

Headlines

CalSAWS Goes Live!

Celebrating 35 Years of Service
Stephanie Potts & Linda Linnell

**How Social Workers Find
Inspiration in Each Other**

**Office Innovation:
The Black History Wall**



CalSAWS is Live!

Yes, the CalWIN to CalSAWS conversion is complete! We experienced a few bumps, twists and turns leading up to and during the transition. Despite that, this monumental system migration went fairly smoothly with a successful outcome when CalSAWS went LIVE at 8:20 the morning of Monday, February 27th.

Systems Team

Thank You, CalSAWS Team

- CalSAWS Systems Analysts
- CalSAWS Help Desk
- EHSD Division Managers
- Staff Development
- Subject Matter Experts
- Change Network Champions
- Information Technology (IT)
- Department of Information Technology (DoIT)
- Community Relations/ Media
- EHSD CalSAWS Steering Committee
- EHSD Executive Oversight Committee



Thank you to the Systems Team! It was years in the making and our CalSAWS Go-Live was successful because of your hard work and dedication!

Kudos and much appreciation to **Eileen Olson** (Lead Division Manager), **Josephine Chew** (Social Service Information System Analyst), **Roy DeLa Vega** (Sr. Social Service Information System Analyst), **Asher Fawad** (Administrative Support), **Shari Garrity** (Sr. Social Service Information System Analyst), **David Griglock** (Social Service Information System Analyst), **Teri Howe** (Sr. Social Service Information System Analyst), **Zenaida Manalo** (Clerk Specialist), **Andy Nguyen** (Social Service Information System Analyst), **America Patterson** (Help Desk Supervisor), **Terri Rose** (Sr. Social Service Information System Analyst), **Chidambaram Subramanian** (Information Systems Programmer/Analyst IV).

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CalSAWS is Live!

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CalSAWS Project Support

Alice Dietrich
Dan Young
Kathleen McQuaid
Aaron Perez
Beverly Wright
Sebastian Gomez

Thank you for the leadership through the transition

Tracy Murray, AAS Director & WFS Interim Director
Rebecca Darnell, Workforce Services Deputy Director
Carolyn Foudy, Aging & Adult Services Deputy Director
Marla Stuart, EHSD Director

CalSAWS Command Center

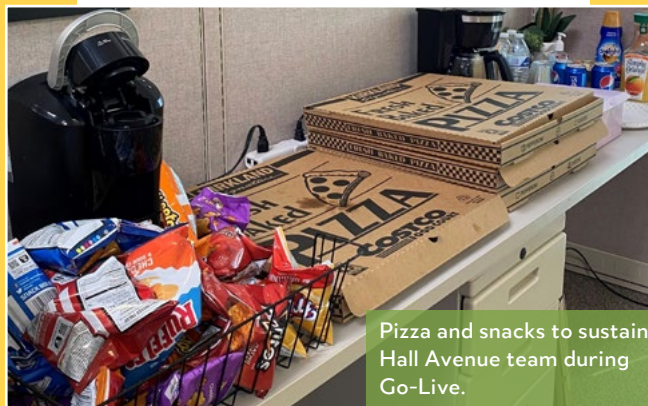


Eileen Olson, Lead Division Manager, welcomes everyone to the CalSAWS Command Center at Ellinwood



Daisy Villasenor, CalSAWS Regional Manager, welcomes everyone to the Command Center

1275 Hall Avenue, Richmond



Pizza and snacks to sustain Hall Avenue team during Go-Live.

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CalSAWS is Live!

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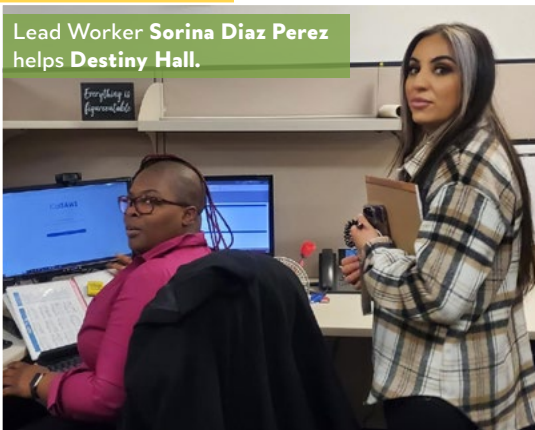
1305 Macdonald, Richmond



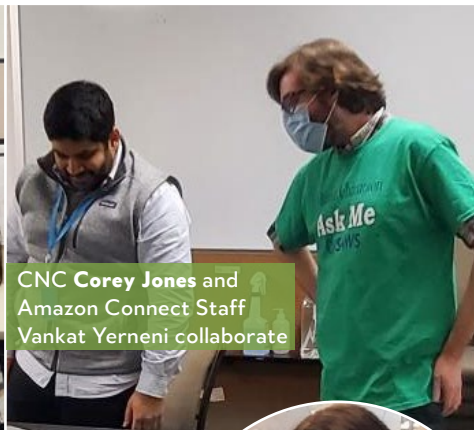
The awesome A.R.T. (Activities & Recognition Team) at 1305 Macdonald kicked off Go-Live with a fabulous mobile continental breakfast cart and raffles! Team member **Jylyn Laeson** and **Rubi Dimas** visited each staff member, served a plethora of breakfast options, and raffled 20 prizes! Thank you to our A.R.T. members, and a special thanks to **Stephen Quesada** for leading this amazing Go-Live event!

