

Headlines

**EHSD Eligibility
Workers in
the Spotlight**

**CalFresh ME –
The Best Yet!**

**CSB Launches
New Website**

**Lisa Epps
35 Years
of Service**

Interim Housing Center Opens in Pittsburg

Contributed by Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS)

A 172-unit interim housing site in Pittsburg will be among the first in California to open thanks to the state's [Homekey program](#), which builds and sustains housing for residents experiencing homelessness.

Delta Landing is the recipient of a \$21.5 million Homekey grant. Contra Costa Public Works Department will lead the site's renovation. In addition to new paint, roof, furnishings, laundry and fire sprinkler system, clients can make use of a new wellness center for physical and behavioral health needs and co-located services to help them regain permanent housing.

"We know that the first service that people experiencing homelessness need is a stabilized living situation," said Contra Costa Supervisor Federal Glover, whose district includes Pittsburg. "Delta Landing provides that stable place, so clients can make full use of the services and supports to transition into permanent housing."

Delta Landing is one of the first projects completed with funding from

California's Homekey Program, which enabled Contra Costa County to purchase, renovate and transform a motel into interim housing.

The site previously housed homeless residents during the pandemic through the state's Project Roomkey. Prior to Delta Landing, there were only 20 shelter beds available east of Concord in Contra Costa County.

Homekey will provide \$4.196 million toward operation of this permanent facility. Bay Area Community Services (BACS), a contractor of Contra Costa Health Services' Division of Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3), manages the facility.



Delta Landing is one of the first projects completed with funding from California's Homekey Program, enabling Contra Costa County to purchase, renovate and transform a motel into interim housing. CCHS celebrated with a grand opening event on December 6th, 2021.

Thank You, Eligibility Workers!

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

Every day, EHSD Eligibility Workers (EWs) help the department make its vision of a thriving community where all individuals and families can be healthy, safe, secure, and self-sufficient become more of a reality.

EWs fulfill the mission of the human services profession by enhancing the well-being of our residents struggling to obtain basic needs like food, shelter, healthcare and transportation, as well as by identifying additional needs and referring customers to programs and services that support self-sufficiency.

We are grateful for all that our EWs do, especially helping EHSD customers overcome many challenges. EWs continue to dedicate themselves to making a difference in the lives of Contra Costa residents with compassion and teamwork. They are true experts in the primary benefit programs of CalFresh, CalWORKs, Welfare-to-Work, Medi-Cal, General Assistance, Foster Care, Adoption Assistance Program, and KinGAP, and bring knowledge and professionalism to their work every day.

January is Eligibility Workers Month in Contra Costa County. We recognize and thank our Eligibility Workers for the significant difference they make in the lives of needy families and individuals through this noble profession.



Hear from EHSD's own Eligibility Workers. To watch, **CLICK** on the play button.

EHSD Has EW Openings

If you know of someone who may want to apply, please send them to our website page:
[Join The Team | EHSD](#)

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

From the Ground Up, Lisa Epps and 35 Years of Service

By Alan Wang, Community Relations, Media Specialist

Lisa Epps earned her way to become EHS D's Departmental Fiscal Officer through the experience and knowledge she has accumulated since the day she started as an Account Clerk in 1986.

In her 35-year career at EHS D, Lisa has worked her way up the ranks of the Fiscal Department as an Account Clerk, Accounting Technician, Accountant, Administrative Services Assistant, Supervising Accountant and Departmental Fiscal Officer where she currently oversees the budget. Lisa and her team are responsible for completing EHS D's \$654 million budget, which covers all of the bureaus and its programs.

"I don't have a college degree. But I've been able to work my way up through the accounting series and I've been able to do it based on my experience, and I think that's a great accomplishment," says Lisa. "I was always curious. I also had a mentor (Former CFO Ralph McGee) who took me under his wing and tried to make me look at the big picture, and not just what I was doing. So there have been people who helped me along."

Continued on next page



To hear more of Lisa's interview, just **CLICK** on the play button.

Along with this 1924 Model T Touring series, Lisa and her husband own four other Model T's, a 1955 Chevy, a 1967 Corvette roadster and a 1969 Firebird convertible.

From the Ground Up, Lisa Epps and 35 Years of Service

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Lisa says she hopes to wrap up her fiscal career with EHSD in late March of 2022. She and her husband, Curtis, have plans to move to Colusa County where they have five acres of land.

