

Headlines

IN OUR WORDS: CALLING FOR JUSTICE



Spreading the Word about COVID-19 Rent Relief

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

Getting the word out about emergency relief for renters and landlords has been a Countywide effort, and EHSD is leveraging its community member connections in a big way to do its part. After the County received more than \$75 million in COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance, several departments and agencies began sharing information and directing tenants and landlords to the state's Housing Is Key website where residents can check eligibility for help in paying rent or utilities if COVID-19 has impacted their finances.

EHSD's outreach that is now under way and will continue through September includes reminders through the department's various channels, such as:

- On-hold messages when customers call the MMIU, AIU, MCSC, I&A and EHSD phone lines
- Texts to more than 39,000 recipients of benefits programs (Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs)
- Postcards mailed to participants in our programs including General Assistance, WIOA, CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Aging & Adult, as well as to IHSS providers
- EHSD's digital platforms: EHSD.org, Facebook and Twitter
- Publications including the *AJCC Newsletter* (WDB), *Resource Family Newsletter* (CFS) and *Headlines*
- Fliers for posting and distribution ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))



Community members can check eligibility and apply online for [COVID-19 Rent Relief](#) or [Ayuda con la Renta \(Spanish\)](#). The CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Call Center is also available at 1 (833) 430-2122 for assistance in applying. State resources at [HousingIsKey.com](#), and additional County resources are available by calling 211 or 800-833-2900, texting HOPE to 20121, or visiting www.contracosta.ca.gov.

#HousingIsKey #Startwith211

Contra Costa County Administers 1 Million COVID-19 Vaccines

In a historic show of care for themselves and their neighbors, residents of Contra Costa County rolled up their sleeves one million times, well ahead of the expected date of July 4 and even a month before the revised goal of Memorial Day.

On April 24, Contra Costa Health Services reported that 1,010,267 COVID-19 vaccines were administered in Contra Costa County, including those performed by CCHS, local hospitals, pharmacies and other community healthcare providers.

Most importantly, nearly 630,000 of Contra Costa residents are now at least partially vaccinated – 67.8 percent of the county’s 16-and-older population – and nearly 430,000 were fully vaccinated, or 46.4 percent.

“This is absolutely a testament to our community’s ability to come together during a crisis to protect their loved ones and reduce the spread of a dangerous virus,” said Diane Burgis, chair of the Contra Costa County Board of

Supervisors. “I would like to thank every resident who has done their part, and encourage us all to make a healthy choice and get vaccinated.”

Contra Costa health providers currently have the capacity to deliver about 90,000 doses per week, and ample supply of vaccine from the state and federal governments has allowed the county to rapidly immunize about two-thirds of eligible residents.

Anyone 16 or older who lives or works in Contra Costa can get a safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to them by scheduling an easy online appointment at cchealth.org/coronavirus or calling 1-833-829-2626.

CCHS also offers vaccine clinics that do not require appointments – learn more at our [Walk-In Vaccinations page](#) – and a new mobile vaccination service for [residents who are homebound](#).



CSB Proudly Announces Another Successful Review!

The Community Services Bureau (CSB) had a recent evaluation with the State Contract Monitoring Review (CMR) and Error Rate Review (ERR). The initial two-week long virtual review took place April 5th through 16th via the California Department of Education (CDE) in order to assess CSB's Stage 2, Alternative Payment, General Childcare and State Preschool programs. The CMR and ERR consisted of verification of processes and activities such as program eligibility, parent and teacher involvement, child assessments, staffing qualifications, administrative polices, due process, and interviews with program staff.

State reviewers concluded the process four days early due to CSB's well-organized family files, comprehensive and reliable system for accounting, record-keeping and reporting (CLOUDS), as well as staff members' strong knowledge of systems, attendance and eligibility determination processes. CSB's adoptions to services for and communication methods with families and children during the pandemic also helped with the successful outcome. The reviewers were impressed and thanked staff for the warm welcome and easy review process, with one of

the reviewers referring to CSB as a "top-notch organization!"

Though still awaiting the official word, reviewers stated in their pre-report that CSB had a **zero percent error rate and no findings of non-compliance!**

This successful review was another wonderful example of CSB's teamwork and support for each other. All, including partners, site supervisors, fiscal and many other CSB staff members, were extremely responsive to information requests in a timely manner.



A special thank you to interview participants Nelly Ige, Amy Wells, Sarah Reich, Tracy Lewis, Magda Bedros, Michelle Mankewich, Isabel Renggenathen, Ritche Martija, Carlos Lopez and Beverly Brown, and many thanks

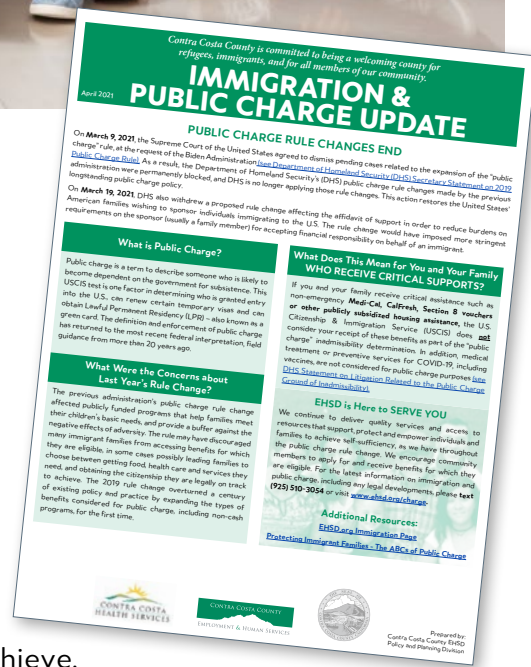
to We Care Services for Children, whose Distance Learning program was observed via Zoom.

And a last huge Thank You to Nelly Ige, Amy Wells and Sarah Reich for their exceptional leadership throughout the process from start to finish!

Expanded Public Charge Changes Overturned



In last month's *Headlines*, we reported ([April issue, page 11](#)) that the Supreme Court of the United States agreed on March 9, 2021, to dismiss pending cases related to the expansion of the Public Charge rule at the request of the Biden Administration. As a result of that decision, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) public charge rule changes made by the previous administration were permanently blocked. Those changes would have included – for the first time – non-cash benefits such as non-emergency Medi-Cal, CalFresh and public housing assistance as factors in determining who can obtain Legal Permanent Residency (a “green card”). Our concern was that immigrant families may have been discouraged from accessing benefits for which they are eligible, in some cases possibly leading families to choose between getting food, health care and services they need, and obtaining the citizenship they are legally on track to achieve.



