

Headlines

*Letter to
President Biden
Sparks EHSD
into Action*

**Patience Ofodu's
Immigrant Journey**

**Free Culinary Arts
Program is Back**

**Team up for the
Walk Challenge!**

Cover photo credit: Joy Ofodu, Digital Content Creator, Patience' daughter

CONTRACOSTA
COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT &
HUMAN SERVICES

AJCC Reopens on September 14!

By Maureen Nelson, Administrator, America's Job Center of California

The Concord site of America's Job Center of California (AJCC) is reopening its doors for in-person services beginning September 14, 2021:

- Self-guided job search (computers, copier, fax, phones, UI phones)
- Staff assistance connecting eligible customers to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) individualized services, including assessment, career planning, job training and more

Customers can make an appointment by calling **(925) 671-4500**. Time on the computers is limited to one to two hours.

Virtual Services Continue

Because capacity will be limited, virtual services, listed on the Workforce Development Board <<http://www.wdbccc.com>> website, will continue alongside in-person services. A popular webinar is *Rapid Response/Layoff Aversion*, where both job seekers and business owners can get questions answered about career services, unemployment insurance, recruitment, and small business advising.

EDD Services

For services by appointment with the Workforce Services Branch of EDD, email WSBConcordFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov (best method) or call **(925) 602-0869**.

Healthy Habits

The AJCC is following state and local health



Security officers Joe and Reuben get ready for the AJCC's re-opening in September.

guidelines during the pandemic. Customers should arrive only a short time before their appointment time to minimize queuing. Everyone is asked to:

- **Wear a mask, stay six feet apart, and hand sanitize at the door**
- **Avoid shaking hands or touching face, eyes, or mouth**
- **Stay home if sick**

The AJCC is located at 4071 Port Chicago Highway, Suite #250. It is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"We really look forward to welcoming back our customers in person!" says **Tamia Brown**, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board.

CSB Delivers after Mom Asks President Biden for Help

By Christina Reich, CSB Division Manager

A desperate mom wrote to President Joe Biden telling her story of working hard to make ends meet, and using most of her pay to cover rent, leaving none to buy clothing or school supplies for her son. As a taxpayer and a hard worker, Marta Espinoza implored the President to help her.

President Biden relayed her request to the Federal Community Action Program, and it trickled its way back to the program in Contra Costa County where the Marta lives with her son, Jaime.



Building Brighter Futures Together

Melissa Molina, CSB Comprehensive Services Assistant Manager, took the lead and provided a Contra Costa County mother with wrap-around services.



CSB's **Melissa Molina** assisted Contra Costa residents Marta Espinoza (right) and her son, Jaime Hernandez, after Marta wrote a letter to President Biden asking for help.

The Community Services Bureau (CSB), which oversees the local Community Action Program, assigned the case to **Melissa Molina** who leaped into action and got in contact with Marta. Here are the services she presented:

- **CalFresh** – Melissa showed Marta how to apply online, and shared information about typical timelines and what to expect. Marta's application is in progress.
- **Hope Solutions** is one of our Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) subcontractors. Marta looked up the agency after Melissa provided the contact info, and was delighted with this resource. Housing takes most of Marta's income. Hope Solutions provides rental assistance and low-income housing, plus many supports, including tutoring.
- **Seasons of Sharing** – Marta is checking into getting help with her son's school clothing.
- **Pass2Class** – Melissa had Marta apply online to get a free public transportation bus pass for two months so her 15-year-old son can get to school.
- **Target Gift Card** – Jaime received a \$35 gift card to purchase school supplies offered through Crossroads High School, our community partner.
- **Mt. Diablo School District Counselor** – Melissa referred Jaime to school Counselor who is helping with resources like clothes and additional school supplies.
- **Refuge Church** – Melissa referred to Marta to Refuge Church, a convenient location for food resources.