“My husband wants a pig and a cow,” says Lisa. They also enjoy showing their collection of classic cars, which will keep them busy. Lisa’s prized vehicle is a 1969 convertible Pontiac Firebird that her husband rebuilt.

The couple also have plans to cruise the country in their RV, and visit a few NASCAR racetracks. “My career has been really fun and exciting. I’m gonna miss it,” says Lisa. “But I also look forward to doing something else.”



Recognize any of these EHSD Fiscal employees from back in 1992? Front Row (L-R): Jim Takahashi, Bonnie Bienkowski, Sherri Swartout, Lisa Epps. Back Row (L-R): Jim Morphy, Leslie Gutierrez, Cynthia Wright, Laura Pacheco

SAVE
The Date

★★★★★ EHSD ★★★★★ Years of Service Event

For the first time since the pandemic, EHSD is planning an in-person ceremony to honor more than 150 employees for their service. Among the honorees will be Lisa Epps for her 35 years of service in the Fiscal Department. The Years of Service event will be held on Thursday, January 27th, at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

The upcoming event will celebrate EHSD staff members who reached milestone years of service (10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35) **during 2021**.

LEARN! TAKE ACTION!

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

By Kimberly Baker, CFS Division Manager and Claudia Gonzalez, Administrative Services Assistant II

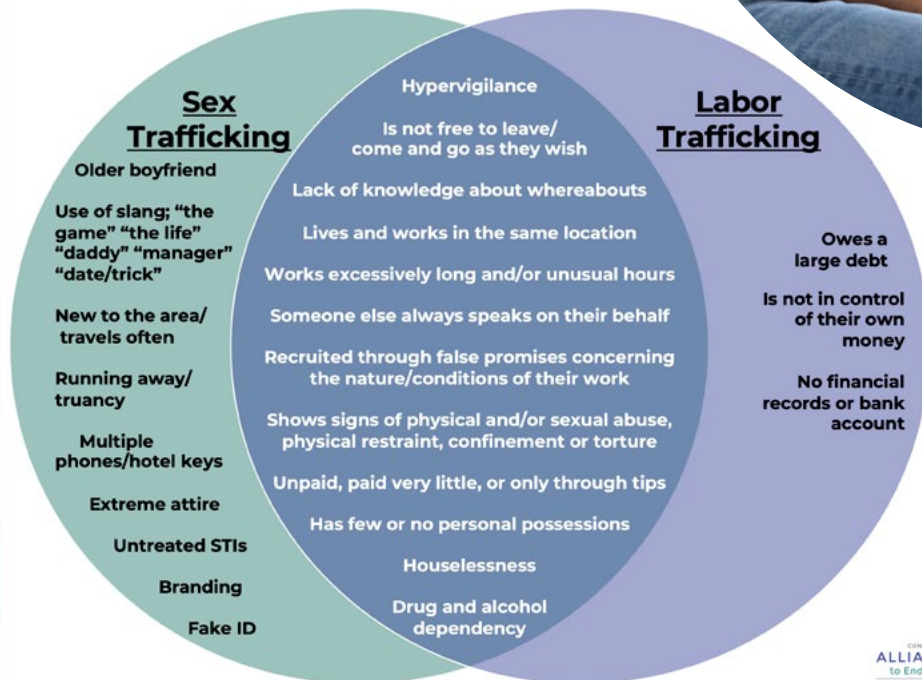
What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking can take many forms, but is generally categorized as either labor trafficking or sex trafficking. Human Trafficking is defined as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to perform a commercial sex act or forced labor. In the *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)*, force, fraud, or coercion do not need to be proven in youth under 18 because it is child abuse.

Both sex and labor trafficking happen in Contra Costa County and are not mutually exclusive – a survivor can be subjected to both sex and labor exploitation. By nature, human



Red flags/key indicators



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
 EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES
Building Brighter Futures Together

CONTRA COSTA ALLIANCE to End Abuse

Continued on next page

LEARN! TAKE ACTION!

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Continued from previous page

trafficking is a hidden crime and is often underreported significantly in labor trafficking reports as labor trafficking can be more challenging to identify than sex trafficking. Learning more about this complex topic can help create a community free of exploitation.