In an effort to reverse any such “chilling effect,” EHSD is distributing this new [Immigration & Public Charge Update](#) to our community partners and staff. You can refer anyone with concerns about Public Charge to the [Immigration page](#) on [ehsd.org](#) for this update, as well as additional information and resources.

Up Next for Ecotime

By Cheryl Leonor, Administrative Services Assistant III



More tools are coming up for our Ecotime users such as help with State Disability Insurance Integration and how to complete timesheets with overtime when on a 9/80 work schedule. Stay tuned for more information.

For now, as a reminder there are two ways to login to Ecotime which depends if you're connected to the County's Intranet or not.

From County-connected Intranet:



Use this link: <https://ehsd.ecotimebyhbs.com/> or click "Ecotime (Payroll)" from the EHSD Home Page.

Click "Ecotime Cloud Production" to enter Ecotime without using a username and password. Easy peasy!



From Non-County connected Intranet:

1. Use this link: <https://ehsd.ecotimebyhbs.com/Ecotime/>.
2. Enter your 5-digit Employee ID in the Logon ID box.
3. Enter "123" which is the default password. You will be prompted to enter a new password.
 - a. If you forgot your Employee ID, enter your last name in the "Help I Forgot My Login ID" box.

To reset your password, contact the Ecotime Administrators at ecotimehelp@ehsd.cccounty.us. Please include the name of your supervisor and employee your 5-digit employee ID in the email. (This really helps!)

For additional information on use of Ecotime, tools and training materials, check out the [Ecotime Resources](#) page.



CalSAWS Toolbox

By Tish Gallegos, Community/Media Relations Manager

EHSD is filling its CalSAWS toolbox. Take a look at the CalSAWS Fact Sheet (below) that provides a few high-level points about the overall project, and is one of many tools we've been developing to help communicate the "what, when, why, and how" of the statewide automated benefits system. Many more tools and details are coming soon, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions. The CalSAWS Intranet page will be also be available on STARS in the next couple of weeks. There you can link to the Fact Sheet, FAQs, videos, training information, meeting minutes, timelines and other resources.

Stay tuned as we fill the rest of the CalSAWS communications toolbox. In the meantime, look for the May edition of the *CalSAWS Chronicle* for the latest updates on the CalSAWS rollout at EHSD.

CalSAWS

California Statewide Automated Welfare System
Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services

Fact Sheet

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

- CalSAWS, the California Statewide Automated Welfare System, will be the new single integrated eligibility and case management platform used to deliver key public assistance benefits across the state.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Food and Nutrition Services directed all 58 California counties to consolidate the three existing eligibility systems they use into one automation system for delivering benefits by 2023.
- The counties joined together in 2019 to form the CalSAWS Consortium operating as the Joint Powers Authority (JPA).
- The JPA governs and oversees the CalSAWS Project to support the state's automation of public assistance programs and social services delivery using a single system.

Wave 1

Contra Costa, Placer and Yolo are in Wave 1 of the CalWIN counties to "go live" with CalSAWS in October 2022.

Key Date

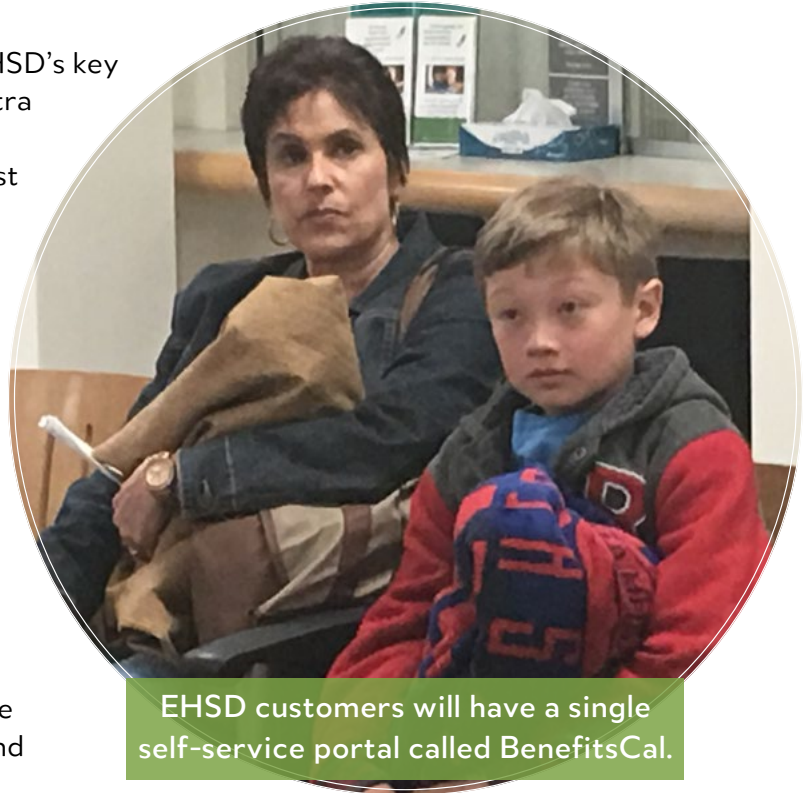
Contra Costa and the other 57 counties in California will transition to the same cloud-based CalSAWS system by March 2024.

- CalSAWS is based on the Leader Replacement System (LRS) that Los Angeles uses. LRS is one of three automated systems in California that are rolling into one to become CalSAWS. The others are C-IV, a system that 39 counties use; and CalWIN, the system Contra Costa and 17 other counties use.
- Meanwhile, CalWIN remains essential to EHSD operations and we anticipate staff will not see major changes in most tasks until then.

