



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

*We Are Serious About Mental Health & Recovery!*



April 6, 2016

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:

**Suzana (AKA Suzanne) Costa**, MFT who will be joining QI as an Utilization Review Specialist. She comes with extensive experience in UR/QI as a manager at a contract program in Santa Clara County. She is also familiar with Avatar EMR. Suzana also has substantial experience in children's services, as well as experience serving adults with SMI and those with a dual diagnosis and criminal justice involvement.

**Jeffrey Goodyear** as the newest addition to the MOST Team as a Mental Health Client Specialist. Jeff had most recently been working for Encompass as the Downtown Outreach Worker. He comes to our team with extensive experience that includes working at the Veterans Resource Center, Telecare, Enhanced Support Services, the River Street Shelter, the 7<sup>th</sup> Ave Center and was a Housing Case Manager at the Homeless Services Center. In addition, he recently earned his MSW degree from USC.

**Ivan Foote** has been promoted as the new Mental Health Supervising Client Specialist for the Recovery Team in the Adult Division. Ivan has spent over twenty years working within Behavioral Health. He has considerable experience in both Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. He has most recently worked within the Children's Division providing services with children and youth in the Child Welfare system.

### A Note about Personnel:

The last few newsletters have announced several new hires. We have had a large vacancy rate, and while we have made some gains, we continue to face vacancies due to promotions, retirements, and departures.

### Save the Date for Town Hall meeting:

We invite the community to a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will cover two key areas:

### Prioritizing Critical Community Needs:

This is Part II of the strategic planning process. We will provide an overview of state and federal mandates, and within the context of more detailed service utilization and

demographic data and additional stakeholder input, establish a prioritized list of action steps over a 5-year period of time.

### Overview of Prevention & Early Intervention requirements:

The Mental Health Oversight Accountability passed new regulations affecting the Prevention & Early Intervention component of the Mental Health Services Act.

Please choose one meeting to attend:

#### Thursday May 12, 2016

10:00 a.m. to 12 noon  
Simpkins Swim Center,  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**OR**

#### Thursday May 12, 2016

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Watsonville High School Cafeteria  
250 East Beach St., Watsonville, CA 95076

### Save the Date for Law & Ethics training

Presenter: Linda Garrett, JD.

Date: Friday, July 22, 2016

Cost: \$90.00 per person.

Continuing Education units will be provided.

Registration will begin in early June.

### Healing Voices Documentary Screening & Dialogue

This documentary explores the experiences commonly labeled as "psychosis" or "mental illness" through real-life stories of individuals working to overcome extreme mental states and integrate these states in their lives in meaningful ways.

Community dialogue will follow. Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Appleton Grill, 410 Rodriguez St, Watsonville.

### Have a comment you wish to share?

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

