare Workers!

We're thrilled to recognize the graduation of six dedicated professionals who completed our Winter 2025 Children & Family Services New Worker Training Unit. The graduation celebration took place on June 3rd, 2025, at 300 Ellinwood Way in Pleasant Hill, where friends, family, and colleagues gathered to honor their hard work and growth as they step into their new roles serving children and families across the county.

This group brought so much heart, humor, and insight to our classroom. They came from diverse backgrounds—both professionally and personally—and it showed in the way they supported one another and engaged with the work. At graduation, they shared a creative and heartfelt skit on the importance of self-care. It reminded all of us that taking care of ourselves is essential to doing this work well.



EHSD's CFS Staff Development Team celebrates with the Winter 2025 New Worker Training Unit graduates.

Back row (L-R): **Ariana Ludwig** (Staff Development), **Regina Posey**, **DeAna Thompson**, **Candace McLean**, **April Bolin** (CFS Staff Development Supervisor), **Marion Worji**, **Mabel Paz**.

Front row (L-R): **Ellen Johnson**, **Patricia Ensley** (Staff Development). Not pictured: **Mari Solis** (Staff Development) was there in spirit!

Continued on next page

Celebrating Our Recent 2025 CFS Grads

Continued from previous page



The graduates highlighted the importance of self-care through simple, meaningful activities like flower arranging, taking personal time off, and relaxing with a good book.

Here's a closer look at our newest team members:

DeAna Thompson – Court Central

DeAna joined us with valuable experience as a Social Casework Assistant and Eligibility Worker in Workforce Services. She's passionate about being active and spending time outdoors.

Ellen Johnson – ER East

Ellen, a calm and steady presence in class, came from IHSS where she worked as a Social Worker I. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her dog, Tucker.

Candace McLean – ER Central

Candace brought her child welfare experience from Tennessee and quickly became a source of laughter in the group. A proud Dallas Cowboys fan, she enjoys travel and claims to be an introvert—but we know better!

Mabel Paz – ER East

Originally from San Francisco, Mabel's daily presence in class was like a ray of sunshine. She

loves iced coffee, beach days with her son, and lives by this Gandhi quote:

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Marion Worji – Continuing Central

Marion's background is rich and inspiring. She holds multiple degrees and worked as a Social Casework Assistant for the County. Her life experiences have shaped her deep compassion for others. She enjoys travel, good meals, and giving back through charity work.

Regina Posey – Court East

Regina is dedicated to lifting up others and being a voice for those who need one. She centers her life around her kids, her dog, and her motto: "Self-care is the best care." Her mornings always start with music and coffee.

Please join us in giving these new social workers a warm welcome as they begin their journeys. We're so proud of who they are and all they will contribute—one case, one child, and one act of care at a time.

Family Navigators Build Summer Community Connections

This summer, the Employment & Human Services Department (EHSD) continued to strengthen its presence across Contra Costa County through a variety of family-focused outreach events. At each event, Family Navigators played a vital role in connecting residents with essential services, resources, and support. Their compassionate, on-the-ground efforts helped ensure that families felt seen, heard, and empowered. Below is a list of June and July events where Family Navigators provided support, shared information, and built meaningful community connections.

June 12th: West County Career Fair – San Pablo

EHSD Personnel staff **Aisha Burnett** and **Christina Karnsouvong** participated in the event to connect with individuals exploring job opportunities. Participating businesses included Tesla, VistAbility, Dynamic Office and Accounting, Tradeswomen Inc, Rubicon Programs, San Pablo EDC Business and Housing Team, Contra Costa Human Resources, Contra Costa Health, and more.

June 28th: BPCANO Resource Fair – Bay Point

Navigators **Al Gibson** and **Joanne Thieme** supported this event at the Ambrose Community Center, sponsored by Bay Point Community All-N-One.

July 17th: Palabras con la Policia Community Event – Pittsburg

Navigators **Joanna Thieme** and **Cecilia Felan** connected with community members at John S. Bryant Park.

July 20th: Hijas del Campo Family Day Event – Brentwood

Navigators **Joanna Thieme** and **Casey Costa** partnered with Hijas Del Campo to support local families by distributing backpacks, clothing, and a pizza dinner at the Brentwood Aquatic Complex. Their efforts ensured families received essential items and also gained access to valuable community resources.



Norma Candejas joined Navigators **Ceceilia Felan** and **Casey Costa** and other community partners at the Hijas del Campo Family Day in Brentwood

July 21st: Team Jesus Backpack Giveaway – Antioch

Navigators **Cecilia Felan** and **Casey Costa** joined other community partners to provide families with food, backpacks, clothing and resources at this event sponsored by Team Jesus Outreach Ministries.