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- CalWIN, the current system that supports EHSD's key programs, is in 17 counties in addition to Contra Costa. The CalWIN counties will all be using CalSAWS by October of 2023, joining the rest of California on the cloud-based platform.
- Contra Costa is Leading the Change as part of Wave 1, and at the forefront of providing input and influencing adjustments as the state establishes the new system.
- Full statewide implementation of CalSAWS will be in October 2023, with final acceptance by March 2024.
- CalSAWS contracted Deloitte as its consultant to help navigate the transition to the new system for Contra Costa and all the CalWIN counties. This involves business process re-engineering, organizational change management, training, and implementation and conversion support.
- EHSD staff members affected and involved in the multi-layered conversion are receiving guidance, communication and training as the process unfolds.
- CalSAWS will integrate and standardize many county-specific functions such as imaging, task management, lobby management, call center, batch printing, appointment scheduling, collections and fraud.
- CalSAWS will also consolidate various self-service portals into one called BenefitsCal.
- The Employment & Human Services Department (EHSD) has its own structure in place to support the migration from CalWIN to CalSAWS in Contra Costa County. It consists of an Executive Oversight Committee (EOC), the CalSAWS Steering Committee (CSC), the Project Core Team, Project Track Leads, Workgroups and key staff members.



More Info

Check out our latest CalSAWS videos.

[CalSAWS Overview Video](#)

[CalSAWS Conversion featuring Subra Chidambaram](#)

Coming Soon: CalSAWS Intranet page, Fact Sheet, FAQs and more!



Gomez Family Fills High Demand for Spanish-Speaking Foster Parents

By Alan Wang, Community Relations, Media Specialist

Elvira Gomez says she was worried that her home was too modest to accommodate foster children. But she quickly realized that all they truly want is to feel safe and loved. “We started because we felt we could help our community by having children in or home,” says Elvira, who is currently fostering two young toddlers.

“We saw the flyer at church and decided to call the number and get more information” says Elvira’s husband, Eliseo Gomez. That was 15 years ago. They found so much joy in being a Contra Costa Resource Family that they continued opening up their home to nearly 45. “I get to come home and play with them,” says Eliseo who goes to his job as a steel worker at 4 am every morning. “I don’t know why, but when I come home the kids just want to play with me. They forget about all their troubles and just want to play.”

Elvira is a stay-at-home mom who raised the couple’s three biological daughters. All, are now grown and have moved out of the family home. The youngest daughter, Alex Gomez, says fostering children in their 4-bedroom home helped encouraged her to become a children’s therapist at the Child Therapy Institute..

“Because we’re seeing an influx of Latin X foster children, we’re in need of more Spanish-speaking foster parents,” says Maria Guerrero, a Social Worker for EHSD’s Children and Family Services bureau. “When the foster parents speak their language, the children feel more comfortable. There’s a sense of trust. There’s a sense of belonging.”

If you know a potential Spanish-speaking foster family who can help, please direct them to EHSD’s Resource Family Orientation Schedule at [Become A Foster Parent In Contra Costa County | EHSD.](#)



CLICK on the play button to watch how the Gomez family shares their love with their foster children.

Welcome to Our New Social Workers

By EHSD Staff Development

Small but mighty. Our new workers, **Willa Damon, LeTanya Fleming** and **Colleen Sullivan** may be a small group but they have big personalities and a great amount of experience among them. They formed a strong bond and supported each other throughout the three months of training including when each received their COVID-19 vaccines. All three workers are originally from the Bay Area.

In an odd coincidence, Willa and Colleen were working in Seattle at the same time and had crossed paths a few times while working

there. Fortunately for us, they both decided to return to the Bay Area at the same time, unaware of each other's moves, and ended up in this cohort.

LeTanya was already a part of our Contra Costa County family as an Eligibility Worker. She also brings with her some great insight as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Solano County. The three new workers are a very family-focused group and will be amazing additions to the Contra Costa County Social Worker team.

(Right) P-3 Group SD
New Worker Graduation
Photo with the P-3
squad and the Staff
Development Team.
(L-R): Patricia Ensley-
SD, Mari Solis-SD,
LeTanya Fleming, Ariana
Martinez-SD, Willa
Damon, Colleen Sullivan
and Brittanie Mills-SD



(Left) P-3 Squad
Day of Graduation from
New Worker Training. (L-R):
LeTanya Fleming, Willa Damon,
Colleen Sullivan

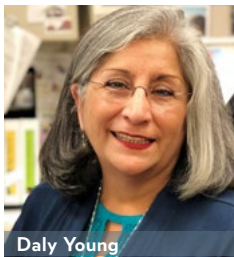
OUR VOICES

The recent verdict in the George Floyd murder case and the events surrounding it have weighed heavily on many of us. We recognize the importance of expressing how it affects our workplace, home, community, and country. Thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts and feelings as we move towards healing through more honesty, greater understanding and positive dialogue.

The Executive Team encourages you to reach out to others and/or access the County Employee Assistance Program (EAP) if you wish to seek additional support related to these or any issues. The EAP is available to you by visiting www.magellanascend.com.

No matter what a person's skin color, religious belief, citizen by birth or by naturalization, country of origin, family background, education level and economic condition – we are all equal in the same horizontal line, we are all human beings. We should treat each other with respect and dignity the way we want others to treat us. PEACE & LOVE!

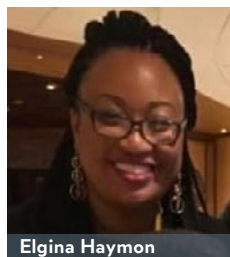
– Mega GO



Someone I admire, Tyler Perry (actor, producer, director and humanitarian), had a moving speech at the Oscars when he received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. Here's the part that touched me:

"I would hope that we would refuse hate...I dedicate it (the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award) to anyone who wants to stand in the middle, no matter what's around the wall. Stand in the middle 'cause that's where healing happens. That's where conversation happens. That's where change happens. It happens in the middle. So anyone who wants to meet me in the middle, to refuse hate, to refuse blanket judgment, and to help lift someone's feet off the ground, this one is for you too."

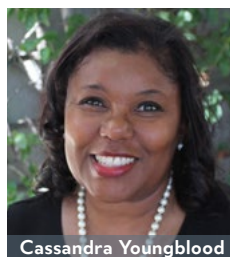
– Daly Young



This country needs change. Our Black sisters and brothers are hurting. Black mothers are hurting. Black fathers are hurting. Black children are hurting. Black mothers are dying. Black fathers are dying. Black children are dying.

Families are being torn apart. Though the issues you see within the police force are nothing new for us, it is now that we can begin to, start talking about these concerns that we have for our Black lives and futures. BLACK LIVES MATTER.

– Elgina Haymon



"I can't believe what you say because I see what you do." "It is certain, in any case, that ignorance allied with power is the most ferocious enemy justice can have." "I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hates so stubbornly

is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain." – James Baldwin, American author and activist

My feelings about the verdict, and whether this is a moment or a movement, are that time will tell. I think that the above quotes well sum the pervasive, deeply rooted racism upon which America and

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many of her institutions stand. Time will tell whether the country is truly ready to face and assuage its original pain.