Medi-Cal and CalFresh Service Center – East (Antioch)

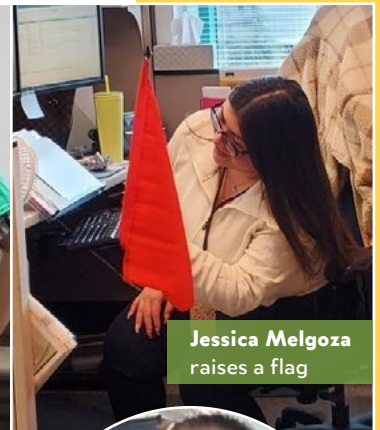
Lead Worker **Sorina Diaz Perez** helps **Destiny Hall**.



CNC **Corey Jones** and Amazon Connect Staff **Vankat Yerneni** collaborate



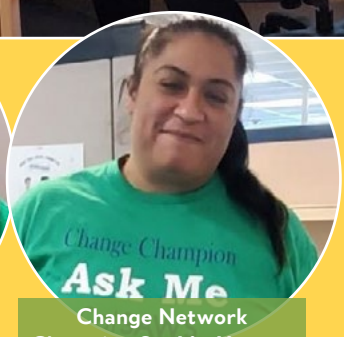
Jessica Melgoza raises a flag



Cavallo CNCs, Supervisors and Lead Workers went the extra mile to help their colleagues at MCSC jump into CalSAWS and troubleshoot the new system.



Sonia Sandoval



Change Network Champion Sophia Moreno

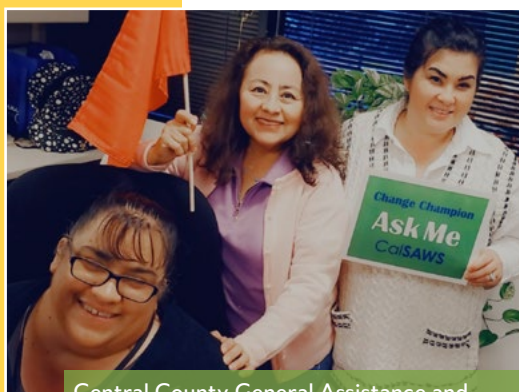
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CalSAWS is Live!

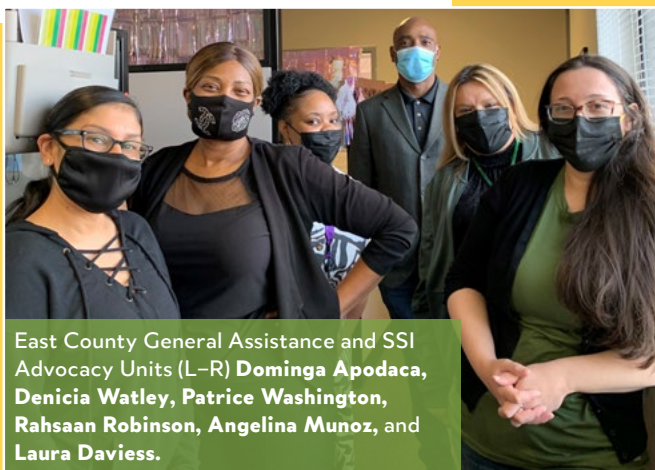
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Aging & Adult Services – GA, IHSS, SSI Advocacy

Kudos to the General Assistance, IHSS Benefits, and SSI Advocacy Division for showing team support in preparation for CalSAWS implementation. They managed their workload while also assisting as Subject Matter Experts, Change Network Champions, CalSAWS Workgroup members, Sandbox Coordinators, and User Acceptance testers for CalSAWS. On this first day of Go Live, they continue to work hard to meet the needs of the clients we serve during this transition.



Central County General Assistance and Policy staff representing CalSAWS Spirit! (L-R) **Reina De La Rosa**, **Mercedes Jamie**, and **Magdalene Gabel**.



East County General Assistance and SSI Advocacy Units (L-R) **Dominga Apodaca**, **Denicia Watley**, **Patrice Washington**, **Rahsaan Robinson**, **Angelina Munoz**, and **Laura Daviess**.



IHSS Benefits Unit staff (Elinwood) waving their CalSAWS "Help" flags on Go-Live Day! (L-R): **Mark Kim**, **Brianna Morris**, **Elizabeth Crowe**, **Oscar Menendez**, and **Kevin Frandsen**.



I Spy...
Notice anything different about our front cover?

EMPLOYEE Appreciation Day MARCH 3RD

I am grateful to the CFS staff for giving their best efforts each and every day in helping to ensure the safety and well-being of children in the County. I am also grateful for the kindness and compassion that is given to our children, families, community and to each other as we do this meaningful work together. I express my sincerest appreciation to all.

Thank You!
– Kathy Marsh, Children & Family Services



Thank you to our Administrative Services Bureau staff members – whose support is largely behind the scenes – for providing assistance that enables our staff to meet our department’s goals and provide services to our customers!

– Emilia Gabriele, EHSD Chief Deputy Director



I am grateful to WDB staff for going above and beyond. We can always count on our staff to support the mission and vision of the department. Thank you to our EHSD workers for their dedication to the communities in which they serve. EHSD employees are the best because the passion and dedication they provide to our most vulnerable population is often a thankless job, but they do it the best and with a smile!