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Head Start Puts Parents and Kids First

By Christina Reich, CSB Division Manager



Jasmine Cisneros
Executive Policy Council Chair, Head Start

At the Community Services Bureau (CSB) there are many ways to be engaged, such as volunteering in the classroom, at the parent meeting for the child care center, and at the Policy Council for which parent **Jasmine Cisneros** is the Chairperson.

Family engagement is a collaborative and strengths-based process through which early childhood professionals, families, and children build positive and goal-oriented relationships. Families and staff, at all levels, share this responsibility, which requires mutual respect for the roles and strengths each has to offer.

Jasmine Cisneros has two children in the Head Start Program. She represents other parents as the Executive Policy Council Chair and helps shape the programs that educate the children. **CLICK** on the play button to hear from Jasmine.

Family engagement focuses on culturally and linguistically responsive relationship building with key family members in a child's life. It requires making a commitment to creating and sustaining an ongoing partnership that supports family well-being. It also honors and supports the parent-child relationships that are central to a child's healthy development, school readiness, and well-being.

CSB Congratulates FDC Graduates!

By Monica De Vera, CSB Administrative Services Assistant III

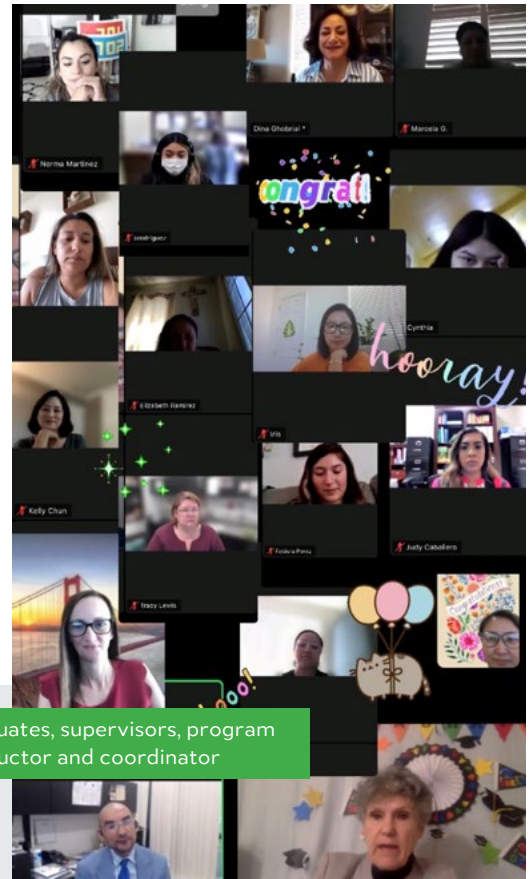
Congratulations to the participants who completed the six-month Family Development Credential (FDC) program! During a virtual commencement ceremony to honor the graduates, their supervisors and other managers from Community Services Bureau (CSB) and its partner agencies joined to cheer them on!

A total of 14 staff members made up the 2021 cohort – 11 from CSB, one from First Baptist Head Start, and three from the YMCA. CSB began offering this program a few years ago and next year will begin its 5th cohort.

This most recent cohort began on March 2nd, 2021, when a mix of staff from different classifications who serve children and families in varying capacities attended biweekly classes via Zoom to develop their skills in visioning, family goal setting, communication, minimizing stress, increasing collaboration, and managing cultural diversity. They successfully completed various assignments, portfolios, and exams and, due to their hard work and dedication, they are now certified Family Development workers. They meet Head Start Performance Standards to ensure we are providing the highest quality in services to our families, and sharpened skills applicable in both their personal and professional lives.

CSB prioritizes staff wellness and self-care as an important component to quality work and services. One graduate gushed about how this class and program has helped her improve eating and spending habits! The holistic approach to family development makes this program truly meaningful, while empowering our families to live in healthy interdependence.

Thank you to Program Instructor **Susan Rogers** and everyone involved for supporting this program to ensure its success! Way to go graduates!



