



## Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

*We Are Serious About Mental Health & Recovery!*



December 1, 2015

Santa Cruz County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services offers a variety of services to the community by County employees, as well as through our contracts with numerous community-based agencies. Our services treat persons across the lifespan, from prevention and early intervention services to being a safety net to persons with serious emotional disturbance and serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders. In an effort to shed light on the variety of services and programs we provide, we endeavor to provide a monthly newsletter about what we do.

### News on the Personnel Front:

We are in the midst of some changes regarding programs and staff.

Eli Chance, LCSW has been promoted to Mental Health Supervising Client Specialist for the MOST Team. Eli has worked on the MOST team with Behavioral Health Services for the past two years where he has been a huge asset to the team and takes on many leadership responsibilities.

Prior to working at the County, Eli developed, implemented and oversaw the Avenues Program at Community Connection.

We are very fortunate to have Eli join the leadership team with Behavioral Health Services and his positive outlook and vision for the agency, along with his excellent leadership skills are greatly appreciated!

### Mental Health Liaison to Law Enforcement:

Santa Cruz County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services currently has two Mental Health Liaisons assigned to Law Enforcement jurisdictions. Danielle Long, ASW is assigned to the Santa Cruz Police Department and James Russell, MFTI is assigned to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. The liaisons provide support, consultation, collaboration and training to officers regarding mental health related calls, and are able to conduct rapid field-based response, including field-based 5150 assessments, crisis intervention, and disposition planning. Additionally, the liaisons work with law enforcement and the community to bring awareness to mental health related issues, and to increase access for individuals in need of mental health services and treatment.

We are in the midst of hiring an additional MHL in order to extend the program to the Watsonville Police Department.

### Save the Date! Training Opportunities:

#### **Communicating Effectively Through An Interpreter**

Monday, December 7, 2015

1080 Emeline basement, Santa Cruz. **Space is limited.**

#### **Taking it to the Next Step: Advanced Seeking Safety Training Skills**

Friday, December 11, 2015 at Simpkins Swim Center.

The community can register for this training via the

Treatment Innovations web-

site: [http://www.treatment-](http://www.treatment-innovations.org/store/p121/December_11%2C_2015_Seeking_Safety_1-day_training_-_Santa_Cruz.html)

[innovations.org/store/p121/December\\_11%2C\\_2015\\_](http://www.treatment-innovations.org/store/p121/December_11%2C_2015_Seeking_Safety_1-day_training_-_Santa_Cruz.html)

[Seeking Safety 1-day training - Santa Cruz.html](http://www.treatment-innovations.org/store/p121/December_11%2C_2015_Seeking_Safety_1-day_training_-_Santa_Cruz.html)

### Fund Raising for Second Harvest

Appreciation goes out to Balvina Collazo, Brenda Armstrong, Kayla Gray, Michelle Sapena, Aimee Mangan and Anita Alvarado for their creative efforts to raise funds for the Second Harvest Food Bank. They spent hours selling baked goods, held several raffles, and had a burrito bash. All proceeds are donated.

### Holiday Schedule

Please note that all County offices will be closed at noon on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, all day on Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and all day on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Have a comment you wish to share?

Email us at: [mhsa@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:mhsa@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

### To view previous editions of this newsletter:

<http://www.santaacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/BehavioralHealth.aspx>

