



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

We Are Serious About Mental Health & Recovery!



April 7, 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.

Did you know?

Santa Cruz County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services contracts and provides funding for numerous service in the community, including The Diversity Center.

Spotlight: The Diversity Center

The mission of The Diversity Center of Santa Cruz (TDC) is to build an equitable community where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ+) people thrive. Services such as our Youth Program, the 60+ Senior Program, the Transgender Program, Conexiones (for LGBTQ+ people of color), Rainbow Families and Rainbow Veterans provide safe spaces for LGBTQ+ populations who share common strengths and challenges to build community and gain social support. TDC also serves the wider LGBTQ+ community through our drop-in center, lending library, and by having a Community Directory of LGBTQ+-friendly businesses and resources.

The Diversity Center also reaches out to our non-LGBTQ+ neighbors to promote equality and dignity for all. The Triangle Speakers program provides panels of LGBTQ+ people to present their lived experiences to schools, community groups, and businesses in order to build empathy and open the hearts and minds of Santa Cruz County residents. Our transgender training program for health care professionals and other service providers help ensure that transgender community members are treated with respect when seeking services and care. Our goal is to build a diverse community, promote health and well-being, and advance social justice for the LGBTQ+ community. We welcome all those who share this vision to join us as volunteers, collaborators, or supporters. All those who are seeking support to live fully and freely within their LGBTQ+ identities are invited to join our

family of participants and friends.

Reach The Diversity Center at: 831-425-5422 or info@diversitycenter.org.

Retirement

A fond farewell to two County psychiatrists.

Janet Medenwald worked for county for 17 years (since 2000), and **Himani Natu** who worked for county for over 39 years (since 1977). They both provided excellent service to our county and they will be greatly missed.

Welcome New Staff!

The External Quality Review auditors came to Santa Cruz in late February. They reviewed our policies, held various focus groups with staff, clients and family members. They had high praise for our Forensic Team.

Promotions

Congratulations to Vince Stroth, LCSW and Joanna Moody, LMFT on their promotions to Supervisors in the Children's Mental Health division. They both bring years of clinical and supervisory experience. Vince has been here for 27 years and has worked with School Treatment, Community Gate, and Probation youth who were at the Redwoods/STAR residential program. Joanna Moody is a bilingual clinician who has been licensed since 2011 and has been with Children's for the past 3 years. She has been an integral member of the Social Services team providing excellent therapy and case management to youth involved with the Child Welfare system.