FDC graduates, supervisors, program instructor and coordinator

Graduates

- Elizabeth Ramirez, CST, CSB
- Adilene Rodriguez, CST, CSB
- Norma Martinez, CEU, CSB
- Karen Uesi, CEU, CSB
- Tracy Lewis, CEU, CSB
- Iris Xu, CEU, CSB
- Maricela Garcia, Partner Unit, CSB
- Dina Ghobrial, Partner Unit, CSB
- Cynthia Romo, YMCA
- Fabiola Perez, YMCA
- Judy Caballero, FBHS
- Kelly Chun, CEU, CSB
- Monica De Vera, Administration, CSB
- Jennifer Zermeno, YMCA

Coming to America Patience Ofodu's Personal Journey

By Alan Wang,
Community Relations
Media Specialist

It hasn't been an easy journey, but Patience Ofodu is definitely rising to the top of her game. Patience, who is the Business Services Manager for EHSD's Workforce Development Board (WDB), was recently appointed as Chair-Elect of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance's Economic Development Directors' Council

(EDD Council). The council is responsible for improving the region's business climate and expanding job opportunities throughout the East Bay. "With a seat at the table, I can influence companies to tap into EHSD's job training programs and recruit job seekers straight out of our county. It also allows me to support

*Continued on
next page*

Photo credit: Joy Ofodu, Digital Content Creator, Patience' daughter

Coming to America Patience Ofodu's Personal Journey

Continued from previous page

our County's economic development managers," says Patience.

Her influence would have been beneficial to the Patience Ofodu who came to America 25 years ago. "I was an advertising executive from Nigeria," explained Patience. "I had an accent and a degree from another country. I didn't know where to go. Knowledge of immigrant resources would have allowed me to convert my degree and not start where I did. So I had to start working at a cosmetics counter at Macy's and my boss was a high school kid."

She later went back to college, received her Master's degree and began working as an accounts manager for a Fortune 500 company. "But that was after I had gone through the pains of not knowing where to go for resources to move up," says Patience.

Patience's immigrant experience has encouraged her to join and to share her story with [Gateways for Growth](#), a new County initiative which is conducting focus groups to help integrate racial equity

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In 2019, Patience, her husband Valentine Ofodu and Children returned to their ancestral village where they were welcomed by family and friends.



Even though she had a college degree from Nigeria, Patience had to start working at the make-up counter in Macy's when she first arrived. **CLICK** on the play button to watch the full interview.



Coming to America Patience Ofodu's Personal Journey

Continued from previous page

and immigrant inclusion into the job recruitment process.

“A lot of us come here with degrees. But we're starting at the bottom. I know medical doctors, from other countries, who are cleaning offices,” says Patience. “The issue is that the immigrants who need these programs are not getting it. We need to meet them in the communities where they are.”

Patience is also a licensed realtor with a top brokerage firm and has worked for top-rated builders in the Bay Area since 2001. She recently returned to Nigeria where she and her husband built a home in their ancestral village. “My children got to meet their family and learn their heritage,” says Patience. “It was a blessing of a lifetime to be able to come home after 25 years.”



The Awlum Waterfalls are a tourist attraction in Enugu state, Nigeria where Patience Ofodu grew up.

Webinars for Wellness

You can check out free wellness webinars that HR Employee Benefits is offering for all County employees in partnership with Health Net. The webinar series runs through December 2021, and the live events are presented on various days of the week, during the mid-day lunch hour period. Each is recorded and posted on the website for employees to view on their own time at home if that's more convenient. The schedule of topics, dates, and times with links to register for these webinars is available on the County

Benefits website: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/8205/Wellness-Webinars>.

(Note: You do not need to be enrolled in a Health Net medical plan to register for the Wellness Webinars. All County employees may participate.)

If you have questions, email Benefits@hrd.cccounty.us

More Personnel Services resources page 13

Listening and Opening Pathways toward Equity & Inclusion

Updates from EHSD Executive Team and the Equity & Inclusion Core Team

The EHSD Executive Team is committed to supporting the work of the Equity and Inclusion (E&I) Core Team, created to focus on fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement for all people. Together, we want to eliminate barriers that may have prevented anyone's full participation, and create environments in which any individual or group feels included, welcomed, respected, supported and valued to fully participate at EHSD.