Caregivers with teens

In Contra Costa, the largest groups of children/youth with CSE involvement are between ages 15 and 18, with a significant increase at age 16. When creating a safety net for the CSEC population, caregivers are a vital component.

Adapted from "Tips for Parents to Protect Children from Predators" from the book "Walking Prey" written by survivor Holly Austin Smith

How to Get Involved

LEARN! Learn the warning signs of human trafficking and take online trainings at <https://www.contracostaalliance.org>.

TAKE ACTION! Report suspicious incidents. If a minor is involved, IMMEDIATELY call:

- Children and Family Services/Child Abuse 24-Hour Hotline: **1 (877) 881-1116**

Contra Costa County Resources

- [Community Violence Solutions 24-hour Crisis Line](#): **1 (800) 670-7273**
- Contra Costa District Attorney's Office Tip Line: **(925) 957-8658**

National HT Resource

- [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#): **1 (888) 373-7888**



CONNECT WITH CFS CSEC TEAM. Contact Children and Family Services for CSEC-specific inquiries and resources: CFSCSEC@ehsd.cccounty.us. Gain more information at: <https://ehsd.org/children/csec-commercially-sexually-exploited-children/>

JOIN A COALITION. The Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition meets quarterly to continue learning about human trafficking, share best practices and resources, collaborate and connect. E-mail Claudia Gonzalez at cgonzalez@ehsd.cccounty.us to join.

CFS Shows Its Holiday Spirit

By Ariana Martinez, Social Services Staff Development Specialist, CFS

Winter brings colder weather and fewer hours of sunlight, but it can also usher in the joy of bringing people together with festive spirits. Children and Family Services' Healthy Workplace (HWP) Committee sought to spread holiday cheer throughout the offices by hosting a CFS Winter Holiday Spirit Week from December 6 through 10, 2021. Friendly competition between offices was encouraged to reward the most spirited team with the most participants dressed up for the theme of the day.

Monday began with teams lighting up their offices for a "Winter Lights" theme, by shining brightly in lights, sequins, and anything else that gleamed. Tuesday had folks showing off

their awesome Holiday winter socks like sock stars. Everyone wore their ugly sweaters on Wednesday to show just how ugly winter sweaters can get. Contrary to the weather forecast, there was a "Snow Day" in the office on Thursday, with groups keeping nice and toasty by bundling up in scarves, gloves, and winter hats. The week wrapped with a "Dress Silly Day" on Friday featuring the silliest winter clothes and accessories you ever did see.

Thank you to all who participated! It was a fun-filled week enjoyed by many, but ultimately only one office could win it all. And the winner is... East County office!



UGLY SWEATER DAY – (Sitting R-L): Brittanie Mills, Pat Ensley. (Standing R-L): Ariana Martinez, Kimberly Baker, Mari Solis, Darlene Ramos. [CLICK](#) the play button to see more of your fellow co-workers.