– Cassandra R. Youngblood



Rima Goode

Most of us learned at some point (perhaps in college) that there really is no such thing as different races. We are all the human race. Yet we hear about racists, racism, racial identity, etc. How can we expect future generations to grow

up understanding that there is no such thing as different races, if we keep using these words in our daily communication? When you say someone is racist, what are you really trying to say? That they are prejudice against someone else because of their skin color, and/or their ethnic background? Then, let's start actually saying what we mean, and help break down the myth of different races by dropping our reliance on using the word "race."

– Rima Goode

The unjust killing of minorities by the empowered majority members is not an



Ron Stewart

anomaly. We saw with our own eyes and heard the pleas with our own ears, yet there are many who are not convinced it was murder. Who are those people that still have doubts? FILL IN THE BLANK.

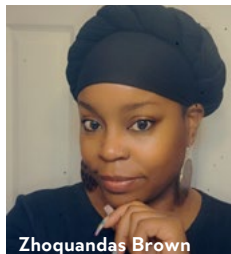
– Ron Stewart, retiree



Randolph D Hudson

While the court victory for the family of George Floyd is momentous, it is just one step of accountability on the very long and troubled road towards justice. I stand (and act) in solidarity with people of color as we continue to work together for a more just and compassionate society.

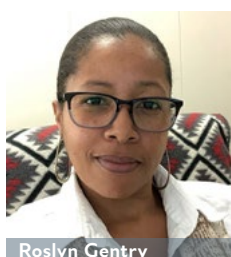
– Randolph D Hudson



Zhoquandas Brown

Justice should not have to be demanded, it should be expected. Until racial inequality, accountability, and "Justice for All" breaks through, history will continue to repeat itself.

– Zhoquandas Brown



Roslyn Gentry

Awaiting the outcome of the Derek Chauvin trial was one of the most nerve wrecking times of my life. The fact that myself and so many others of the Black communities have to wait, wonder and hope if justice will prevail; wonder if

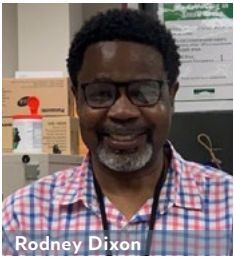
the officer who killed George Floyd will be held accountable for unjustly taking his life is unfair and unjust alone. Once the verdict was publicized, I experienced an overwhelming emotional response greater than I anticipated. While I'm happy for George Floyd's family that justice was served in his case, we still have to await sentencing; we still have several other incidents of unjust killings at the hands of law enforcement where no one has been held accountable. This one verdict alone does not bridge the divide between law enforcement and the communities who've been impacted. We still have so much further to go ...As members and employees of a Human Service agency, I implore us all to be compassionate, respectful and careful in our own interactions and work with members of communities that have been impacted by hate, hurt and wrongdoing.

– Roslyn Gentry

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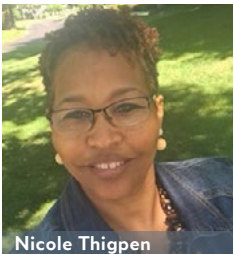


Rodney Dixon

When I saw the Chauvin verdict, I felt relieved, I think. We've seen other cases like this that should have come to the same conclusion and did not. No matter what the sentencing is, there's still a man who was murdered. But, there's a hopeful

feeling, that hopefully things will change in the near future. And the systemic problems that we have in this country relating to policing, the exorbitant amount of control that police unions have over our justice system, hasn't been ameliorated at all. And until those things happen...I don't feel like any of us should be celebrating, because this fight is so far from over. I know I'm tired and I know the people of color in my life, who I love, are tired. I hope that this is a precedent. The first step to hopefully unify and help heal the nation that has been hurting for equal justice for far too long.

– Rodney Dixon



Nicole Thigpen

We have to elevate our activism. How do we do this? By listening. We communicate with an open heart. We develop a plan of action. And we execute that plan with

intentionality.

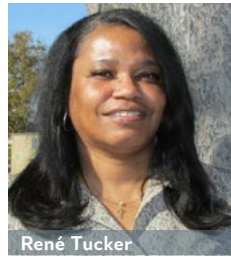
– Nicole Thigpen



Mahdiah (Navid) Rassi

Although George Floyd died in a cruel way, his death has caused a big movement that made some changes. On the other hand, you still notice unfairness.

– Mahdiah (Navid) Rassi



René Tucker

As a mother of three Black boys I am done being silent! I am ready to have crucial conversations. I am ready to have the uncomfortable conversations that are needed for change. I want to hear all viewpoints, I respect them and acknowledge that we may not always agree. I want the world to know that “Before all lives matter, Black lives must matter too, even before blue lives matter.” We need Racial Healing.

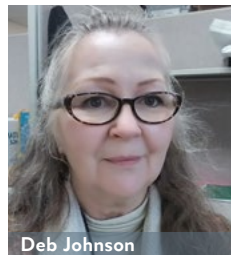
– René Tucker



Mari Solis

These are my thoughts... George Floyd... Black Lives Matter. Think about it. Be about it. Do your part!

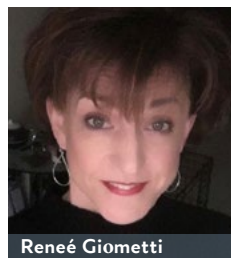
– Mari Solis



Deb Johnson

I felt thankful when I heard the guilty verdict for the murder of George Floyd. There have been far too many lives lost from the unjustifiable use of deadly force. Accountability should not be the exception for these heinous crimes.

– Deb Johnson



Reneé Giometti

As a child and granddaughter of a French woman who lived through the holocaust in her country and witnessed friends disappear overnight, I was taught the evilness and danger in racism. As Elie Wiesel said,

“that is why I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always

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take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe."

– René Giametti



I thought I would feel better after Derek Chauvin was found guilty of murder. But I'm still sad about it all. I feel sad for all of those other innocent unarmed people who were killed by police officers and never received any justice. I'm worried for those

who are still in danger because the current culture and training of police officers has not changed enough.

Public schools no longer use corporal punishment because it's considered abusive, yet police officers are still authorized to use deadly force under broad and questionable circumstances. I'm still afraid because change isn't happening fast enough.

