



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

We Are Serious About Mental Health & Recovery!



July 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:

Jasmine Nájera has been promoted to Behavioral Health Program Manager, effective July 4, 2015. Jasmine began her career at Santa Cruz County Mental Health Services working as a Mental Health Client Specialist in the Children's programs in 1997 – 2003. She attended graduate school at the University of Texas, Austin, receiving her Masters in Social Work in 2005. She returned to County Mental Health in 2006, working as a MHCS on the Crisis Intervention Team service in the Main Jail. Jasmine received her LCSW in 2011 and was promoted to Mental Health Supervising Client Specialist in 2013.

As the Forensic Supervisor for Mental Health Services, she has taken leadership responsibilities for the Jail CIT Services, the MOST Team, the Law Enforcement Liaisons and the Behavioral Health Court. Forensic services have expanded and improved greatly given Jasmine's incredible ability to implement program, develop policy and procedures, interface with the criminal justice system and support staff needs.

She will become the "Full Service Partnership Team (FSP) Manager", responsible for the oversight of three existing FSP teams - Transition Age Youth, Older Adults and MOST. She will also implement the new FSP WRAP team for heavy utilizers of services. The focus is on bringing these teams into fidelity to the FSP model and monitoring MHSA outcomes required by the state.

Staff accomplishments:

Santa Cruz County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services' best asset is having great clinical and support staff that truly care about the community and the services we provide. This month we would like to acknowledge staff that achieved professional goals, while continuing to provide quality services:

- **Maria Heredia** and **Thelma Jung** attended school full time while working, and earned their Masters in Social Work from San José State University in May.
- **Vince Stroth** and **Eli Chance** both passed their licensure tests and are now Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) in the State of California.

- **Courtney Hagan** passed her licensure test and is now licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) in the State of California.
- **Bryan Rich** has already been licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist, and he successfully passed his licensure tests and is now also a licensed Psychologist.

Congratulations to all!

A Note from our Director:

I wanted to take a moment today to reflect upon the decision by the Supreme Court last week to uphold same sex marriage in all 50 states. It was a monumental decision and will likely have a profound impact on not only our own community but across the country in support of equality for all citizens in this country. It is not often we get to see history in the making, and it is nice to be able to celebrate this within a community and organization that is so supportive of so many people. The Court also upheld the funding of subsidies under the Affordable Care Act which added another decision last week to protect individuals' rights to health care. Coming from a very conservative state back east, I have come to appreciate the rich diversity and progressive thinking of the State of California even more.

Sincerely;

Erik G. Riera, Director Santa Cruz County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

Have a comment you wish to share?

Email us at: mhsa@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

To view previous editions of this newsletter:

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