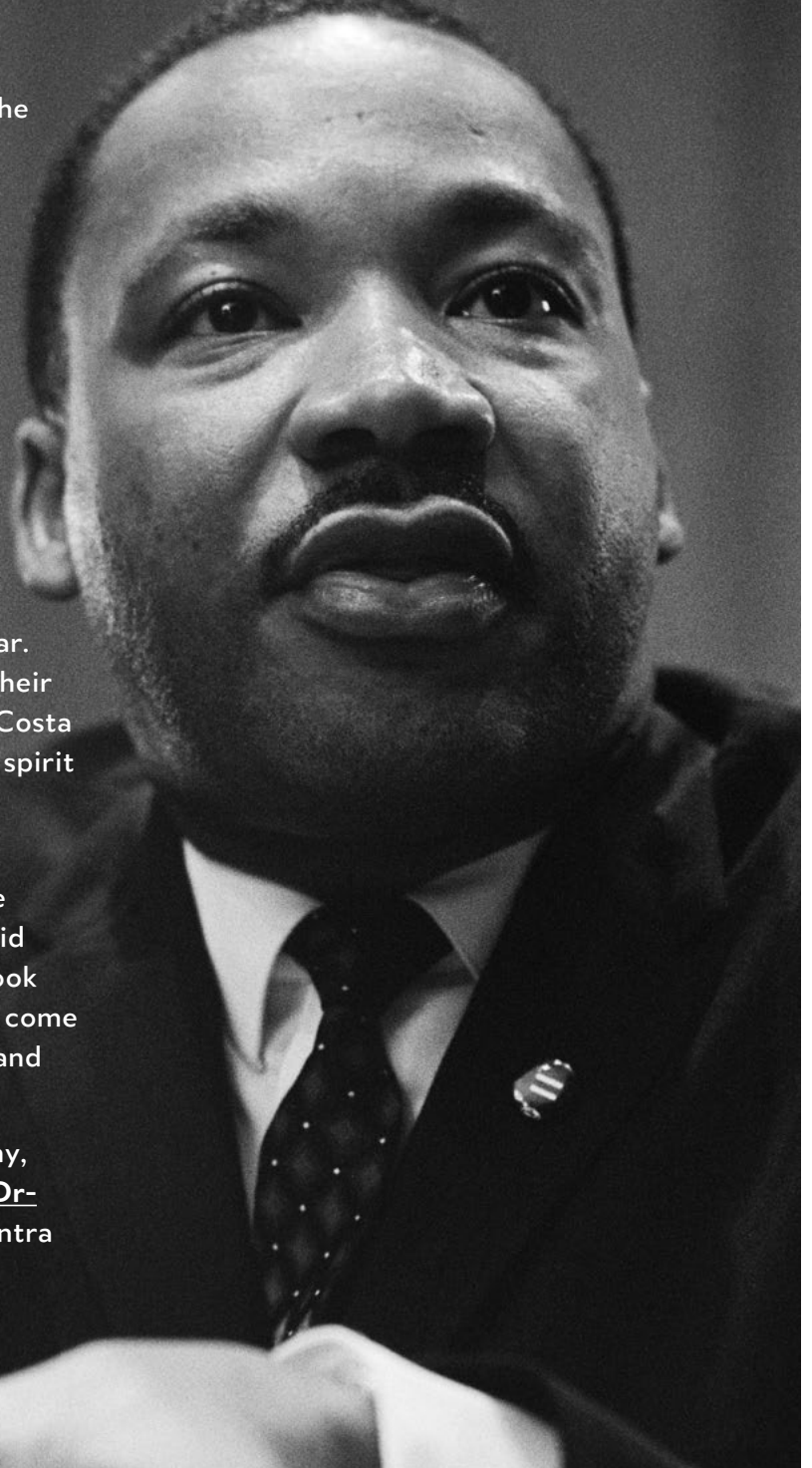
Contra Costa County Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarians of the Year Awards at 44th Annual Commemoration Event

Contra Costa County will commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the 44th Annual Ceremony. The Board of Supervisors invites the public to the ceremony on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 11 a.m. This year's theme is "One People, One Nation, One Dream."

Gigi Crowder, Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and a Concord resident, will receive countywide recognition as the Adult Humanitarian of the Year, and Kaia Morgan, a senior at Ygnacio Valley High School in Concord, as Student Humanitarian of the Year. The recognition for the two honorees is for their leadership, advocacy, and service to Contra Costa County, its residents and communities in the spirit of Dr. King's work and achievements.

"Together, we will commemorate Dr. King and commit to improving the lives and future of our children and community members," said Board Chair, Supervisor Diane Burgis. "We look forward to having you join us at the event to come together and work toward a common vision and goals of acceptance, tolerance, and respect."

To learn more about the Dr. King Ceremony, visit <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/5307/Dr-Martin-Luther-King-Jr-Ceremony> on the Contra Costa County website.



Equity and Inclusion Team's Mission

By Iliana Choate, Staff Development Specialist

The Equity & Inclusion Core Team has been working diligently on a mission statement that reflects our commitment to EHSD, staff members, and the people we serve. This mission statement signals our dedication to the crucial work needed to ensure equity and inclusion for all.

EHSD Equity & Inclusion Team Mission Statement:

The Equity and Inclusion Core Team strives to sustain a healthy work environment by accepting, welcoming and embracing people of all diverse backgrounds. By driving the necessary

work, our goal is to improve and secure fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement of all EHSD employees and to improve and secure fair treatment, access, opportunity and support to our clients.

The role of the EHSD Equity & Inclusion Core Team is to engage in planning, assessment, training, implementation and evaluation of equity and inclusion policies, programs and practices at EHSD. Equity will include the fair treatment, access, and opportunity for all staff and the people we serve despite their race, color, ethnicity, nationality, religion, socioeconomic status, veteran status, education, marital status, language, age gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, genetic information, and learning styles.



