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SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Our Child Welfare Services (CWS) Division collaborates with various community-based agencies in child abuse prevention, foster care services, and adoption support. One of those community-based agencies is Expressions of Hope (EOH), a local organization that supports foster and adopted children and their families. EOH assists in serving those with at-risk children, whether a resource (foster) parent, relative, or parent struggling to meet their children’s basic needs during stressful economic times. Through a contract with the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), EOH is dedicated to recruiting, training, supporting, and retaining families willing to open their hearts and homes to children in the foster care system. EOH builds comfort, community, and connections within resource and adoptive families.
Providing hope through Connection for children: Enriching the lives of children in care by providing funding for fun and unique opportunities and offering the opportunity to connect with friends and normalize their lives through enrichment activities such as: sports, camps/retreats, tutoring, art/music lessons, graduation expenses, special dental /medical needs, special events, and more!

Providing hope through Community: Through a joint partnership with CWS staff, EOH provides Resource family activities throughout the year to build friendships and keep families from feeling isolated.
COMING TOGETHER TO GIVE THANKS

HHSA hosted our annual Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday, November 22. This long-standing tradition is an opportunity for our clients (adults, children, and families) and staff to come together in the community. The event was held at Provisions café, which the Salvation Army operates, and HHSA staff helped serve the food, which consisted of a complete Thanksgiving meal. We were fortunate this year to be joined by members of our Board of Supervisors, including Chair Ryan Gregory, Vice-Chair Brad Wagenknecht, and Supervisor Belia Ramos, who helped us serve and visited with attendees. Thank you to our extraordinary Board members for being a part of our community and thank you to the fantastic HHSA staff who helped us pull off yet another heart-warming event!

SUPPORTING RECOVERY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

While Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday where we reflect on our gratitude, the holidays can also be a stressful time of year for many individuals from a financial and recovery standpoint. As a result, our Alcohol and Drug Services Division (ADS) alleviated both by incentivizing treatment engagement. Clients were entered into the raffle for every treatment service they attended. In the end, five clients received a meal box complete with a whole turkey, potatoes, stuffing, butter, rolls, pies, whipped cream, and other goodies that make up all we imagine this holiday feast to include! For clients who could not cook a meal for themselves, the program provided six gift cards instead of the meal box so they could buy themselves a Thanksgiving dinner. We congratulate our clients for their continued work in their recovery journey, and we are honored to walk this path with them!
Leadership Napa Valley (LNV) is a nationally recognized leadership development program for community-minded individuals who want to make Napa Valley a better place to live, work and do business. In support of these shared goals, each year HHSA hosts an “HHSA Day” which was held this year on November 4. The day is filled with leadership development activities, speeches, and mentorship opportunities centered around the services we and our non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) provide. Part of the day consisted of 15 HHSA staff and many CBOs hosting mentoring experiences where LNV’s participants were given tours of programs, joined in client-centered visits and groups, and provided with a brief immersion into the world of health and human services. We appreciated these future Napa leaders learning more about safety net programs in Napa County, and understanding the complex challenges our clients face. Thank you to LNV and our many CBOs for joining us in a wonderful and heartfelt day!

The Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) program, within the Public Health Division, is participating in a tri-county consortium with San Francisco and Sonoma Counties, delivering an innovative home visiting program called the Trauma Informed Approach to Public Health Nursing (TIA-PHN). The TIA PHN program provides curriculum based on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study, which has found a strong correlation between childhood trauma and poor health outcomes in adulthood. The goal of the curriculum is to mitigate toxic stress and improve resiliency, with a greater goal of disrupting intergenerational trauma. The topics discussed include healthy eating, sleep, exercise, relationships, mental health, mindfulness, brain development, ACEs and trauma-informed care during pregnancy and the postpartum period. The TIA PHN program has served 48 families in Napa County since mid-2021 and continues to grow as we emerge out of the pandemic.
Did you know it’s a great time to become a paid caregiver? In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) is a Medi-Cal-funded program that provides in-home assistance to eligible aged, blind, and disabled individuals as an alternative to out-of-home care enabling recipients to remain safely in their homes with the assistance of a caregiver.

For an IHSS recipient to receive the benefits of the IHSS program, they must find and hire a caregiver, often a friend or family member, who can be paid for the IHSS services they provide to their recipient.

The IHSS Public Authority Registry links eligible IHSS caregivers who are looking for work with IHSS recipients looking for care. Currently, there are not enough IHSS caregivers to serve all the IHSS recipients in need of care. In an effort to address the caregiver shortage, increase the quality of care, and encourage recruitment and retention of IHSS caregivers, Senate Bill 172 was passed, and the Career Pathways Program was born.

The Career Pathways Program offers IHSS caregivers opportunities for training to enhance their skills, knowledge, and advancement in the home health care field and reimburses caregivers for attending training, in addition to issuing incentive payments when certain criteria are met. An IHSS caregiver can earn up to $3000 in incentive payments through the Career Pathways Program.

If you are interested in becoming an IHSS caregiver, please visit our website at www.countyofnapa.org/enroll to begin the enrollment process. The hourly wage is $16.95, effective January 01, 2023. As little as 5 hours a week can make a difference in a senior’s life. Sign up to be an IHSS caregiver today!
TOO SMALL TO FAIL

Did you know?

Almost 60% of children who enter Kindergarten will do so unprepared, lagging in critical language and reading skills. Our Self Sufficiency Services Division (SSSD) has partnered with the California Department of Social Services in a pilot program called Too Small To Fail (TSTF). TSTF is an early childhood initiative of the Clinton Foundation that seeks to surround families with early language and learning opportunities by providing resources for children where they are.

While a family is seeking services at SSSD, the reception area has been redesigned to provide an area for the children of our community to feel safe and entertained, all while engaging in skills that may increase their language and reading skills. TSTF supports parents and caregivers with resources to talk, read, and sing with young children to help prepare them for success. Every family who comes into the office with a pre-kindergarten age child is able to leave with a tote bag of resources to engage with their children at home. Salvador Oropeza, Receptionist, says that parents are very thankful for the TSTF tote bags.

SSSD staff have noticed an increase in parents engaging with their children in the newly designed children's area while waiting for services.
For more information visit: https://www.clintonfoundation.org/programs/education-health-equity/too-small-fail/

CASE REVIEW AWARD

From the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), our Self Sufficiency Services Division received the Certificate of Excellence Award for the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 “Excellent Management Evaluation (Small County) Case Reviews.

This award was in recognition of Napa County for its excellent internal processes and procedures and for our commitment to decreasing barriers to CalFresh participation which allows eligible households to receive and maintain benefits.
The Mental Health Division has initiated the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Planning Process (CPP) to engage with our community stakeholders to understand the community’s perspective on mental health needs. Division staff is meeting with interested community members, groups who work to provide behavioral health services, and individuals who use mental health services and supports. In addition, the Division is preparing a survey, which will be distributed county-wide to gather as much input as possible. The meetings and the survey focus on what has changed since 2020 (the beginning of the pandemic), what mental health supports are working well, and what could be changed to better serve the mental health needs of the Napa County community. Division staff use this input to guide funding for and develop new programs, write Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and prepare the next MHSA Three Year Plan and Annual Updates to the Three Year Plan.

We would love to gain your input on current mental health programming and needs across our community. Please scan the QR code to participate!

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