–Alan Wang



Contra Costa is a Welcoming County

We encourage everyone to have their voice heard and speak out on issues important to them and their families. We all thrive when we come together as one community.

Supervisor Diane Burgis
Chair, County Board of Supervisors

Kathy's Corner

By Kathy Gallagher, EHSD Director



Space for Understanding and Healing

Over the past year, I have written to you about incidences of violence and injustice against community members. Sadly, these disturbing events have occurred throughout our country's history -- from harsh words targeting people of certain backgrounds to systemic racism leading to senseless killings, including those perpetrated by individuals we are meant to trust. The murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, among many other acts of racial violence over the past year, heightened our collective grief and outrage over unequal treatment and overt misconduct that exists within our legal, justice and political systems, as well as within our schools, workplaces and communities.

It is rare to see a rebuke of police violence as we did with the guilty verdict marking the outcome of

the George Floyd murder trial. Without question, we are all experiencing strong emotions related to the past year's events -- Floyd's tragic death seen in the Memorial Day video, vigorous protests, the intense trial and guilty verdict. These feelings amplify as we see the prevalence of hateful acts targeting Asian, Latino, African-American, Middle Eastern-American and other minority groups, and how these acts continue to terrorize residents here in the Bay Area and across the nation.

I recognize that EHSD staff members have a multitude of reactions to all these events, as well as their own individual and family experiences. I believe it is critical to promote understanding, healing and create as many spaces as possible (such as this *Headlines* issue) for you to express your thoughts, feelings and ideas for moving forward, in a unifying and positive way. Thank you for your willingness to share your sentiments, as well as to listen to those of your coworkers and friends here at EHSD and throughout our community.



EHSD Task Force to Address Racial Inequity

The EHSD Equity and Inclusion Core Team was created out of a need to ensure equity and inclusion within our organization, community partners and of course our customers and neighbors.

The team currently consists of 15 members: **Craig Roney, Alexandra Madsen, Annie Phetinta, Debora Boutte, Deborah Drake, Iliana Choate, Lisa Harris, Nannette Dupree, Patience Ofodu, Patricia Perez, Renee Tucker, Robin Bates, Rodney Dixon, Tracy Murray, Yves Roi (Jay) David**

Team Support Statement:

“The Equity and Inclusion Core Team strongly condemns the recent rise in anti-Asian hate incidents. We call on all people to unite in condemning these and all racially motivated acts of violence. We join our EHSD family and community partners in demanding justice for victims such as Vicha Ratanapakdee, Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, and Yong Ae. We are exceptionally shocked by the targeting of elderly Asians and urge everyone to take action and be aware. The Equity and Inclusion team also strongly condemns anti-Black violence and the societal structures that have made racist violence a centerpiece of U.S. life. We join our EHSD family, staff, and community members in demanding justice in the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Daunte Wright and so many others.”

Resources
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EHSD Task Force to Address Racial Inequity

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Mental Health And Wellness Resources for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)

Black Community

- [Loveland Foundation](#)
- [Therapy for Black Girls](#)
- [Inclusive Therapists](#)
- [Open Path Psychotherapy Collective](#)
- [Therapy for Black Men](#)
- [California Black Women's Health Project](#)
- [Liberate](#)
- [Black Emotional and Mental Health \(BEAM\)](#)

Collective

Latino/a Community

- [Therapy for Latinx](#)
- [LatinX Therapy](#)
- [Inclusive Therapists](#)
- [Open Path Psychotherapy Collective](#)

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA/PI) Community

- [National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association](#)
- [The Asian Mental Health Project](#)
- [South Asian Mental Health Initiative & Network](#)
- [South Asian Therapist.org](#)
- [Inclusive Therapists](#)
- [Open Path Psychotherapy Collective](#)

LGBTQ Community

- [National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network](#)
- [Open Path Psychotherapy Collective](#)
- [Cross Cultural Expressions](#)
- [Trans-Affirming Therapists Academy](#)
- [Trans Lifeline](#)

American Indian/Alaska Native Community

- [The National American Indian and Alaska Native MHTTC](#)

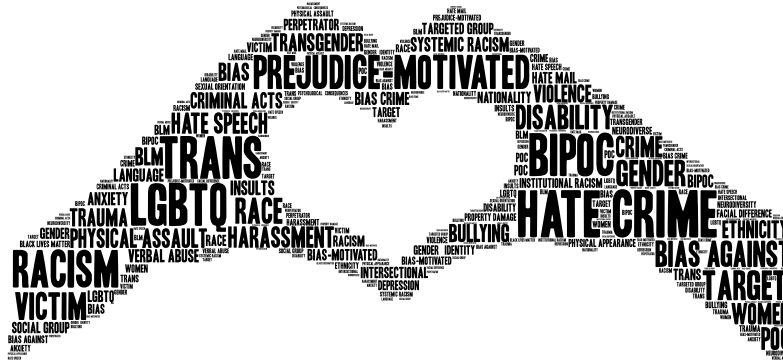
Racial Justice Resources

- [Showing Up for Racial Justice \(SURJ\)](#), resources on Racism 101, White Supremacy Culture, White Privilege, etc.
- [Showing Up For Racial Justice \(SURJ\)](#), Bay Area Chapter
- [Seeing White Podcast](#)
- [Confronting the White Elephant: White Privilege in Social Services](#)
- [Anti-Racist Reading List](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

Additional Resource

EAP www.magellanascend.com

You can access the County Employee Assistance Program (EAP) if you wish to seek additional support related to these or any issues. The EAP is available to you by visiting www.magellanascend.com.