EHSD Outreach in Bay Point

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

It was a chilly December Saturday, but that didn't stop EHSD's Outreach & Education team from serving community members at the Bay Point Immigration Fair at Ambrose Community Center. Stand Together Contra Costa organized the December 11th event.

4 Our Families Navigator **Maria Muñoz** and Social Service Program Assistant **Sophia Moreno** connected with East County residents to offer information about applying for services and other programs. They even provided a case update to a client, and assisted another with setting up an account through IRS.gov to track Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments.

"I really enjoyed myself and I am glad I was able to make myself available to our community," said Sophia. "It was nice to be able to connect with other organizations to gather information about services they provide, so we can provide to our clients."

Willie Balitaan, senior social services Information Systems Analyst, was on hand once again to help provide IT support to Maria and Sophia. Read more about Willie as a Customer Service Champion on page 16.

Thank you to Maria, Sophia and Willie for being dedicated to our community members and serving on the outreach team.



Sophia Moreno and Maria Muñoz helped direct potential clients to the many EHSD services available to new immigrants.

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.](#)

More information from Personnel Services on page 14

Experience CSB Connect! New Website Racking Up Visits

By Ritche Martija, CSB Business Systems Analyst

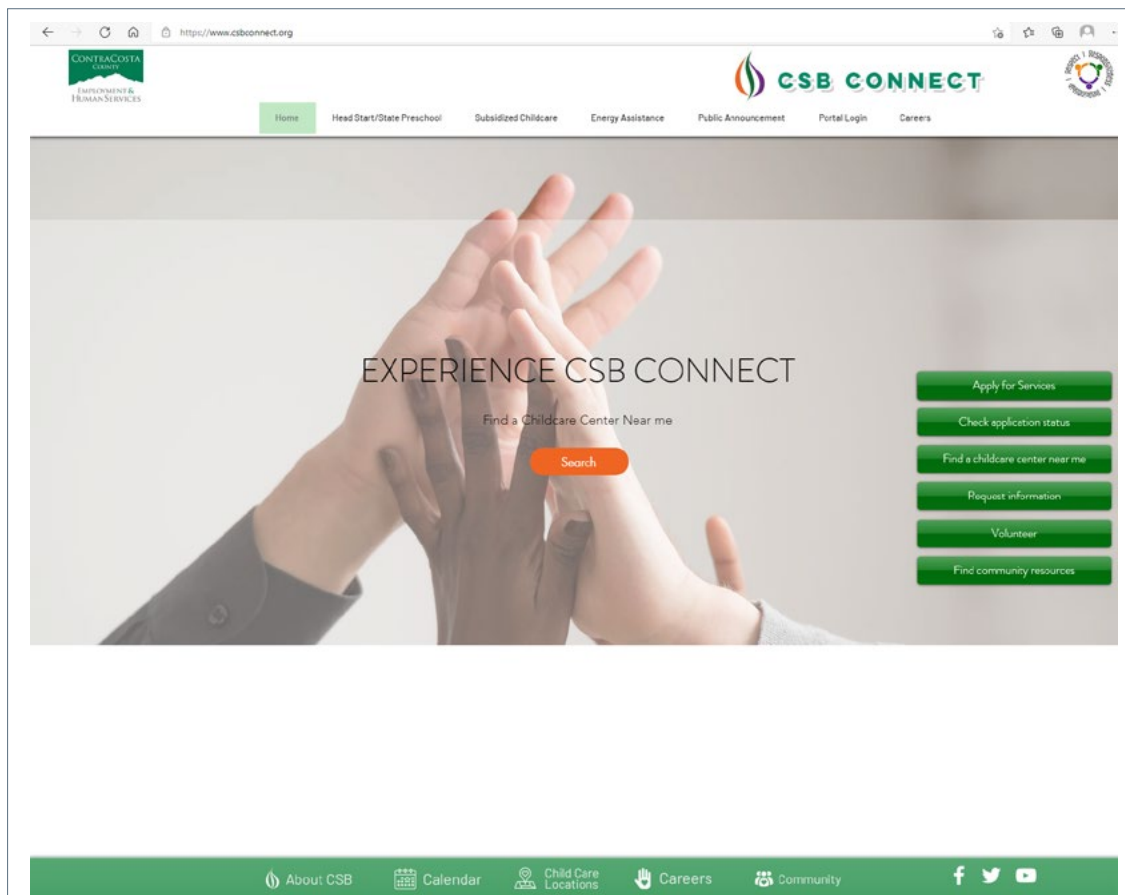
The Community Services Bureau (CSB) launched CSBConnect.org to enhance its digital marketing campaign to reach out to and bring in potential clients as well as advertise hiring opportunities to assist with our teaching staff recruitment.