Continued on next page

Family Navigators Build Summer Community Connections

Continued from previous page

July 24th: Palabras con la Policia – Pittsburg

Navigators **Casey Casta** and **Natalie Aguilar** connected attendees with support and resources at City Park.

July 26th: West County Immigration Forum 2025-San Pablo

Navigators **Sandra Figueroa** and **Al Gibson** represented EHSD at this forum sponsored by Stand Together Contra Costa. Services available at the Forum included FREE legal consultations, Medi-Cal Enrollment, Know Your Rights Workshops, Family Preparedness Workshops, and DACA Renewal Workshops.

July 27th: The City of Antioch's Non-Profit Expo – Antioch

Navigators **Casey Costa** and **Cecilia Felan** attended this event at the Antioch Community Center, which included food trucks, games and activities for families.

July 30th: End of Summer BBQ at with Dianne Adair Day Care – Walnut Creek

The Summer Meals initiative at Bancroft Elementary included 600 students, grades TK-6th, who enjoyed multiple activity stations such as an obstacle course, mini-soccer clinic, coloring, rock painting, story time, and other activities. Navigator **Natalie Aguilar** was there cheering on the students and connecting families with support and services.

July 30th - Aug 1st: MLK, JR. JHS Registration Days – Pittsburg

Over three days of registration for 700 students, Navigators **Sandra Figueroa**, **Casey Costa** and **Natalie Aguilar** joined community partners to provide resources and information to students and families.



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: [We Care... You Care Guidelines](#)

We Care nomination form: [We Care... You Care Nomination Form](#)



EHSD SHOUTOUTS

Congratulations to our EHSD staff for recently achieving a significant accomplishment!



Shoutout to CFS Central Operations

By Nicole Banks, Senior Level Clerk, CFS

I want to take a moment to acknowledge our very own CFS Central Social Work Supervisor II, **Monica Cummings** and the incredible team of social workers and clerks.

Thank you for bringing a little bit of joy and holiday spirit to our row each day. Your thoughtful touches truly brighten our workspace and lift our spirits.

We appreciate the effort, creativity, and care you all put into making our environment feel festive and warm – it's the little things that make a big difference!



*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

If you or a colleague have a work-related milestone or accomplishment, we want to hear about it. Email a 2-3 sentence description and photo to EventsCommittee@ehsd.cccounty.us and you may get a “shout out” in *Headlines* or on EHSD Live!

SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

SERVICE AWARDS

35 YEARS

Ruth Hunter, Site Supervisor III-Project, CSB
Tonya Spencer, Social Worker Supervisor I, WFS

30 YEARS

Christina Castle-Barber, Human Services DM, CSB
Julie Rafighi, Secretary-Advanced Level, CFS
LaTonya Saucer, Comprehensive Svcs Man -Prj, CSB

25 YEARS

Naisio Saefong, Translator, WFS
Jessica Ardon, Clerk-Specialist Level, CFS
Manny Rosario, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS
Lisa Simes, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS
Laura Gipp, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS

20 YEARS

Ryan Baker, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS
DaSaundra Renee Bennett, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
Verneda Clapp, Workforce Svcs Specialist, WDB
Caroline Cosio, Master Teacher-Project, CSB
Shannon Currie, Eligibility Work Supervisor, AAS
Kellee Franklin, Social Worker III, CFS
Jamie Jacobs, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Daniel Jameyson, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Joshua Melgoza, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
Karen Sheppard, Soc Svc Program Assistant, Admin - Internal Operations

15 YEARS

Reece J Bomagat, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS
Zenda Johnson, Soc Svc Program Assistant, AAS
Khammaly Phonthavy, Infant Toddler Teacher-Project, CSB

10 YEARS

Michelle Alatorre, Eligibility Work Supervisor, CFS
Felicia Casados, Clerk-Senior Level, CFS
Glenda Dulay, Senior Clerk-Project, CSB
Sacha Jacobs, Social Worker III, CFS
Kathleen Khalik, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Martin Lara, Automated Call Dist Administra, Admin
Sharon Massey, Social Worker, AAS
Jenny Murillo, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Vicky Quinto, EHS Deputy Bureau Director, CFS
Adam Roubidoux, Soc Svc Program Assistant, AAS
Nadia Robles, Eligibility Work Supervisor, CFS
Ashley Steele-Bernard, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
Kristen Tyner, Social Worker, AAS