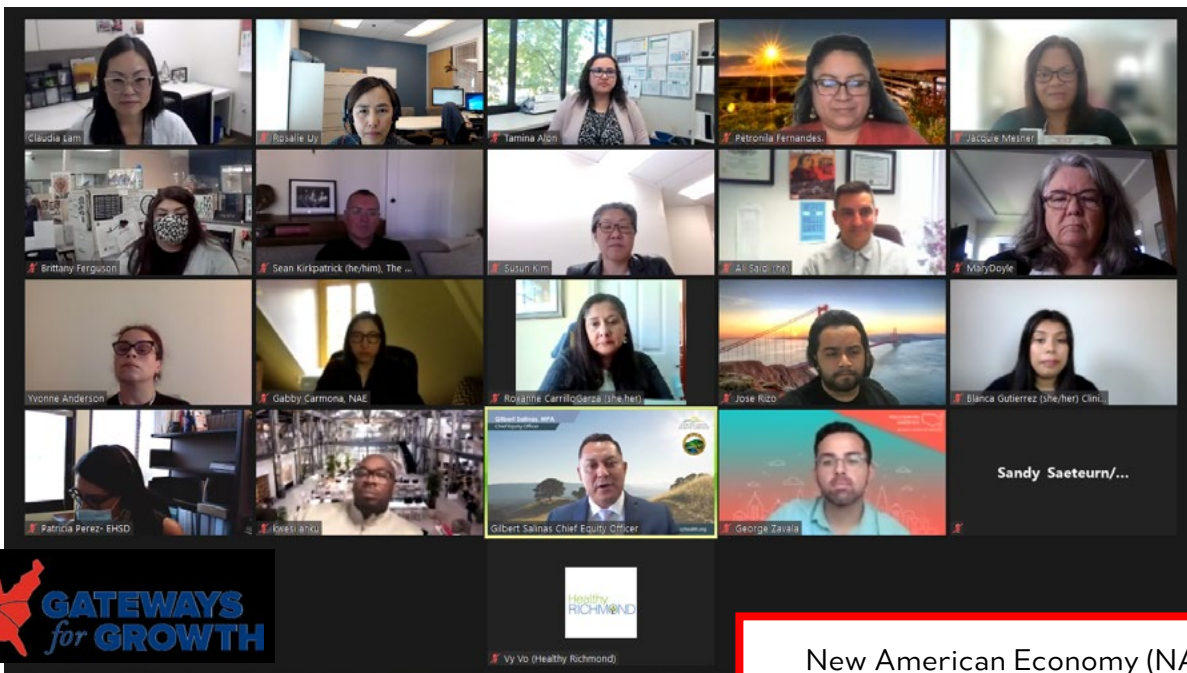
G4G Getting Ready to Launch

As you may recall, Contra Costa received a boost to its efforts of welcoming immigrants in our community with a **Gateways for Growth (G4G)** award at the end of last year. EHSD and Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) collaborated closely to submit a winning proposal for this nationwide initiative. County partners quickly got to work to use the technical assistance and research support for planning the new County Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. Its purpose is to advance inclusion and fairness, with a priority of leveraging a public-private commitment to better integrate

immigrants into recovery efforts and emergency management systems.

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice is planning a Virtual Kickoff event in May. You can learn more by visiting <https://standtogethercontracosta.org/welcome/>. Feel free to share this link on social media leading up to and during the upcoming kick-off week, to be announced soon. Stay tuned for more details!

**#contracostaG4G #gatewaysforgrowth
#inclusion #youbelong
#wespeakthesamelanguage**



The first meeting of the Advisory Committee for Contra Costa County Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice took place in April 27, 2021

Claudia Lam – EHSD; **Rosalie Uy** – EHSD; **Tamina Alon** – EHSD; **Petronilla Fernandez** – Community Parents Group; **Jacqueline Mesner** – EHSD

Brittany Ferguson – Lao Family Community Dev't; **Sean Kirkpatrick** – East Bay Refugee Forum; **Susun Kim** – Family Justice Center; **Ali Saidi** – Public Defender's Office; **Mary Doyle** – Y & H Soda Foundation

Yvonne Anderson – EHSD; **Gabby Carmona** – New American Economy; **Roxanne Carrillo-Garza** – La Clinica Dela Raza; **Jose Rizo** – Village Community Resource Center; **Blanca Gutierrez** – Community Clinic Consortium

Patricia Perez – EHSD; **Kyesi Anku** – West African/Ghanan Community; **Gilbert Salinas** – CCC Dept of Health; **George Zavala** – Welcoming America; **Sandy Saeteurn** – Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Vo Vy – Healthy Richmond

New American Economy (NAE) and Welcoming America selected Contra Costa County to receive a Gateways for Growth (G4G) **Technical Assistance Award** as part of the fourth cohort of a nationwide initiative. Contra Costa is one of three winning California counties that will lay the groundwork and build the infrastructure for economic, civic, and social inclusion at the local level.



CalFresh Awareness Month



EHSD, along with the CalFresh Partner Group, is committed to boosting CalFresh participation and awareness for Contra Costa County residents. When residents who are eligible enroll in CalFresh, they increase access to healthy, affordable food.

EHSD is planning for the CalFresh Business Process Reengineering effort with Change and Innovation Agency (CIA), beginning in mid-May, collaborating to form a redesign team to fine-tune the service delivery model that will create process solutions that are faster, more accurate, easily accessible, consistent, integrated, and flexible.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CalFresh has supported families by providing emergency benefits, implementing program flexibilities and

establishing new programs to ensure Californians continue to have access to food. Due to extensive economic impacts of COVID-19, some individuals and families may have been eligible to receive CalFresh for the first time ever.

Approximately 77,000 Contra Costa County residents received CalFresh as of March 2021, and CalFresh benefits have driven nearly \$300 million in total economic activity from March 2020 through March 2021 in the county.

The county also offers the CalFresh Employment and Training Program, providing CalFresh participants training and assistance towards job readiness, job security, work norms and access to higher education.

EHSD is promoting CalFresh Awareness month with the vision of increasing participation in the CalFresh program leading to favorable economic and health outcomes in our community.

Congrats E2Lite Team

By Rebecca Darnell, Deputy Director Workforce Services

The results are back from the FFY 2019 TANF/WINS/E2Lite WPR data file review. 100% accuracy rate for TANF and 99% accuracy rate for WINS.

KUDOS to the E2Lite Unit!

Rosalyn Guillory

Courtney Cherry

Kimberley Williams

Lisa Deslierres

Fabiola Quintero

Special recognition and a big THANK YOU to **Katherine Dutro** and **Kelly Sullivan**

Good work!

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
E2LITE TEAM

good job!

**On the FFY 2019 TANF/WINS/E2Lite WPR
Data File Review**

NOW THAT IS SERIOUSLY EPIC

100% ACCURACY for TANF (RADEP/E2Lite) Data Files

99% ACCURACY for WINS Data Files **WOW!**

Take steps to cope with stress

Contributed by Personnel Services



Magellan Ascend

UPCOMING WEBINAR: *Helping Your Teen Learn Emotional Regulation* May 12

Register for this webinar to:

- Learn how the teenage brain is different than any other point in development
- Engage with your teen without conflict
- Teach emotional regulation by example
- Know when to seek professional help

Missed the live webinar?