– Tamia Brown, Workforce Development Board



I truly value that you choose to dedicate your professional time, labor, intellect and creativity to delivering Employment and Human Services in Contra Costa County. More specifically, I am filled with gratitude for your commitment to promoting social and racial justice for all residents of our community. We excel at embodying our value of **embracing change!**

Here are some changes we collectively implemented this past year:

- Migrated to CalSAWS!
- Implemented dual-program (Medi-Cal and CalFresh) services!
- Launched EHSD Live! to expand communication!
- Launched [public facing maps](#) of our services!
- Expanded housing services for child welfare involve families and youth!
- Expanded placement options for complex needs foster youth!
- Eliminated our backlog for IHSS intake!
- Implemented the Measure X Navigators services!
- Expanded technology and nutrition services for older adults!
- Implemented standardized daily monitoring in our child care centers to improve safety!
- Updated all the technology in our Comprehensive One-Stop center!

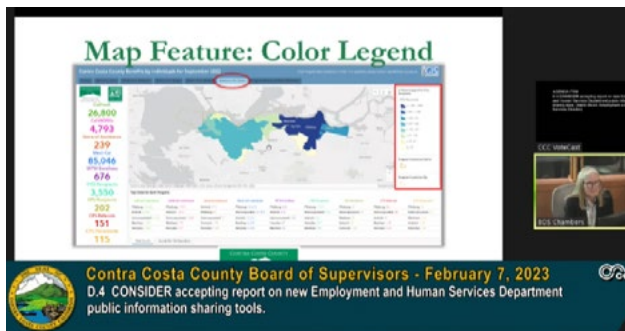
In EHSD we are **Building Brighter Futures Together** and I am honored to serve beside you in **supporting, protecting, and empowering** all Contra Costa County residents!

– Marla Stuart, EHSD Director



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EHSD Debuts Powerful Tools Showing How It Supports Community Members



Data can be a powerful storyteller. At EHSD an exciting new set of data tools paints a rich picture of our support and engagement with the community we serve.

The **Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD)** has launched two new complementary public-facing data products: the **Benefits Program Geographic Information System (GIS) Map** and the **EHSD Interactive Program Data Dashboard**.

The EHSD Benefits Program GIS Map provides enhanced insights into how we serve our community through key benefit programs – across the county and by individual districts.

The EHSD team, along with County Department of IT (DoIT) staff, created robust maps that depict enrollment in major EHSD programs by Supervisor District.

Two versions of the map – count by number of “Individuals” and “Households” – contain data for the entire county; data by Supervisor District; data by city; and interactive shaded zip code blocks that depict program participants by geographic location. The dashboards demonstrate that our Social Services programs support people in every corner of the county.

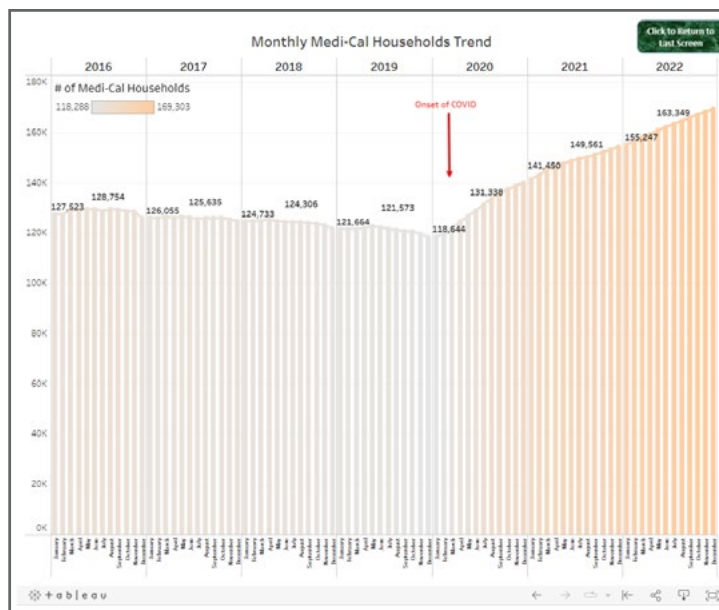
Since 2019, EHSD has publicly posted monthly data dashboards that show how many people we assist through key programs such as CalFresh, Medi-Cal and more. The next generation EHSD Interactive Program Data Dashboard has additional dimensions and analytical features.

The Interactive Program Data Dashboard is a leading-edge platform with easy-to-understand visualizations of our program activity. EHSD.org visitors can view and explore the monthly data in three ways: trend lines, mouse-over pop-ups, and bar graph color density to reflect volume.

The trend line for each program is an important new feature, especially in light of the varied impacts of COVID-19. For example, enrollment in CalFresh and Medi-Cal have risen dramatically since March 2020, but referrals to Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) dipped initially before returning to a more normal pattern. Through the years, users can also see the effect of other economic and policy factors – such as the decline in CalFresh and CalWORKS enrollment during the strong economy prior to COVID.

Users interested in seeing the history and the trends also have the option of downloading the raw data behind the dashboards into an Excel spreadsheet, in order to create custom analyses.

The Benefits Program GIS Maps and Interactive Program Data Dashboard are available at the EHSD Public Information Sharing Tools Landing Page at EHSD Program Data Dashboard | EHSD.



Social Worker Month

Finding Inspiration in Each Other

By Alan Wang, Community Relations Media Specialist

Pascualito Co was working a manufacturing job when he had his first encounter with Contra Costa County social services. He walked into the intake office at 151 Linus Pauling, in Hercules, looking for In-Home Support Services for his elderly parents. That's where he was greeted by then Senior Level Clerk **James Gibson**, who is now the Clerical Supervisor, in the only way he knew how – with a warm heart and a genuine interest in the well-being of Pascualito's elderly parents.

"I was amazed by the way he treated me. And I thought to myself, 'This would be a cool place to work and do what he did for me,'" says Pascualito.