Phase one of the CLOUDS Portal development, which was recently completed, focused on the customer-facing experience by providing clients with information on CSB programs, such as Head Start, State Preschool Childcare, Subsidized Childcare services, and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; and a way to apply for any of these services online directly into CSB's CLOUDS Intake processing system.

Clients can locate Childcare Center locations, Find community resources and view CSB weekly Public Announcements.

In the two months since going live, the portal has increased visibility, with an average of 1500 visits in November 2021, and continues to grow.

CSB's Business Systems Unit is currently working on phase two of this project, which will focus on staff and client portal features, such as Client Appointment Management, Events Calendar, Education Progress Reports, direct communications, and with more to come as [CSBConnect.org](https://www.csbconnect.org) continues to develop a more customer-friendly clouds-based platform.



Well, Well, Wellness (and Self-Care) at CSB

By Isabel Renggenathen, CSB Assistant Director-Project, and Monica DeVera, Administrative Services Assistant III

The Community Services Bureau (CSB) has spotlighted wellness over the past few years, even more so during the pandemic. On November 17th, CSB hosted its first Employee Wellness Day for Head Start and Early Head Start programs with a total of 155 staff members in various roles across the bureau who participated. The purpose of Wellness Day was to provide an interactive professional development workshop with hands-on activities promoting self-care and wellness. The day also served as an opportunity to strengthen relationships among individual program units.

Staff spent half the day in a virtual training on “Culturally Responsive Self-Care Practices for Early Childhood Educators,” presented by **Julie Kurtz** and **Crystal McClendon-Gourdine**. For the other half, program units and sites planned wellness activities unique to their needs and definition of self-care and wellness. Some went for group walks, some did yoga/meditation, some painted to classical music. While the activities varied, the overall goal was to remind us that practicing wellness and self-care are vital, and that it looks different for everyone.

Staff at Bayo Vista created collages.



Staff at GMC worked on canvas paintings.



At Los Arboles, staff painted and decorated canvas bags.



At Fairgrounds, staff played games like Jenga and Uno.



Fitness: Making it a Habit

By Cheryl Leonor, Administrative Services Assistant III

It's one thing to start an exercise or activity program. It's quite another to turn it into a habit so that you're staying active week in and week out. If you're having problems staying with your plan, don't worry. You're not alone.

You'll be glad to hear there are plenty of tips and tricks you can use to get yourself back on track and stay there.

Many of the benefits of being active, like having more energy and just feeling better, happen soon after you become more active. But some of the most important health benefits come with being active over time.



Magellan Ascend

- Your reason for wanting to stay active is very important. It won't work if you're doing it because someone else—your spouse, your children, your doctor—wants you to. You have to want it.
- If you started a program to get more active but don't feel like you're making any progress, it may be time to update your goals.
- If you started a program to get more active but are having trouble keeping it going, it may help to figure out what's getting in your way. Then you can figure out how to work around those barriers.
- Keep at it, even if you slip up along the way. It can take months of repetition to form a habit, so every day is a step in the right direction.

If you haven't started a plan yet to get more active, read "Fitness: Adding More Activity to Your Life" at www.magellanascend.com.

UPCOMING WEBINAR:

Our Program: Benefits to Help you Lead a Thriving Life January 12

Register for this webinar to:

- Identifying the components of your program.
- Explaining how to access a variety of resources, tools and services.
- Describing what to expect when contacting your program.

Missed the live webinar? 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."



By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager

The final count is happening now, and soon the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano will reveal the winner of the 2021 Counties Care Holiday Food Fight. Which county will bring home the Big Apple trophy?