Don't worry, you can access webinar recordings by clicking on "Learning Center" and selecting "Webinars." If you haven't signed up to use the County Employee Assistance Program yet, follow these two easy steps:

Step 1: Go to www.magellanascend.com and click on "Sign up".

Step 2: Complete the online registration form and click on "Get Started".

Stress can show up from many directions these days. And, the pandemic of the last year has increased stress by upsetting people's routines, increasing health worries and damaging finances. However, you can take active steps to deal with stress.

- Focus on your health. Eat a well-balanced diet full of vegetables, fruit, whole grains and lean protein for energy. Get enough quality sleep by going to bed earlier and using relaxing bedtime rituals. Follow a regular exercise routine that you enjoy; engaging in strength and cardio exercise helps you handle stress better.
- Prioritize relaxation. Get outside often this spring. Experiencing nature reduces anxiety and stress. Also, try meditation, soothing aromatherapy and/or deep abdominal breathing—whatever calms and soothes you.
- Spend time with your pets, pursue your hobbies and have a laugh whenever possible.

Be on the lookout for burnout

Spot the signs. Markers of burnout include feeling continually drained; having frequent headaches or muscle pain; withdrawing from other people and activities; having feelings of hopelessness, doubt, negativity and irritability; and losing motivation.

Continue reading the article or browse more topics at www.magellanascend.com.

Bike it, You'll Like it!



Pull out your bike, pump up the tires, and leave your car in the garage! May is National Bike Month, celebrated in the Bay Area as “Bike to Wherever Days” <https://bayareabiketowork.com>. Additional biking resources can be found in the following 511 Contra Costa website: <https://511contracosta.org/biking/>. The goal of Bike to Wherever Days is to encourage Bay Area residents to ride their bikes for all types of trips, including commute trips, recreational trips, and shopping trips. All nine Bay Area counties will be participating in Bike to Wherever Days at some level. Free Bike to Wherever Days tote bag will be available at your local County library during the month of May, while supplies last.

“Bike to Wherever Days” and will run for the entire month of May. A special “Bike to Wherever Day,” when special bicycling festivities will be held around the Bay Area, will take place on May 21.

We encourage EHSD staff to ride a bike as often as possible during Bike to Wherever Days. Join the County’s interdepartmental bike competition and help EHSD reach the highest total number of individual days when staff members ride a bike during May. At the end of the event, you can record the days you biked during Bike to Wherever Days in a survey (<http://tiny.cc/CCC2021BTWDSurvey>). Department of Conservation and Development staff will tally the total number of days participants rode a bike and award prizes to the department with the greatest number of days of employee

participation. An additional prize will go to the individual participant with the greatest number of days biked during Bike to Wherever Days. You can post photos of your bike ride and destinations on social media using the hashtag #CCC2021BTWD.

A separate Bay Area-wide bike competition will also be taking place for the entire month of May. Information on this competition can be found in the following website: <https://www.lovetoride.net/bayarea/pages/info?locale=en-US>. In addition to registering as an individual for the competition, you have the option to register as a team, so feel free to gather your family, friends, and coworkers. After each bicycle ride, you record your ride and miles on the competition website and earn points. Additional points can be earned when you encourage others to participate in the competition. Prizes are offered to individuals and teams who have accumulated the most points at the conclusion of the competition.

Public Works Department staff members are volunteering to tune up bikes to help you get ready for Bike to Wherever Days. Services include help fixing a flat, adjusting brakes and gears, and maintaining bike chains.

For more information on 2021 Bike to Wherever Days, please contact Robert Sarmiento, Department of Conservation and Development, at robert.sarmiento@dcd.cccounty.us or (925) 655-2918.

Get The Download

The IT Team has launched its inaugural issue of *The Download*. This new, one-page newsletter will be full of IT updates, advisories and tips specifically for EHSD staff. The idea is to enhance communication about our department's information technology advancements and changes. IT will publish each issue on STARS, and you can find the first edition [here](#). If you'd like to "upload" your ideas for *The Download*, please email kgaughen@ehsd.cccounty.us.



The Library Welcomes Back Patrons with Grab & Go

State Librarian Greg Lucas and County Librarian Alison McKee celebrated Contra Costa County Library welcoming the public back inside for the first time in more than a year. At re-opening events on April 26th at the Concord and Hercules Libraries, Lucas and McKee spoke about the importance of reopening libraries here and across the state while providing safe service to patrons.

To do so, Contra Costa County Library is introducing Grab & Go service.

The libraries are open with limited occupancy and offer select services.

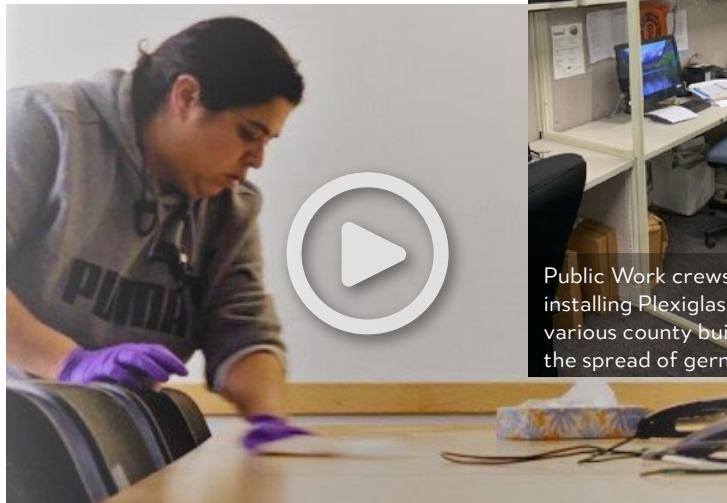
Patrons are asked to limit their time in the library to no more than one hour and to abide by all safety protocols including social distancing and mask requirements. To learn more, visit <https://ccclib.org/grab-and-go/>



EHSD Thanks Public Works!

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

EHSD extends its appreciation to Contra Costa County's Public Works (PW) Department CCCPWD as it celebrates National Public Works Week from May 16th through 22nd.



Click to see Esmeralda Martinez from PW's custodial division as she explains how her team increased its cleaning regimen at the pandemic's onset in order to help protect County staff and customers.

CCCPWD has a dedicated team that looks after more than 200 County buildings, including all of the EHSD offices. In addition, PW crews maintain 660 miles of roads, and 150 miles of streams, channels and other drainage throughout the County. CCCPWD also provides Parks and Recreation, Sand Bag Distribution and Flood Control services throughout the County's unincorporated areas.