Pascualito Co says **James Gibson's** warm and genuine customer service skills prompted him to apply for a job at EHSD and become a Social Worker. **CLICK on the play button** to watch James' reaction when Pascualito thanks him for inspiring him to work at EHSD.

Pascualito applied and EHSD hired him as an Eligibility worker before he transitioned to become a Social worker. Today, he works with James at the same office where they met. But Pascualito never told

James how he inspired him until this *Headlines* interview brought it to light.

"That's awesome," said James. "Man, I always say that Pascualito is one of the best people we have here. That just made my day."

You never know how far that love and care will travel, and who it will inspire.

For **Aijah Smith**, her skills as a loving and caring social worker come from her two grandmothers. She eventually returned the favor as they became older and Aijah began assisting them in their twilight years.

"Yes, I had some early training," says Aijah. Today, her experience is helping in her position as an In-Home Support Services



Aijah Smith says she wishes she had known about In-Home Support Services when she was caring for her elderly grandmothers. Today she helps connect other elderly people with In-Home Support Services.

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Social Worker Month

Finding Inspiration in Each Other

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(IHSS) social worker for EHSD’s Aging and Adult Services Bureau.

Andoni Luzuriaga finds his inspiration and strength from his fellow social workers in Children & Family Services. It’s not uncommon to hear them poking fun at each other and exchanging friendly barbs between cubicles. It’s a way of coping and bonding in a stressful environment where Andoni and his co-workers deal with children who have been separated from their parents.



Aside from being a Continuing Services Social Worker III, Andoni Luzuriaga is a self-described Disney fanatic and proud Filipino American.

“When you learn about the real gritty details that go into these cases, it’s difficult to deal with,” says Andoni. “But being able to absorb these difficulties comes with the job.”

To hear more from Pascualito, James, Aijah, and Andoni, [CLICK HERE](#) to watch their video stories.

EMPLOYEE Appreciation Day MARCH 3RD

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To our Workforce Services staff – I am grateful for your persistence, resilience, and absolute commitment to customer service that continues as we shift to CalSAWS.

– Tracy Murray, Interim Director, Workforce Services



Thank you to Aging & Adult Services staff for always putting our clients first by keeping them safe and connecting them to benefits and services.

– Tracy Murray, Aging & Adult Services



The work our bureau does to serve communities in need is a powerful force for positive change, bringing hope and empowerment to those who need it most.

Thank you!

– Nic Bryant, Community Services Bureau



*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

Outreach Roundup

Restoring Hope & Community on February 23rd, Pittsburg

4 Our Families Navigators **Maria R. Muñoz** and **Sandra Zepeda-Lopez** showed up for our community members at the Pittsburg Youth Development Center to represent EHSD and share our services and programs.

The event was well organized with 45 vendors and more than 220 people in attendance. Music and raffles kept the event lively. Maria and Susan provided information on CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, General Assistance, and CW, GA, IHSS, and Navigation services. Additionally, the event provided a great opportunity to connect with our community partners and service providers.



Ali Saidi, Attorney at Law with the Public Defender's office, **Maria R. Muñoz** (Navigator), Lanett Williams, Project Manager with Stand Together Contra Costa, **Sandra Zepeda-Lopez** (Navigator)



Sandra Zepeda-Lopez and **Maria R. Muñoz**, 4 Our Families Navigators

Building Brighter Futures Together



Michelle Moorehead, Community Health Advocate with Center for Human Development, **Sandra Zepeda-Lopez** (Navigator), **Maria R. Muñoz** (Navigator)

Black History

Cavallo Staff Create Interactive Wall

By Renita Johnson, WFS Secretary-Journey Level

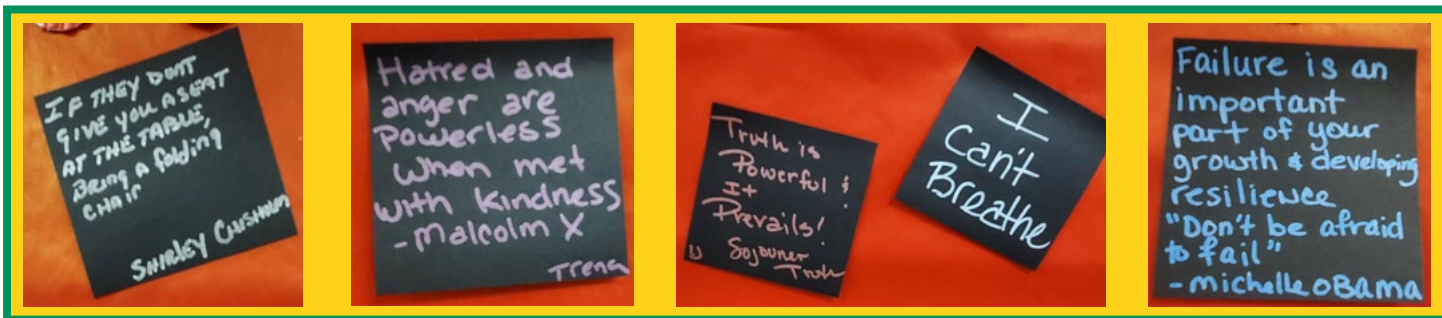


In previous years for Black History Month, I would place a poster every day referencing someone that made an impact in or on our Black History. This year I wanted to try and do something a little different. I wanted to incorporate everyone of every nationality. I had to come up with a way to do that and what better way than to have them tell us what they know, who inspires them or maybe has made some kind of impact in their lives from Black History.

