Our Medical Therapy Program (MTP), which is part of California Children’s Services, provides physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) services for medically eligible individuals from birth to 21 years of age who have chronic physical disabilities. Eligible individuals are provided PT and OT services free of charge, as well as case management, school consultation, and facilitation of orthotics and durable medical equipment. The MTP team sees clients at the Medical Therapy Unit, located at McPherson Elementary School, and provides consultations and services at the child’s school and at home.

The MTP just held an event to expose clients to adaptive cycling, where cycles are adapted and modified to suit an individual rider. Adaptive recreation offers many benefits to the individuals that participate with them, including improved levels of functioning and independence in activities of daily living, increased physical capability, improved physiological capacity, increased levels of employment, and improved social status and sense of belonging. Bay Area Outreach and Recreation came to visit and showcase cycles and provide adaptive recreation programs that are available!
The relatively new Bringing Families Home program provides housing support to families receiving Child Welfare Services who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness, thereby preventing foster care placement and increasing family reunification. The shortage of affordable housing is a challenge for the majority of counties in our state. Poverty and parental stress are contributing factors to increased rates of child abuse and neglect. In many counties, including Napa, there is a significant overlap of children and families involved with Child Welfare Services (CWS) and the CalWORKs (CW) benefits program within Health and Human Services. As two programs of an integrated Department of Health and Human Services, together with Child Welfare Services and CalWORKs play an integral role in assisting families with needed support to improve their overall well-being.

While still in its early stages, Agency staff are excited about the outcomes achieved thus far. Bringing Families Home is in direct alignment with the Vision of our Agency, where we strive for a community where ALL people have the opportunity to experience fulfilling lives!
In only six months, HHSA social workers and staff have assisted nineteen families. One parent obtained housing and reunified with their two young children in foster care for over a year. Three families have received rental assistance to maintain current housing. One parent and their newborn were provided hotel vouchers, and the remaining families continue to receive support with housing search and employment help in anticipation of locating long-term affordable housing in the near future. Families have reported feeling less “blamed and shamed” for financial circumstances beyond their control. While poverty is a risk factor for neglect, poverty itself does not equate to neglect. Programs like Bringing Families Home and stories like the example below helps to remind us of this difference.

Cathie’s Story
Cathie*, a single mother of two small children, left her husband to escape years of ongoing domestic violence. Cathie, who was also pregnant, and her children became homeless. To cope with past trauma of the abuse and sadness due to the separation of her family, Cathie began to use illegal substances. With so few options, she found herself in an unsafe living situation, and her children were removed and placed in temporary foster care. Cathie and her children benefitted from teaming and collaborative support from a multitude of HHSA staff, including social workers, alcohol and drug counselors, a public health nurse, and a small but supportive network of family and friends.

Cathie was relocated to a transitional housing unit that allows her to work on the objectives and goals outlined in her court-ordered service plan. Cathie recently completed a substance abuse treatment program. As a result of a referral to Bringing Families Home, Cathie obtained assistance with her housing search, addressed housing barriers, and was offered housing readiness education to prepare her for the apartment application process. Cathie recently delivered a healthy baby, and her housing search resulted in a new apartment for her and her three children. Cathie will continue focusing on safety, self-sufficiency, and developing a great support network after reunifying with her children.

*The names and certain facts have been changed to protect the privacy of the family.
The proportion of older adults in Napa County is consistently growing; currently, 28% of Napa County residents are aged 60 or older, and as our population lives longer, we are presented with an opportunity to think about our collective needs and future as a nation.

Elder & dependent adult abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. This type of violence constitutes a violation of human rights and a loss of dignity and respect. Elder & dependent adult abuse is predicted to increase due to rapidly aging populations.

If you suspect an older and or disabled adult is being abused or neglected by others or may be self-neglecting, please call 707-253-4398 or Napa County’s 24-hour Adult Protective Services Hotline toll-free number at 888-619-6915.

In September, HHSA’s Mental Health program and Mentis shared with our community the relatively new (since July 16) “988” Suicide & Crisis Lifeline that offers 24/7 call, text, and chat access to trained counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use and/or mental health crisis, or any of the kind of emotional distress. In addition, anyone needing help can call HHSA’s Mental Health 24-hour Crisis Line (707) 253-4711. Know the signs, find the words and reach out!
AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

HHSA, in partnership with the Library, the CEO’s office, and On-the-Move, participated in the first enrollment event for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) on Saturday, August 27, at the Library in Napa. The ACP is a benefit program that helps households afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare, and more. The program provides a benefit of up to $30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. Our staff, beaming with smiles and posing with computers since part of the event included the Affordable Connectivity Program providing us with 15 computers for a “giveaway,” and the first 15 who enrolled received a computer – what a fantastic benefit!

Next ACP Enrollment Day!
When: Saturday, October 22, 2022
Where: Calistoga Library
Address: 1108 Myrtle St. Calistoga CA 94515
Time: 11:00am - 3:00pm
More info: internetforallnow.org/events
Call: 866-745-2805

DID YOU KNOW?
HHSA CELEBRATES RECOVERY!

HHSA celebrates our clients and our community in connection with National Recovery Month. On Thursday, September 29th, we hosted our fantastic service providers for our Annual Recovery Resource Fair. Clients and the community came together to celebrate resilience and learn more about our available resources while enjoying arts, crafts, music, games, lunch, and raffle prizes! Each journey is unique, and each life is worth celebrating! Thank you so much for joining us!
MOBILE RESPONSE TEAM

Our Mobile Response Team (MRT) includes behavioral health clinicians embedded with local law enforcement jurisdictions, including Napa Police Department and Napa County Sheriff’s Office. The clinicians help support the community by responding to a community member experiencing psychiatric distress, specifically when the calls don’t necessitate a response from law enforcement, such as a public safety emergency. MRT clinicians who work with our law enforcement partners provide field-based crisis services and meet with people where they need to be treated in the community. MRT clinicians provide culturally responsive and clinically appropriate behavioral health services, including crisis de-escalation, linkage, and connection to services, including, when necessary, the Napa County Crisis Stabilization Unit.

This model of embedded clinicians helps provide coverage within the community for non-violent behavioral health situations, also allowing law enforcement to refer themselves to calls related to public safety issues. Over the last year and a half, law enforcement and HHSA leaders meet monthly to collaborate in rich discussions, including program development, the creation of staff safety and response protocols, debriefing on complex cases to ensure the best response and care for the community and to share resources that enhance intervention and aftercare. In the initial four-month launch phase of the program, over 72 people in the community were helped by MRT services. HHSA is excited about the MRT law enforcement partnering program and expanding field-based behavioral health services at the right time to people in need.

MRT Current Hours
8am–5pm
Mon–Fri
(707) 299–2111

WWW.COUNTYOFNAPA.ORG/HHSA

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