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

See next page for continuation –
New Employees & Retirees

SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

NEW EMPLOYEES

Sean Boyle, Administrative Services Assistant III, Admin
Eduard Castro, Information Systems Specialist I, INFO/SYS
Luis Cornejo Jr., Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS
Maricela Febo, Experienced Level Clerk, CFS
Angel Flores-Volk, Social Worker II, CFS
Karen Gallardo-Cano, Social Worker II, CFS
Rajvir Gill, Clerk-Experienced Level, CFS
Temeka Hamlett-Oliver, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS
Jeremy Holeman, Clerical Supervisor, WFS
Jaylyn Homnoan, Intermediate Clerk Temp, CSB
Erica Hsia, AA Services Senior Staff Assistant, AAS
Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Human Services DM, WFS
Jazelle Johnson, Account Clerk-Supervisor, Admin
Kristie King, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Andrea Lara, Clerk-Senior Level, Internal Operations
Rachel Lee, Social Worker II, CFS
Amy Liang, Intermediate Clerk-Project, CSB
Beiyan Liao, Infant Toddler Associate Teacher, CSB
Janet Martinez, Translator, WFS
Kacie Martinez, Experienced Level Clerk, CFS
Eboni McDonald, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
Maria Media, Clerk Experienced Level, WFS

Nicole Nunes, Experienced Level Clerk, CFS
Kayla Nunn, Social Worker II, CFS
Susan O'Cain, Associate Teacher, CSB
James Peavey, Dept. HR Officer II, Internal Operations
Andrea Ramirez, Social Worker II, CFS
Shailesh Regmi, Departmental Fiscal Officer, Admin
Katie Riebel, Social Worker II, CFS
Melany Rodas, Social Worker II, CFS
Michelle Salonga-Parker, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS
Sushmina Shahi, Accounting Technician, Admin
Mariano Villalon, Social Worker II, CFS
Seini Worku, Social Worker II, CFS
Carmen Smith Wright, Site Supervisor II, CSB
Kathleen Springer, Social Worker II, CFS
Kristina Stortz, Secretary-Advanced Level, Internal Operations
Tameia Tucker, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
Lisa Tuimavave, Site Supervisor II, CSB
Jasmine Victorio, Intermediate Clerk-Project, CSB
Yesica Villa, Associate Teacher, CSB
Thomas Weisbrich, AAS Sr Staff Assistant, AAS
Haley Zeiger, Comprehensive Svc Assist Manager, CSB

RETIREES

Gyrlenn Ertmer, Social Worker III, CFS
Agripina Yumul, Infant Toddler Associate Teacher-Prj, CSB
Teresa Jackson, Social Worker III, CFS
Cheryl McDaniel, Account Clerk Supervisor, Admin
Sandra Zepeda-Lopez, SSPA, WFS (March)

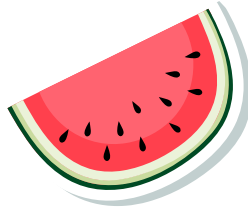
*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

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

August 2025

- NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH
- AUGUST 1 – Respect for Parents Day
- AUGUST 10 – National S'mores Day
- AUGUST 13 – Left Hander's Day
- AUGUST 19 – World Humanitarian Day
- AUGUST 21 – Senior Citizens Day
- AUGUST 26 – Women's Equality 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 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.



September 2025

- HEALTHY AGING MONTH
- INTERGENERATIONAL MONTH
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH
- SEPTEMBER 1 – Labor Day (holiday)
- SEPTEMBER 7 – Grandparents Day
- SEPTEMBER 15 to OCTOBER 15 – Hispanic Heritage Month
- SEPTEMBER 16 – National IT Professionals Day
- SEPTEMBER 21 – International Day of Peace
- SEPTEMBER 22 – Fall Prevention Awareness Day
- SEPTEMBER 22 – Autumn Equinox
- SEPTEMBER 23 – Rosh Hashana
- SEPTEMBER 24 – EHSD Live!
- SEPTEMBER 26 – Native American Day



FREE VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

August 7 or 21 • 4 to 6 p.m.

September 4 or 18 • 4 to 6 p.m.

October 2 or 16 • 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

We Care... You Care

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about nominating a coworker and see page 29

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

Facebook and X @ContraCostaEHSD
Instagram @HumanaCosta



We appreciate you closely following our [Submission Guidelines](#) to ensure that your news and photos appear in *Headlines*.

September 2025 issue – submissions due Tuesday, August 19, 2025