Whether it be good or bad, old or new, happy or sad. We want to know. I wanted to spark people to share and have conversations. Even with that, I still

posted daily something that happened “On this day in Black History” for all 28 days of the month. Little snippets of important things that happened in Black History on days in February throughout history.

Although, we do not see hundreds of sticky notes on the wall, I know I have succeeded in doing what I set out to do. I have had numerous conversations with people telling me that they’ve enjoyed reading each sticky note on the wall and even researching things they’ve read. One Month can’t hold our history, so I don’t expect all things to be noted here, but hopefully this little wall is a start of spreading that knowledge.



Healthy Relationships

Contributed by Personnel Services

You've probably noticed that if the relationships in any part of your life become unhealthy, your day can feel tough. Fortunately, you can improve relationships at home, work, school and elsewhere in the community. Try these tips to strengthen your connections.

- First, treat others with kindness and respect, just as you'd like to be treated (i.e., the Golden Rule).
- Show interest in and appreciation for others. Ask people questions about their activities, and express encouragement and admiration for their efforts.
- Expand your circle of friends so you don't miss out on the great diversity of people all around you.
- Always work at relationship building. For example, offer an unexpected kindness or strike up a conversation with someone at work who's new to you.
- Listen actively, without distraction, so you understand the concerns, needs and priorities of others in your life.

Source: Healthwise Staff

Browse more articles at <https://member.magellanhealthcare.com/>



UPCOMING WEBINAR: Self-Care Isn't Selfish March 8

This webinar will:

- Describe how to prioritize self-care
- Learn how to create emotional balance in your life
- Identify ways to incorporate self-care into your daily routine

Missed the live webinar?

Webinars are listed in your Dashboard under "Upcoming". If you haven't signed up to use the County Employee Assistance Program yet, follow these two easy steps:

Step 1: Go to <https://member.magellanhealthcare.com/> and click on "Sign up."

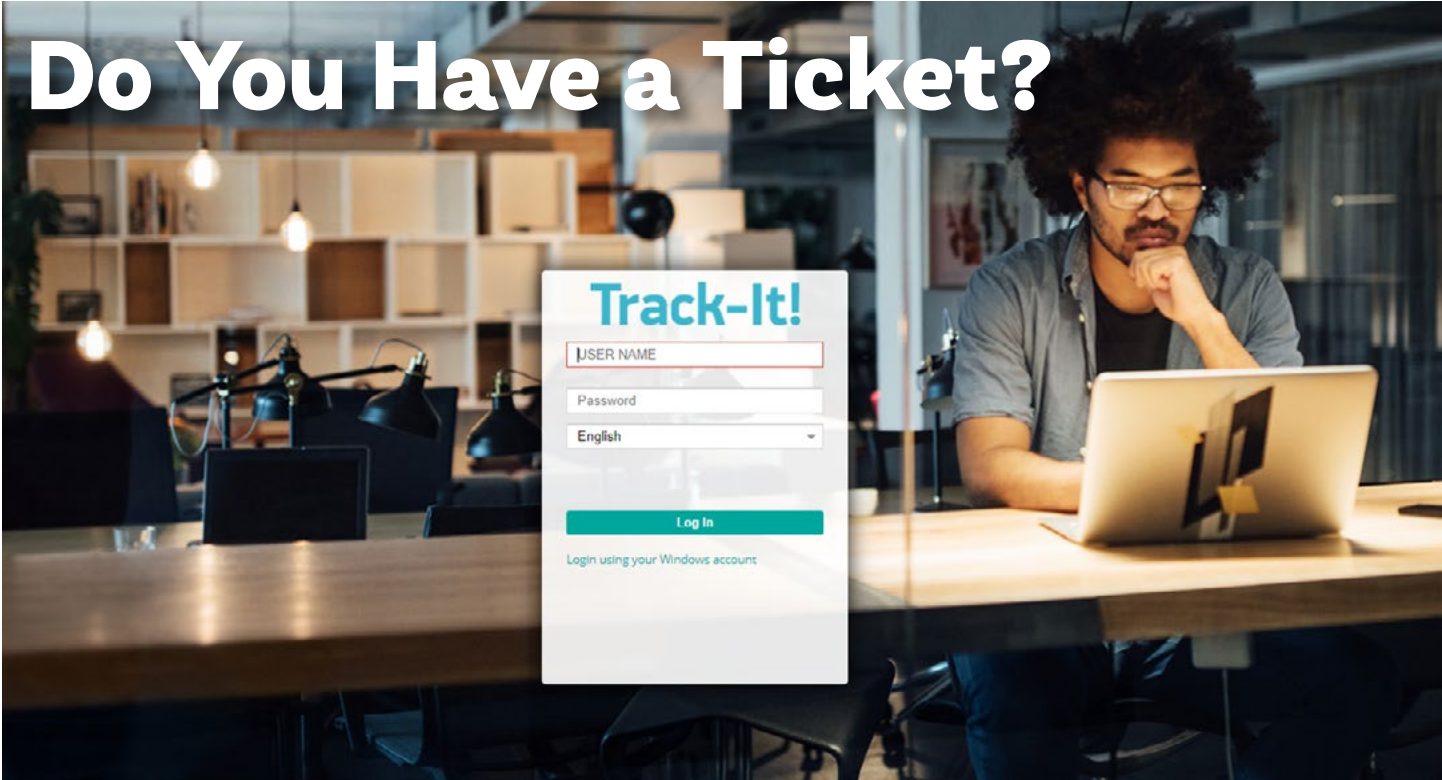
Step 2: Complete the online registration form and click on "Get Started."

