



Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

We Are Serious About Mental Health & Recovery!



January 3, 2017

Santa Cruz County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services offers a variety of services to the community by County employees, as well as through our contracts with numerous community-based agencies. Our services treat persons across the lifespan, from prevention and early intervention services to being a safety net to persons with serious emotional disturbance and serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders. In an effort to shed light on the variety of services and programs we provide, we endeavor to provide a monthly newsletter about what we do.

Behavioral Staff Demographics:

We strive to serve our diverse community by providing Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services. In October 2016, we reviewed our staff demographics, and it is evident that we have made significant changes.

Ethnicity	1998	2016
Caucasian	81%	59.5%
Latino	14%	29.3%
Asian	2%	3%
Black	No Info	1.3%
Native American	No Info	.4%
Mix	No Info	1.7%
Other	3%	1.7%
Unknown	0	3%
Language	1998	2016
English	100%	100%
Spanish	21.1%	40.6%
Other	6.3%	7.4%
Gender	1998	2016
Male	No Info	35%
Female	No Info	65%
Other	No Info	0%

Spot light: Congratulations Cathy Simmons!

On 11/21/16 Cathy Simmons, was awarded the United Way Community Assessment Project (CAP) Community Hero award for her dedication to improving access to quality mental health services for abused and neglected children ages 0 - 5 years old involved in our county Child Welfare system.

Cathy is an expert relationship builder and collaborator. She has helped interested community members come together to do great things on behalf of all abused and neglected children. Cathy has increased the knowledge base of clinicians and other significant support people through teaching them how to effectively intervene and support these youth and their families.

Cathy consistently goes above and beyond what is expected of her in a heartfelt and kind manner. She is an advocate for children, youth and families and we are lucky to have her as a Supervisor in the Children's Division.

Congratulations Lauren Fein!

We are pleased to announce that Lauren Fein has been promoted to Supervisor in the Children's division. Lauren has worked here for 4.5 years providing services on the School and Community Gate teams. Lauren is a dynamic, talented and creative clinician who has successfully incorporated EMDR into her clinical work with dramatic and positive results.

In addition to Lauren's clinical responsibilities, she has taken on various projects such as being an Avatar Super User, taking a lead role with the Trauma-Informed System Improvement project and working to improve clinician access to sign-up space in North and South County. Lauren has a can-do attitude and is an excellent team player.

Prior to pursuing her clinical path, Lauren worked in video production as a supervisor. She directed and supervised the work of many people to enable 'start to completion' on a variety of projects at VH1 including documentaries on Biggie Smalls and Timothy Leary, as well as coverage of the Olympics. She has won 6 Emmys for her work and we are equally star-struck with her work at CMH.

Farewell Holly Heath!

Holly retired on December 30, after 22 years with the county. She was a highly regarded clinical supervisor in the children's division, a valuable team member, and a champion for children and families. She will be missed!

Happy New Year!

Welcome new Staff!

Molly Friedman – Clinical Psychologist

Shawna Fuller – Typist Clerk III

Kelsey Kloberdanz – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Jeff Leininger – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Catherine Louise – Sr. Mental Health Client Specialist

Mary Mason – Program Coordinator

Sam Nair – Psychiatrist

Latha Nair – Psychiatrist

Gabriel Ramirez – Mental Health Client Specialist

Chelsey Suttaby – Sr. Mental Health Client Specialist

Marissa Torres – Mental Health Client Specialist