On May 21st and 24th, 2021, the E&I Core Team conducted two virtual listening sessions, with approximately 35 staff members participating. From those sessions, the E&I Core Team gathered critical information to use as a starting point in our equity and inclusion work within our department, and with community partners and customers. The major themes gathered from both sessions are:

- **Need for more listening sessions**
- **Need for safe space to process hurt and harm**
- **Need for accountability and transparency**
- **Need for more training and skill-building opportunities**

We want to thank the staff members who participated in the listening sessions for their honesty and courage in providing us with these important insights. We have more than 2,000 employees at EHSD. The information we gathered represents input from a small sample, and we

encourage participation from everyone who wants to have a voice as we continue this work.

We are pleased to provide a couple of updates. First, with input from the E&I Core Team, Staff Development has implemented an *Implicit Bias Introduction at the New Employee Orientation (NEO)* and added an *Implicit Bias* piece to the *Cultural Awareness and Diversity* training at the Quarterly Training (Q3).

Second, we have set up a contract with Coach to Discover to assist the Executive Team and the E&I Core Team in creating a more equitable and inclusive organization. We are excited and committed to continuing to work together and with all of you as we chart a path forward.

Building Brighter Futures Together



Tell Us Your Story Immigrant Inclusion Focus Groups

By Claudia Lam, Workforce Services Specialist

Contra Costa County has received a Gateways for Growth award to support the County's proposed plan to integrate racial equity and immigrant inclusion work (learn more about the Gateways for Growth challenge and award at www.gatewaysforgrowth.com)

As part of the community led-process, immigrants or individuals born in the US who can speak to the immigrant experience are invited to participate in a focus group on immigrant inclusion. Four additional virtual sessions are added for September. You can also share your experience by completing a survey found [here](#).

Who: Immigrants and U.S.-born individuals who can speak to the immigrant experience

What: Virtual focus group to share stories and ideas for the County's Immigrant Inclusion Welcoming Plan

When: Thursday, September 2 • 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday, September 7 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Thursday, September 16 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Tuesday, September 21 • 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

To register, scan the QR code or contact Jacquie Mesner at (925) 608-4886 or jmesner@ehsd.cccounty.us.





Focus Group Finds Solutions for Better Customer Service

By Cassandra Amador, WFS Supervisor

WTW Focus Group attendees

The Welfare to Work (WTW) Division was recently selected to conduct a series of customer focus groups to identify additional resources necessary to aid in obstacle removal. On July 21st and 22nd, the WTW East and West County Divisions worked together to host 39 members of our community. Community members were asked to identify and discuss their internal and external obstacles to achieving goals, as well as share solutions to those obstacles. The in-depth conversations allowed the WTW team to detect and address customer ambivalence about change as well as strategize new and innovative ideas to effectively connect our customers with resources.

Guest speakers included our Employment Placement Counselors (EPC) and Contra Costa Community College partners as well as a former CalWORKs customer who the County hired via our CCWORKS program. Participating community members stated they enjoyed attending, were appreciative of the open dialog, and would love to be invited to the next focus group!

A BIG THANK YOU to the WTW Team and EPC and Community College guest speakers for providing support. The focus group resulted in some great suggestions, needs identification, and proposed opportunities which are moving forward to the Management Team.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES
Building Brighter Futures Together

What You Need to Know About Voting in the Upcoming Recall Election

All registered voters in Contra Costa County should have already received their Voter Information Guides and Official Ballots for the California gubernatorial Recall Election on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021. **If you have not received your ballot, call (925) 335-7800.**



front of the EHSD Administrative Office at 40 Douglas in Martinez. Placing your ballot in an official drop box is just like dropping it at the Elections Office and saves taxpayer dollars by reducing the cost of return postage. Ballots must be

dropped off no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Health & Safety

The Contra Costa Health Department and Elections Division are promoting vote by mail as the safest way to vote in this election. Recent Health Order restrictions require all staff, volunteers and voters to wear masks while inside all in-person voting locations.