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.](#)

Do You Have a Ticket?



Track-It!

USER NAME

Password

English

Log In

[Login using your Windows account](#)

By Cheryl Leonor, Administrative Services Assistant III

Personnel launched the Track-It ticketing system in 2021 to help employees and supervisors monitor their requests for Personnel and Payroll services. Since our launch, we received over 9,000 tickets! In case you haven't used Track-It yet, you have the ability to log into the [Self-Service portal](#) to create, update, or review status of your Personnel-related ticket.

What services can you request in Track-It? Requestors can select from an array of services such as Timesheet Adjustments, Work Schedule Changes, Replacement Badge Requests, Consulting with a Personnel Analyst, and much more! Check out the latest Track-It Tools by heading over to our [Personnel Page](#) for a description of

the transaction types offered through the system. Selecting the correct transaction type will help ensure your ticket is routed to the correct Personnel Team. From the Personnel Page, click on "Track-It Tools" for a list of frequently asked questions, updated Transaction Type Descriptions, and Quick Tips.

Can you still call or email a Personnel Team Member? Yes! You can contact Personnel via phone or email. However, you may be asked to create a ticket so we may better process your request.

If you have suggestions for improvement, create a Track-It ticket and select "01-Track-it Suggestion". Thank you for using Track-It!

Reeling in the Years Linda Linnell, Stephanie Potts Turn in 35 Years of Service Each

By Alan Wang, Community/Media Relations Specialist



Linda Linnell started her career with Contra Costa County at the District Attorney's Office in 1987, as a Clerk/Receptionist where she managed the login desk tracking all incoming police reports. In 1991, she moved to the Department of Child Support Services where she worked as a Child Support Specialist and located absent parents, established paternity, medical and child support orders. As a Child Support Lead she worked on the training team for five years. Linda worked as an Ombudsperson dealing with complaints and resolving issues for both custodial and non-custodial parents as a Level 2 Certified Trainer for California.

She eventually became a Child Support Supervisor where she oversaw the Establishment Team, the Enforcement Team, the Intake Team and the Public Service Drop-In team. Linda also formed the first-ever Spanish Speaking caseload for the department, and was the Administrator of the Department's Facebook social media page.

In 2015, Linda made her way to EHSD as a Staff Development Supervisor where she coordinated mandatory trainings for the Department's 1,800+ staff. She provided soft skills and leadership trainings, and worked closely with SMART (Staff Management Automated Reinforcement Training) administrators. She

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Reeling in the Years – Linda Linnell, Stephanie Potts, Turn in 35 Years of Service Each

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also managed the content creation for eLearning, and oversaw various internal trainings and programs like the EHSD Mentoring Program, Careers-in-Action and Facilitative Leadership.



“I’ve never worked at a place where there

is so much opportunity,” says Linda. “We tell new employees that you have the opportunity to get your foot in the door and go anywhere.” To hear Linda talk more about her career and the many opportunities at EHSD, CLICK the play button to watch her video story.

Stephanie Potts has seen a lot over her 35 years of service (going on 36) in Contra Costa County. In 1987, she began working for the Sheriff’s Department in a new program called the Career Development program where she helped former inmates seek employment. In 1992, EHSD hired Stephanie as an Experienced Level Clerk at 1305 McDonald Avenue, in Richmond.

“In 1995 I transferred to what they called the S.I.T. program. This is where they opened up a new welfare department in the community of North Richmond. I worked there as the Receptionist and a Unit Clerk,” says Stephanie. In 1996, she transferred to the EHSD in Martinez. “I was promoted to a

Senior Level Clerk where I worked the reception area taking applications from people applying for welfare, food stamps and Medi-Cal.”

In 2003, Stephanie joined Children and Family Services (CFS) at the Delta Fair office in Antioch, where she worked as a Receptionist Senior-Level clerk. “In 2005, I transferred to 2530 Arnold Avenue as a Senior Level Clerk and I was also the Floater Clerk there doing a variety of desk work.”

In 2009, Stephanie transferred into the CFS Discovery Unit as a Senior Level Clerk where

she handled highly sensitive information, and in 2016 she was promoted to her current position as a Clerical Specialist Tech.

Through it all, Stephanie says she has learned to pick her battles and there are times to humble yourself. You can watch Stephanie talk more about it by CLICKING the play button to her video story.

Hoa Van, Workforce Services Division Manager at the Hercules office, also reached her 35-year milestone at EHSD. Van is highly respected by her colleagues and is a well-regarded leader. We want to recognize Van for her strong example and unwavering commitment to serving her staff and our community members over the years!



CLICK on the play button to watch **Stephanie Potts** talk about her 35 years of service.

Paragons of Positivity–Winter 2023 CFS New Social Worker Graduates

By Pat Ensley and Ariana Martinez, CFS Staff Development Specialists

Children and Family Services (CFS) celebrated the successful completion of training by nine new Child Welfare Social Workers at the end of January. Amidst the outbreaks, CFS Director, **Kathy Marsh**, welcomed the group with inspiring words remotely during a hybrid graduation ceremony. CFS Division Manager, **Vicky Quinto**, awarded them graduation certificates in person alongside their Division Managers and Supervisors in attendance via Zoom and in person. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new Child Welfare Social Workers:

West County

- **Myles Burton** – Continuing Services
- **Jacqueta Miller** – Continuing Services
- **Rodrika Lacy** – Continuing Services
- **Heavenly Delgadillo** – Emergency Response
- **Sunita Frey** – Emergency Response

Central County

- **Alejandra Gonzalez** – Continuing Services
- **Amy Toomey** – Emergency Response
- **Ana Stewart** – Emergency Response

East County

- **Claudia Trost** – Continuing Services

Paragons of positivity. This group of new social workers started out from the get-go with a positive can-do attitude. They kept us laughing and on our toes with insightful and curious questions. The support that they gave each other was inspiring. This group of amazing social workers are a great mix of shiny pennies ready to take on the world with new ideas and pennies with a lovely patina of experience and compassion. All of these workers have a passion for helping families and youth. We are lucky that they decided that Contra Costa County was the place that they could help most.