You have likely seen many PW staff in and around our buildings, especially over the past year taking

extra measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. In addition to doubling and tripling down on cleaning and disinfecting all of our offices, PW crews have been installing Plexiglas partitions as well as adding card readers at building entry points to help with health screenings so employees can "attest" to meeting criteria to safely enter and report to work. We continue to call on PW for reconfiguring work spaces, assisting with moves and responding to a variety of projects to maintain EHSD buildings.



Public Work crews have been installing Plexiglas partitions at various county building to help slow the spread of germs.

On the front lines or behind the scenes, EHSD appreciates all PW does to keep up with our building needs.

Kathy Gallagher and EHSD sends a big thank you to PW staff.



Cool Tools for Those Hot Tips!

By Mari Solis, CFS Staff Development

Since 2019, the CFS Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Team has published a monthly 'Hot Tip' for Children & Family Services staff. The useful Hot Tips provide important information on evidence-informed best practices that are in alignment with the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM), and help to achieve improved outcomes for children, youth, and families.

Introducing 'Cool Tools'

As of March 2021, the CFS Staff Development Team has also begun publishing a 'Cool Tools' flyer as a supplement to the CQI Hot Tips. The monthly *Cool Tools* will highlight and provide links to tangible forms, templates, steps, etc., which further support social workers in their valued work.

- Look for the monthly CFS CQI **Hot Tips** and SD **Cool Tools** to enhance your practice.
- *Cool Tools* will soon be accessible online through STARS/the CFS Staff Portal.
- Add these tips & tools to your toolbox today!

Children & Family Services CQI Hot Tips & SD Cool Tools

APRIL 2021

- Hot Tip: Social Worker Visits with Parents
- Cool Tool: Solution-Focused Inquiry by Program/Activity

MARCH 2021

- Hot Tip: Quality Contacts: How to Conduct a Quality Caseworker Visit
- Cool Tool: Caseworker Visit with Foster Youth Contact Template

Help Us Help You: EHSD Personnel Survey

By Debora Boutté, Personnel Services Officer

The Personnel Services Division has launched a survey to develop a quantitative and qualitative baseline that will identify areas of improvement in our customer service delivery. As an EHSD employee, you have the opportunity to lead the way in defining and enhancing our Personnel Services Division by providing your honest, open, and confidential opinions about the quality of our services.

A few notes about the survey:

- While providing your name is not mandatory, doing so will help us better analyze the results and target areas for improvement.
- It should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
- You may take the survey at any time from any device until the date of close.

To begin the survey, click on this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XNMG7K7>
Please complete the survey by Tuesday, May 18th at 5 PM.



SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

SERVICE AWARDS

35 YEARS

Lisa Epps, Departmental Fiscal Officer, Admin

25 YEARS

Leticia Pereira, Medical Program Assistant, WFS
Karen Schlesinger, Social Worker, AAS

20 YEARS

Michelle A.L. Kelly, Clerk-Senior Level, CFS
Ching Leung, Clerk-Senior Level, CFS
Jacqueline Ramos, Eligibility Work Supervisor I, WFS
Ron Steggall, Info Sys Programmer/Analyst IV, Admin

15 YEARS

Esther Dominguez, Social Worker, WFS
Kamico Hayle, Eligibility Worker III, WFS
John Long, Eligibility Work Supervisor I, WFS
Darren Patton, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Cynthia Smith, Volunteer Program Coord, AAS
LaTosha Stockholm, Eligibility Work Supervisor I, WFS
Vinh Truong, Eligibility Worker III, WFS
Michelle Turner, Social Worker, WFS
Erick Untal, Administrative Svcs Asst III, Admin
Matthew Welch, Info Sys Programmer/Analyst IV, Admin

10 YEARS

Natalie Aguilar, Soc Svc Program Assistant, CFS
Susan Austin, Soc Svc Program Assistant, AAS
Christina Brandt, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Lenita Harrison-Winston, Children's Svcs Cler Spec, CFS
Veronica Hernandez, Eligibility Work Supervisor I, WFS
Christina Navarro, Workforce Svcs Specialist, WFS
Jeanette Vargas, Social Worker, AAS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Veronie Atencion, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS
Geraldine Charlton, Intermediate Clerk-Project, CSB
Diana Costa, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB
Htejany Fernandez, Intermediate Clerk-Project, CSB

Ana Guerra, Clerk-Experienced Level, Admin
Jobette Jingco, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB
Dharmendra Lal, Info Systems Tech II, Admin
Danisha Lowe, AT Perm, CSB

RETIREES

David Eisenlohr, Info Sys Manager II, Admin
Lisa Gonzales, Administrative Svcs Asst III, Admin
Valerie Nunley, Infant Toddler Teacher-Project, CSB

Divina Tiamzon, Teacher-Project, CSB
LaQuita Tummings, Soc Svc Staff Dev Specialist, Admin
Stephanie Wilkins, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS

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

May

- COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH
- CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH
- OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
- FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION MONTH
- ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH
- MAY 5 – Cinco De Mayo
- MAY 3-7 – Teacher’s Appreciation Week
- MAY 9 – Mother’s Day
- MAY 11 – Ramadan ends
- MAY 15 – Armed Forces Day
- MAY 31 – Memorial Day (holiday)

June

- ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH
- JUNE 6 – National Cancer Survivor’s Day
- JUNE 13 – Abused Women and Children’s Day
- JUNE 14 – Flag Day
- JUNE 19 – Juneteenth
- JUNE 20 – Father’s Day / Summer Solstice (longest day of the year)
- JUNE 23 – National Hydration 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 has more than 1,000 children who need your help. Join a free virtual orientation during the COVID-19 Health Order. We will update the in-person orientation schedule as restrictions lift.

FREE VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

May 6 or 20 • 4 to 6 p.m.
June 3 or 7 • 4 to 6 p.m.
July 1 or 15 • 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at www.ehdsd.org. To register for a class, please call (925) 602-6960, toll-free at 1 (866) 313-7788, or email ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us

We Care... You Care
<http://ehsdhome/Pages/Service-Champions.aspx>

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

Follow us on Twitter @ContraCostaEHSD
Like us on Facebook



Contact us at our **EHSD Headlines** email, headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us, if you have an upcoming event, article, our idea you would like to share.