While trophies, prizes and fun activities are all part of the annual friendly competition, the most important aspect is raising money to support the nutritional needs of our most vulnerable community members. Thank you to all EHSD staff members who participated in fundraising events and/or donated online to help in the 2021 campaign. You showed compassion and generosity through your gifts.

The Food Bank continues responding to the overwhelming needs of community members who are still working through the financial devastation of losing jobs, small businesses or homes before and during the pandemic. Ongoing support for the Food Bank is one way we can help families have good, nutritious food on their tables, and EHSD's involvement in the Holiday Food Fight is an extension of our human services work.

We will announce the final results of the 2021 campaign as soon as possible. For a look at how EHSD and the County did a year ago in the 2020 Holiday Food Fight, take a look at the Food Bank's awards video: [Counties Cares Awards 2020 Contra Costa - YouTube](#)



Kudos!

Customer Service Champions

These individuals are being recognized for going the extra mile by delivering excellent service to our customers. They went above and beyond in their willingness to help and demonstrate EHSD's emphasis on providing exemplary customer service. Congratulations on a job well done!

Shelly Rodrigues

By Ann Barrett, IHSS Division Manager, Aging & Adult Services



Every morning I walk into a bright and energetic "Good Morning" from **Shelly Rodrigues**. She has been a great resource in pulling reports

and providing historical data for the IHSS program.

Shelly is always asking if she can be of additional assistance. Recently she has been a tremendous help for all in the Adult & Aging Bureau by scheduling interviews, developing organizational charts, logging stats amongst many other things. Shelly always has a "can do" attitude. She is positive, reliable and kind to all. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, and is very quick and efficient in all that is asked of her!

It has been an honor to work with Shelly. She has been a tremendous assistance to the Bureau, Division, and me. Shelly is an asset to EHSD.

Willie Balitaan

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager



EHSD's Outreach and Education activities are one of the ways we get to connect with Contra Costa community members. We are fortunate to have many dedicated staff members who step up on a regular basis

to help represent EHSD at community events. One of them is **Willie Balitaan**, Senior Social Services Information Systems Analyst.

Over the past several years, Willie has been generous with his time and energy outside of his regular work hours, providing IT support at community events for our workers who assist with eligibility checks, applications, and information about EHSD programs and services. I cannot recall a time when Willie did not willingly step up to be part of an outreach event. Not only does he transport the necessary IT equipment to and from the location, but he also hauls supply boxes, signage, tables and chairs when needed. He does all this with a positive attitude and without complaint, and then accommodates the needs of staff members as they help our customers.

Continued on next page



Willie Balitaan

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Willie has recently moved on from his IT role, and is now in the IT CalWIN Division focusing on the transition to CalSAWS. This means he will not be as available for EHSD's Outreach & Education events. No matter where Willie is or who he is working with, I am certain he is continuing to connect with all of us as internal customers through his kindness, humility and sense of humor.

Thank you, Willie, for the opportunity to rely on you for so many outreach events, and for your ongoing dedication to EHSD!



EMPLOYMENT &
HUMAN SERVICES



We Care...You Care

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



Way to Go, BPR Team!

By Rebecca Darnell, WFS Deputy Director

Congrats to the Business Process Redesign (BPR) Team for an excellent presentation on December 7th. In addition to the presenters, the following staff have been participating in developing recommendations for business process improvements. Great work everyone!

Lloyd Amog
Celeste Dubay
Lora Duncan
Kathleen Dumlao
Shari Garrity
Chekesha Jackson
Claudia Lam

Susan Kraft
Mattie Mishork
Marie Mosley
Vince Odusanya
Finaith Prak
Stephen Quesada
Patricia Richards

Terri Rose
Tara Segura
Rosalie Uy
Angela Verarde
Guy Walker



CalFresh ME Recognition

By Rebecca Darnell, Deputy Director Workforce Services

Every year, EHSD has a CalFresh program review called the Management Evaluation (ME). Thanks to all the staff who assisted with this year's ME, it was the best evaluation yet. For the first time, there were no findings in the area of program access...WOW! Hercules and Stanwell had no findings...EXCELLENT! There were far fewer finding than in previous MEs... Great job!!