New CFS Social Workers, Left to Right: **Myles Burton, Alejandra Gonzalez, Ana Stewart, Jacqueta Miller, Heavenly Delgadillo, Rodrika Lacy, Sunita Frey, Claudia Trost**



Top: Toni Morrison, Maxine Hong Kingston, Jovita Idar, Maya Angelou • Middle: Gerda Lerner, Gloria Steinem, Winona La Duke, Lillian Hellman
Bottom: Betty Soskin, Willa Cather, Gertrude Stein, Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History Month and “Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories” is the 2023 theme.

The White House proclamation states that Women’s History Month celebrates the countless women who have fought tirelessly and courageously for equality, justice, and opportunity. It also is a time to reaffirm our commitment to advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls in the United States and around the world.

According to the National Women’s History Alliance, the 2023 theme encourages recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, and more. It honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth, and reflecting the human condition decade after decade.

Learn more at <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/>



Holiday Food Fight 2022 – The results are in!

By Erika Ellis, ASAILL, Public Defender’s office & 2022 Holiday Food Fight Coordinator



It’s official. The winner for the Counties Care Holiday Food Fight...drum roll, please...is Solano County! Even though Contra Costa is not bringing home the Big Apple Award, YOU are all still champions. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. This past year we all saw price increases at grocery stores and gas stations, which affected us all—but that didn’t stop you from giving. Thank you for your outpouring of support and willingness to help your neighbors in need.

On March 21, 2023, at 9AM please tune in or attend the Board of Supervisors meeting to see the Holiday Food Fight awards presentation.

Solano County Raised \$62,455 toward this year’s campaign (an average of \$22.30 per employee). Contra Costa County raised \$53,483 (average of \$5.08 per employee). However, we all know that we are better together, and both counties raised a total of \$121,559 – that’s **243,120 meals for our neighbors in need**, and represents an increase of \$12,000 or 24,000 meals compared to last year. WOW!

Contra Costa County Awards

World Peas: 2nd Runner up for the 2022 Counties Care Holiday Food Fight
Contra Costa County \$56,870

Little Apple (Award between Districts 1–5 only): Supervisor Candace Andersen’s Office (Dist. 2).....\$567

Mini: Mini Departments (1–35): Treasurer-Tax Collector..... \$2,714

Small: Small Departments (36–100): County Counsel \$5,925

Mid-sized: Mid-Sized Departments (101–300): Conservation and Development.....\$7,030

Large: Large Departments (301+): Sheriff-Coroner\$8,485

Good Egg: Marisol Sloan – Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office

Heart and Soul: Ronda Boler, Treasurer-Tax Collector



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 demonstrate EHSD's emphasis on providing exemplary customer service. Congratulations on a job well done!

Angelique Robinson

Submitted by Lori Juarez – Workforce Services Specialist, MCSC

Supervisor: John Long

I have worked with **Angelique Robinson** on overtime (OT) for quite some time now and she consistently continues to make my job easier. Whenever I find a list, project, or case, that needs special attention, I know I can send it to Angelique and I know it will get taken care of quickly and accurately. Angelique is one of the most responsive OT workers – I can send a teams chat or email and she will respond within minutes if not immediately both on weeknight OT and Saturdays.

This Saturday I had an urgent case list that needed immediate attention. I sent the WDT export to Angelique and asked her to assist. She has managed to get through a large portion of the cases today and asked to continue working the list during upcoming OT. It is such a relief knowing Angelique has taken on this caseload and these customers will be taken care of right away.

I appreciate all that Angelique does to get me through with the so many projects here at MCSC.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES
Building Brighter Futures Together



National Nutrition Month: Modeling Healthy Eating

Once children are 12 months old or older, they will eat more of the foods that you eat. Healthy [eating patterns](#) set a good example for your children. Healthy eating patterns focus on fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat or fat-free dairy. It is also important to limit foods that are [high in sodium](#) and [added sugars](#).

Unsweetened beverages are the best choice for adults too. See how to [Rethink your Drink](#). Also, [MyPlate](#) can help you choose healthy foods and drinks for your family.

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*



SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

SERVICE AWARDS

30 YEARS

Louis Sonico, Child Nutrition Cook-Project, CSB

Ginger Green, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Lorena Perea, Inf/Tod Master Teacher-Prj, CSB
Janelle Pruitt, Social Casework Assistant, CFS
Meghan Schulze, Social Work Supervisor II, AAS
Courtney Stief, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

15 YEARS

Tiffany Armstrong, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
Kenneth Barnes, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
LaSonya Davis, Soc Svc Program Assistant, AAS
Janel Free, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