Register to Vote

To ensure you receive a ballot in the mail, confirm that you are registered to vote and that your address is correct at <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>. After August 30th, registration must be in person at one of the County's early voting sites, the Elections Division in Martinez, or at a polling place on Election Day.

Vote by Mail

No stamp is required to return your ballot! Your return envelope is postage paid. Just put your completed ballot in the envelope, seal it, sign it, and mail it. Voted ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received within seven (7) days after the election to be considered timely.

Drop Boxes

You can drop your ballot at one of the County's 36 official drop boxes – including the one in

Vote Early

Avoid long lines and be sure your vote is included in the Election Night count. Mail or drop off your ballot so the Elections Division receives it by Friday, September 10th.

Early voting sites, candidate information, ballot drop-box locations, voter deadlines, polling places and other Election Day details are available on the [Contra Costa Recall Page](#) or call (925) 335-7800.

Voting in Person

Eight regional early voting sites will be open across the County on Friday, Saturday and Monday leading up to Election Day. On Election Day, 153 polling locations will be open. Voters will be assigned to a polling place, which will be listed in their Voter Information Guides. For those who wish to vote in person, review your ballot options ahead of time and arriving ready to vote to minimize waiting time.

Track Your Ballot

Know where your ballot is every step of the way. The Secretary of State offers this service so you can receive notices about your ballot status, including when it's mailed, received, and counted. Sign up at <https://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov>.

How to Keep Going When the Going is Tough

Contributed by Personnel Services

Magellan Ascend



UPCOMING WEBINAR:
***Supporting Others Through
 Their Mental Health and
 Substance Use Concerns***
September 8

Register for this webinar to:

- Know how to identify when there is a concern
- Learn best practices on how to support and respond
- Understand when it's time for professional intervention including crisis situations
- Receive helpful resources including self-care strategies

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.magellanascent.com and click on "Sign up".

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

How good are you at rolling with life's punches? Somehow life always finds a way to serve up unexpected challenges. If you'd like to handle challenges better, try working on your resilience—so you can bounce back when facing a crisis or an overwhelming change. How?

- Differentiate problems from your response to them. Although a personal, work or financial crisis may temporarily seem disastrous, recognize that the events exist outside of you. You have the option of reacting with panic, or responding in a calmer, logical, problem-solving manner.
- Remind yourself that you've gotten through tough times before. Be confident in your ability to re-apply workable strategies.
- Don't think of yourself as a victim. Instead, focus on generating a positive attitude toward your situation and fixing only the things you have control over.

Browse more resilience tips and more topics at www.magellanascent.com.

Your Employee Discounts – Save on Major Brands & Everyday Essentials

Save with your Employee Discounts on LifeMart, your online members-only discount center, where you can save big on major purchases like travel, tickets, attractions, electronics, cars vacations, or on day-to-day essentials like groceries and child care. And best of all, access is free!

[Click here to access the LifeMart Discount Center in your web browser.](#)

Leaving? Exit Interview Reminder

By Julie Peck, EHSD Ombudsperson

If you are leaving EHSD for any reason – a new job, moving, retirement – please consider participating in an exit interview. I conduct the confidential exit interview on the phone or via Zoom, based on the preference of the person leaving. I can schedule the interview during the day, the evening or weekend. There are 13 questions with the last one being open-ended to capture whatever feedback the exiting person would like to share.

I have worked as a manager in three Bay Area

counties and found the exit interview to be a very important feedback tool, often with information that plants seeds for system change. The exit interviews that I conduct for EHSD go directly to **Kathy Gallagher**, who is very interested in why employees are leaving the department, and she appreciates any and all feedback exiting employees are willing to share.

If you are leaving EHSD, please consider calling me to schedule an exit interview. My phone number is (925) 788-1722.



