



## Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency Behavioral Health

*We Are Serious About Mental Health & Recovery!*



December 5, 2017

Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health 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.

### **Fourth Anniversary to our Newsletter!!**

This month marks the fourth anniversary of the “We Are Serious About Mental Health & Recovery” monthly newsletter. We have covered staff issues (welcoming new staff, bidding farewell to retirees, congratulations on promotion or licensure), highlights on County and contractor programs and services, announced community meetings and trainings. Any ideas of topics you would like to see covered? Contact Erik Riera, who will take over this function from Alicia Nájera.

### **Farewell Message from Alicia Nájera:**

After approximately 35 years in social services I will be retiring. My last day at the office will be December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I spent almost 20 years with the Agency, and have truly enjoyed the chance to implement many significant programs, including Access, walk-in services, the Mental Health Services Act, Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services policies and procedures, Medi-Cruz Advantage, the monthly newsletter “We are Serious About Mental Health & Recovery”, and a robust training program.

I am grateful for the comradery, and the wonderful opportunity to work with fantastic co-workers, supervisors, consumers, family members, and personnel from our community based agencies. It has been a blessing to have collaborated with so many people that have such passion and dedication to serve our most vulnerable populations with such compassion and care. The world needs more people like you!!

### **Farewell to Urmila Schmidt-Cohen:**

Urmila is a Senior Mental Health Client Specialist in the Children’s division who is retiring at the end of December. She has been with the County since January 19, 2000. She has worked in many different programs including the Redwoods residential program, spent many years on the school team, and more recently brought her special energy to the Community Gate team. She is a passionate advocate for her clients and loves to help caregivers improve their parenting skills using the Triple P curriculum. Her humor, warmth, and sense of fun will be missed by her work-mates. We wish her well on the next leg of her journey.

### **Farewell to Diane Lopez-Wilson!**

Diane is an Accountant 2 and has been with the County since January 25, 2000. She is an exemplary employee, with a keen eye to detail. In addition to the abundant skills with which she performed her job, Diane’s pleasant demeanor and professional manner had a positive effect on everyone she worked with. While she will be greatly missed, we certainly wish her all the best in her retirement.

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS & A MERRY NEW YEAR!!**

**Have a comment you wish to share?**

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