10 YEARS

Michael King, Clerical Supervisor, WFS
Michael Stewart, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Kafia Amin, Associate Teacher Project, CSB
Ana Arroyo, Eligibility Worker, AAS
Tanzania M Avington, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Nicloe Banks, Clerk-Experienced Level
Shante M Bolls, Eligibility Worker, WFS
MJ Burkes, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB
Daniel Busch, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Leilani A Calara, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Ruben Cardona, Intermediate Clerk-Project, CSB
Trenea L. Coleman, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Jasmine Cooper, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Yvonne Corbin, Clerical Supervisor, CFS
Mechan Earls, Social Worker II, CFS
Patriz Epstein, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Daisy Galvan, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Phanteyjah Gaspert, Intermediate Clerk-Project, CSB
Saideh Habibi, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Kristina Harper, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Lyneth Hernandez, Intermediate Clerk Project, CSB
Kahina Imine, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB
Karla Kattengell, Clerk-Experienced Level, CFS

Takeia Knockum, Clerk-Experienced Level, Admin
Victor Li, Sr Soc Svc Program Asst, Admin
Keyerah Miller, Social Worker II, CFS
Vignesh Naidu, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Berenice Navarro, Social Worker II, CFS
Sarai Prayer, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB
Raul Quintero, Intermediate Clerk-Project, CSB
Fabiola Regalado-Jijon, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Griselda Rivera-Orochena, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Laticia A Romero, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Daisy Ron, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Alexandra Sanchez, Dept. HR Analyst II, Admin
Prabhjot Sandhu, Eligibility Worker, WFS
Ashley Simpson, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB
Nelson Singsothong, Dept. HR Analyst II, Admin
John Soffell, Clerk-Experienced Level, AAS
Gwendolyn Thomas, Eligibility Worker, AAS
Yvonne Tomko, Social Worker III, AAS
Madelyn Valdez, Social Worker II, CFS
Austin D Winston, Eligibility Worker, WFS

Retirees listed on next page



SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

Continued from previous page

RETIREES



Silvia Alvarez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Karen Colquitt, Social Worker, AAS
Beatrice Edwards, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Monica Garcia, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS
Deborah Hayes-Miller, Eligibility Work Supervisor, WFS
Emma Jones, Clerk-Specialist Level, Admin
Rima Kashou, Senior Clerk-Project, CSB
Martha Solorzano, Comprehensive Svcs Asst Mgr-Pr, CSB
Fulvia Whitehead, Social Worker, AAS
Zermina Zadrán, Teacher-Project, CSB



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.**

CONTRACOSTA
COUNTY

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.

We Care Guidelines: [click here](#)

We Care Nomination Form: [click here](#)



SPREAD THE WORD

March 2023

- NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH
- NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH
- WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
- IRISH HERITAGE MONTH
- MARCH 3 – Employee Appreciation Day
- MARCH 7 – Purim
- MARCH 7 – Holi
- MARCH 8 – International Women's Day
- MARCH 12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins (spring forward)
- MARCH 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- MARCH 20 – Spring Equinox
- MARCH 23 – Ramadan starts
- MARCH 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- MARCH 31 – César Chavez Day

April 2023

- SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH
- CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
- NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
- APRIL 1 – April Fool's Day
- APRIL 2 – Palm Sunday
- APRIL 5 – Passover begins
- APRIL 7 – National Walk to Work Day
- APRIL 7 – Good Friday
- APRIL 9 – Easter
- APRIL 18 – Tax Day
- APRIL 18 – Holocaust Remembrance Day
- APRIL 21 – Ramadan ends
- APRIL 22 – Earth Day
- APRIL 26 – Administrative Professional's 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 needs your support to provide care for children 0–18 years of age. Please join us for a virtual orientation and learn more about becoming a caregiver.



FREE VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

March 2 or 16 • 4 to 6 p.m.
April 6 or 20 • 4 to 6 p.m.
May 4 or 18 • 4 to 6 p.m.

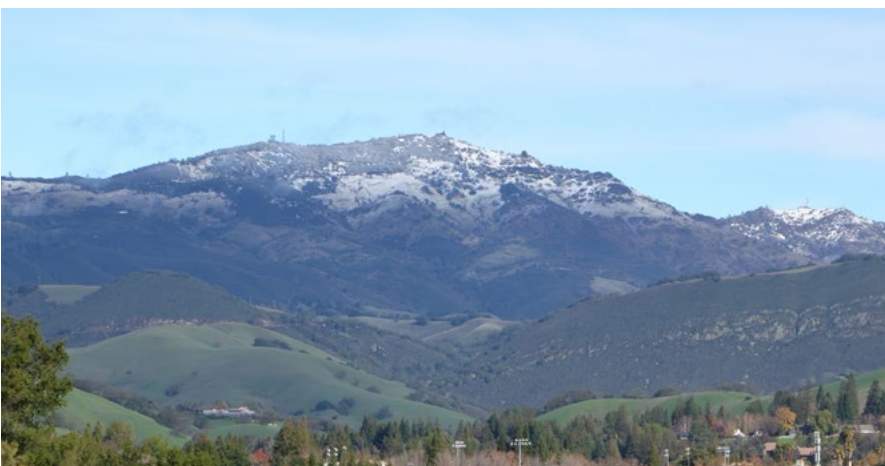
For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at www.ehsd.org. If you belong to an organization or community group interested in learning more about Resource Family Approval/foster parenting, we can schedule an individual session for your group, in English or Spanish. To register for a class, please call (925) 655-4230 or email ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us

We Care... You Care

[CLICK here](#) to learn more about nominating a coworker.
We Care...You Care nomination form:
[click here](#) and see page 23

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

Follow us on Twitter @ContraCostaEHSD
Follow us on Instagram @HumanaCosta
Like us on Facebook



The next issue of *Headlines* will publish in early April. Contact us at our *EHSD Headlines* email, Headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us, by **March 21st** if you have an upcoming event, article, or idea you would like to submit.