CSB Delivers after Mom Asks President Biden for Help

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• **Workforce Development Board (WDB)** – Melissa advised mom that the Workforce Development Board (WDB) can assist her with job searches and resume assistance.

Today, Marta is overwhelmed with gratitude. On a side note, Melissa thinks that Marta will make an exceptional public servant and has referred her to the county job hotline.

CSB will continue working with Marta, and conduct a one-on-one consultation with her when she comes into the office in the coming days (COVID precautions in place).

Real Danger Be Prepared for an Evacuation

Contributed by Contra Costa Fire Protection District (CCCFPD)

Evacuation tips:

- Plan for where you would go if you had to evacuate. Some local shelters may have changes because of COVID-19. If you have pets, make sure the place you are going will accept them.
- Keep copies of any important paperwork readily available to evacuate with. Documents such as insurance papers, medical records, vaccination records for your pets, family photos and other important documents can be backed up on mobile hard drives or put in a transportable file.



Fire weather is already here, along with seasonal wildfire danger. Over the past few years, California has experienced a dramatic rise in both the number and severity of wildland fires.

To help protect your family and neighbors, it is important to be prepared and know what steps to take should you need to evacuate.

To receive alerts and information in the event of a wildfire, make sure to register with the Community Warning System (CWS). You must register your cell or home phone number, home address, and email address, all of which will be kept confidential.

Second, prepare a go-bag to bring with you in the case of an evacuation. An evacuation go-bag should include everything you think you'll need during an evacuation – a neighborhood map with local resources, a NOAA weather radio, food and water, a whistle, first aid kit, important documents, a flashlight with extra batteries, moist towelettes and hand sanitizer, a cellphone with a backup power pack and chargers, medicine and medical equipment, blankets, and pet supplies, if necessary. Have a kit for each member of your household.

Create an escape plan by making sure to have multiple escape routes from your home, including knowing how to open your garage door manually or to ask for assistance. If you have neighbors with Access or Functional Needs, i.e. those with disabilities or chronic conditions, older adults, children, pregnant women, etc., communicate with them and ask what assistance they might need to evacuate safely. If you are homebound, identify a family member, friend, or community group member to check on you during an evacuation.

For more tips and info, visit <https://www.cccfpd.org/wildfireprep>, or check ConFire's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.



FREE Loaves and Fishes Culinary Arts Program is Back!

Loaves and Fishes Culinary Arts Program is opening up again on September 7th, and is now accepting applications. This free robust culinary program “nourishes lives” by teaching students important life skills, building their confidence, and helping them prepare their resumes and interview abilities to get on a successful culinary career path.

Program highlights are:

- Learn culinary skills, safety, and sanitation, and various cooking techniques in a fun and hands-on environment
- Students graduate with a certificate of completion and a state-required Food Handlers Certificate.
- Job placement assistance! Various local restaurants are ready to hire Loaves & Fishes graduates

The culinary students will learn

- Knife skills, cooking techniques including saute, braise, poach, broil, fry and many more
- Basic kitchen safety and sanitation along with knowledge about maintaining commercial kitchen equipment
- Food and recipe preparation and use of measurements in the kitchen
- Plating and presentation of meals

Contact the Loaves and Fishes Culinary Program to apply or ask any questions.

Loaves and Fishes
OF CONTRA COSTA
Culinary Arts Program
NOURISHING CAREER PATHWAYS

Professional CULINARY TRAINING

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa offers a free culinary training program to individuals interested in starting a career in the culinary industry.

2021 classes start in September

Apply Today!

READY?

SET,

GO!



EHSD I WALK CHALLENGE

PULL TOGETHER YOUR TEAM AND START STEPPING

For more information visit
<http://ehsdhome/social/wellness/default.aspx>

**SEPTEMBER 7TH
TO
OCTOBER 18TH**

Customer Service Champion

This individual is being recognized for going the extra mile by delivering excellent service to our customers. She went above and beyond in her willingness to help and demonstrated EHSD's emphasis on providing exemplary customer service. Congratulations on a job well done!