Special thanks to the following staff:

Aaron Perez
Amber Sandoval-Sullivan
Andrea Kurek
Angelica Chaidez
Angelique Robinson
Angela Verarde
Anna Larsen
Beverly De Annunzio
Brittany Melendez
Brooke Cordero
Carlos Colemnares
Catrina Kilgore
Cheryl Keil
Christina Bess
Dasaundra Bennett
Dawn Faoliu

Dayana Rodriguez
Emilio Alvarez
Gabriela Perez
Gloria Coffey
Gloria Untalan
Ian Harryman
Iveth Carrasco
Janae Moore
Janeen Lawson
Janeth Ramos
Jason Bernard
Jazmin Gutierrez
Jennifer Miller
Josette Alvarado
Kathleen Khalik
Kylie Bigornia
Lena Lawrence

Linda Taber
Linda Washington
Lindsey Marshall
Lori Juarez
Maria Preciado
Michael Schwartz
Michelle Collins
Michelle Milum
Monique Cooper
Nadiya Salcedo
Nicole Wilson
Omar Pastora
Patricia Ruiz
Regina Walker
Rosalinda Hernandez
Rose Martinez
Shelley Nickerson

Shelly Maguire
Shirley Rudy
Sonia Sandoval
Sophia Moreno
Sorina Perez Diaz
Susan Childers
Susanna Arevalo
Tierra Gaston
Tiffany Armstrong
Tim Stiles
Tomi Smith
Venetta Gilbert
Winslow Clepper
Yesenia Martinez
Yvette Hall





SERVICE AWARDS | RETIREES | NEW EMPLOYEES

SERVICE AWARDS

30 YEARS

Leona Hartmann, Senior Staff Assistant, AAS
Drina Rowland, EHS Division Manager, WFS

25 YEARS

Monica Garcia, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS
Carl Nishi, Social Work Supervisor II, CFS

20 YEARS

Veronica Alvidrez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, AAS
Marta Gordovez, Associate Teacher-Project, CSB
Yvette Hall, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS
Olivia Martini, Social Worker, AAS

10 YEARS

Reina Aguilar-Ortega, Secretary-Journey Level, WFS
Salvadora Castro, Senior Clerk-Project, CSB
Michael Chatham, Eligibility Worker III, WFS/AAS
Cynthia Harris, Eligibility Worker II, WFS
Milton Johnson, Clerk-Specialist Level, CFS
Carlo Moore, Social Worker, AAS

Save the Date! • January 27th, 2022

EHSD “Years of Service” is a special event acknowledging dedicated service to the Contra Costa Community. Next month, we will celebrate EHSD staff members who reached milestone years of service (10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35) during 2021. We look forward to returning to a live, in-person event. More info to come!

RETIREES

Karla Cottom, Clerk-Senior Level, CFS
Theodora Jackson, Eligibility Worker III, WFS
Cecilia Merchan, Account Clerk Supervisor, AAS

Susan Palfini, Secretary-Journey Level, CFS
Kristine Phelan, Social Worker, WFS
Debbie Stehr, Social Worker III, AAS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Brandi Benjamin, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Vanalashkmi Boorada, Info Sys Prog/Analyst IV, Admin
Romina Gonzalez, Intermediate Clerk, CSB
George Hakes, Administrative Analyst, Admin

Aryanna Jefferson, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB
Dara Morataya, Clerk-Experienced Level, CSB
Todd Tomsic, Account Clerk-Exp Level, Admin

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

January 2022

- HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH
- ELIGIBILITY WORKERS MONTH
- JANUARY 1 – New Year’s Day
- JANUARY 9 – National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- JANUARY 10 – National Clean Off Your Desk Day
- JANUARY 11 – Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- JANUARY 17- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)
- JANUARY 18 – 44th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ceremony (Martinez)
- JANUARY 27 – EHSD Years of Service Event
- JANUARY 28 – National Have Fun at Work Day

February 2022

- BLACK HISTORY MONTH
- FEBRUARY 1 – Chinese New Year (Year of the Tiger)
- FEBRUARY 2 – Groundhog Day
- FEBRUARY 14 – Valentine’s Day
- FEBRUARY 17 – National Random Acts of Kindness Day
- FEBRUARY 18 – National Caregivers Day
- FEBRUARY 21 – Presidents’ Day (holiday)
- FEBRUARY 28 - Linus Pauling 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

January 6 or 20 • 4 to 6 p.m.
 February 3 or 17 • 4 to 6 p.m.
 March 3 or 17 • 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at www.ehds.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 18

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.