Tiffany Armstrong

By Julie Peck, EHSD Ombudsperson

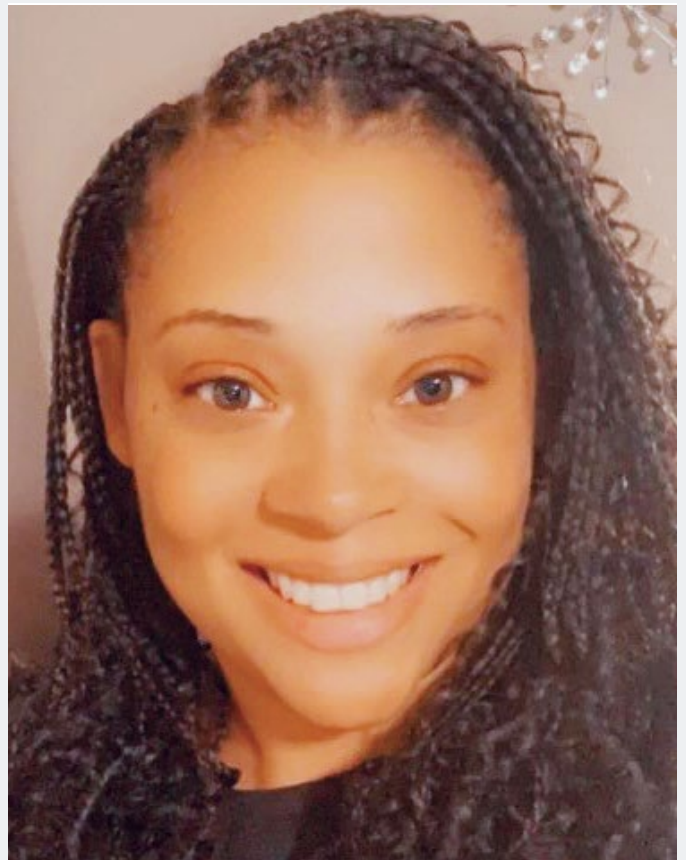
As EHSD Ombudsperson, I regularly ask Tiffany Armstrong for assistance. She is always responsive and helps bring issues with customers to a timely resolution. The below customer comments about Tiffany reflect my own experience with her always going above and beyond when helping customers.

The customer emailed a note of appreciation for Tiffany's help with her mom's application for In Home Support Services (IHSS). Tiffany guided her through the steps and was able to expedite the process:

Thank you so much for all you've done for us, Tiffany! As someone who previously worked for a state agency, I know how fortunate we've been to have ended up in your hands. You've gone above and beyond, and we greatly appreciate the way you help stressed out people try to understand the system and the rules.

Ms. Peck, I'm glad you have this illustration of the way Tiffany has consistently applied her ingenuity, compassion, and patience to our case. She is truly exceptional.

It's this extra care and effort that makes Tiffany Armstrong a true Customer Service Champion!



Building Brighter Futures Together

We Care...You Care

Catrina Kilgore Social Services Program Assistant, Antioch

Nominated by...
Shawna Vaquera, WFS Eligibility Worker III at MCSC

Catrina Kilgore is a Lead for our On-the-Job Training (OJT) program at Cavallo. She is very well organized and knowledgeable and provides great instruction and resources for our OJT workers. She has also been extremely helpful in providing tools and setting up “think tanks” for the CalFresh crossover trainees to learn field business processes. She is attentive, always available to answer questions, keeps a positive attitude and is a wonderful resource for all her coworkers.

As an OJT Lead, Catrina *delivers an exceptional customer experience* leading by example in how she treats our customers. She is very respectful of others and shows it in how she interacts with everyone around her.

Catrina is always prepared to *embrace change*. She is quick to come up with resourceful ideas, and helps her coworkers with materials and resources to implement changes.

Catrina is quite amazing and deserves this recognition!

Catrina really deserves recognition for guiding the folks in OJT with enthusiasm and dedication. She volunteered to present material on how to complete CalFresh recertifications for the seasoned Medi-Cal workers who just completed cross-over CalFresh training.

Alice M. Dietrich – GSOO, EHS Division Manager, MCSC – West and Central



We Care...You Care is how we recognize our peers, emphasizing internal customer service. **We Care...You Care** nominations tie directly to one or more of our six Core Values. The program gives you the opportunity to show your coworkers how much you appreciate them. If you work with someone who deserves special recognition for internal customer service, check out the We Care...You Care link to the guidelines, then fill out a nomination form and submit it to the supervisor of the person you are nominating.

Guidelines: http://ehsdhome/Community-Relations/Documents/WeCareThatYouCare%20Guidelines_FINAL.pdf

Nomination Form: http://ehsdhome/Community-Relations/Documents/WeCareThatYouCare%20Nomination%20Form_FINAL.pdf



SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

SERVICE AWARDS

25 YEARS

Frances Hughes, Social Service Program Assistant, CFSS

20 YEARS

Michelle Maguire, Eligibility Worker III, WFS
Sena Maxine Perrier-Morris, Social Work Supervisor I, AAS
Antonio Sanchez, Social Worker, CSB
Nangkeo Sipaseut, Teacher-Project, CSB
Martha Solorzan, Comprehensive Svcs Asst Mgr-Pr, CSB

15 YEARS

Kyu (Kelly) Chun, Comprehensive Svc Asst Mgr-Pr, CSB
Afi Fiaxe, Comprehensive Svc Asst Mgr-Pr, CSB
Gisselle Gutierrez, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS
Jennifer Kirby, Comprehensive Svcs Mgr-Pr, CSB
Balsam Nimir, Master Teacher-Project, CSB
Sandy Valdivia, Social Case Assistant, CFS
Adrienne Tucker, Soc Svc Employment Place Cnsl, WDB

10 YEARS

Annette Anicete, Eligibility Worker III, WFS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Gabina Allen, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB
Tamia Brown, Executive Director, WDB
Mohammad Elkhani, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS
Michele Freeman, Site Supervisor II, CSB

Renee Lovelace, Teacher-Project, CSB
Daniel Mendieta, Social Worker II, CFS
Dyann Rosales, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS
Breann Van Slooten, Social Casework Assistant, CFS

RETIREES

Ronda Clark, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
Julie Lutz, Social Work Supervisor II, CFS
Shainez Morris, Clerk- Senior Level, CFS

Peggy Setencich, Eligibility Worker III, WFS
Qadirah (Dee Tolbert) Siraaj, Social Worker III, AAS

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

September

- **HEALTHY AGING MONTH**
- **SEPTEMBER 6 – LABOR DAY (HOLIDAY)**
- **SEPTEMBER 7 – I Walk Challenge begins**
- **SEPTEMBER 12 – Grandparents Day**
- **SEPTEMBER 14 – California Gubernatorial Recall Election**
- **SEPTEMBER 15-16 – Yom Kippur**
- **SEPTEMBER 19 – Oktoberfest begins**
- **SEPTEMBER 21 – International Day of Peace**
- **SEPTEMBER 22 – Fall Prevention Awareness Day / Autumn Equinox**
- **SEPTEMBER 24 – Native American Day**

October

- **HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH**
- **NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**
- **OCTOBER 11 – Columbus Day / Indigenous People**
- **OCTOBER 16 – National Boss’s Day**
- **OCTOBER 18 – I Walk Challenge ends**
- **OCTOBER 24 – United Nations Day**
- **OCTOBER 28 – National Chocolate Day**
- **OCTOBER 28 – 2nd Annual Virtual Pet Parade**
- **OCTOBER 31 – Halloween**



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

September 2 or 16 • 4 to 6 p.m.
 October 7 or 21 • 4 to 6 p.m.
 November 4 or 18 • 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>
 and see page 19

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