



Ask SSG

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January - February 2011

Congratulations to Veronica Lewis, new HOP/ICS Division Director



Veronica Kelley-Lewis

SSG is pleased to announce the promotion of *Veronica Kelley-Lewis, MPA* as Division Director for the Homeless Outreach Program/Integrated Care System (HOPICS) beginning January 1, 2011. She will oversee the HOPICS two main locations at 5715 S. Broadway and 5801 S. San Pedro St., both in South Los Angeles. She will continue to oversee the Faith In Communities Program (FIC) currently housed at the SSG administrative offices in downtown Los Angeles. Ms. Lewis has been a key leader and organizer for various FIC and HOPICS programs and initiatives.

In 2005 as Program Coordinator for FIC she began to oversee the AI-Impics event, a full-day celebration of recovery that draws thousands of participants yearly. That year she also implemented a partnership with NAMI/South LA Chapter working with community leaders and residents to launch an advocacy campaign to reduce the stigma of mental illness in the African-American community.

In 2007 with the launch of the Re-Entry Options Demonstration Project (REEOP), Ms. Lewis exhibited her leadership skills as she assembled a 6-organization collaborative dedicated to serving the re-entry population in South Los Angeles. The REEOP program became the

model for the State of California's current New Start Program serving ex-offenders. The REEOP Project was honored by the City of LA Community Development Department in 2009 at their Annual Employability Award Ceremony for their work in creating career empowerment for parolees and persons with felony convictions.

In 2007 she also maintained a dual role as an SSG Community Development Analyst - working with Executive management on capacity building strategic plans and infrastructure development for HOPICS, FIC and the HOPICS Re-Entry Maintenance Organization. She has been integral in the development and planning of various community events including but not limited to the Non-Profit Philanthropic Summit (with Comerica Bank Greenlining Institute and SSG Board Treasurer Donald A. Kinsey) in 2007 and other 'Meet the Grantmakers' events.

In 2009 Ms. Lewis worked with Edward Sykes, Supervising DPO of the LA County Probation Department on the inaugural 2009 Graduation Ceremony of the Day Reporting Center co-located at the HOPICS San Pedro St. site. Ms. Lewis was promoted to Assistant Division Director in July 2009, learning the ropes and establishing effective day-to-day management strategies.

Ms. Lewis' vision for the future of HOPICS includes expansion and diversity of funding streams and the expansion of education and advocacy efforts for healthcare reform to better serve the homeless. She is a tireless leader and advocate for all communities and a tremendous asset to SSG's management team.

HOPICS Coordinates 2011 Los Angeles Homeless Counts for SPA 6

Homeless Count - Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System has actively engaged the homeless community in South LA and LA County during the past two months. Every two years the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) organizes volunteers to count homeless persons in LA County. On January 27, 2011, six HOPICS employees and two staff members from CMH Housing participated in this Count; which helps LAHSA plan and identify needed resources to provide vital services, and ultimately move homeless families and individuals into housing. **Tonia Johnson**, Community Outreach Program manager, led this effort for HOPICS' team.

The **Homeless Youth Count** is a single day effort led by LAHSA to collect a count of homeless youth in LA County. This year HOPICS Broadway was the designated Deployment Center for SPA 6. The afternoon of Jan 31st HOP Broadway joined with LAHSA outreach workers, Shields for Families, and youth volunteers to survey a count of homeless youth in the streets of South LA. An alarming 253 homeless youth were identified within a 4 hour period. LAHSA will use this information to publish a county wide report in the coming year about the state of homelessness in LA County.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH & EVALUATION UNIT



José Reyes

The SSG Research & Evaluation unit is bidding a fond farewell in February to one of our research analysts, **José Reyes**. José received a *Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship* in research and evaluation and will be placed at the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in St. Paul, Minnesota during the one-year fellowship. While he was with the R&E unit, Jose was instrumental in our SB697 needs assessment work with

two hospital collaboratives last year. He also took the lead in designing a youth leadership development curriculum for the Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs at Cal State LA as well as in setting up the outcome evaluation infrastructure for the Caring for Our Families collaborative here at SSG.

R & E Unit Expansion

Despite losing José, the R&E unit is expanding! **Angela Beltrán** will join existing staff **Grace Lee** and **Alexis Moreno** as our newest research analyst on March 1st. We also added two new research associates, **Amrit Tath** and **Ryan Khamkongsay**, to our team in February. The team will take on new projects this year, including conducting asset and capacity assessments in four of the First 5 LA's Best Start communities. We will also continue our current work in providing technical assistance in program evaluation and community-based research to grantees of First 5 LA and the California Community Foundation. Of course, with a bigger team, the R&E unit will be able to support and collaborate with our own SSG divisions and programs on any research and evaluation projects.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL STAFF AND BOARD
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON
JULY 29, 2011

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR MARCH - APRIL

3/13	Daylight Saving Time begins
3/17	St. Patrick's Day
3/20	Spring Begins
4/18	Passover begins at sundown
4/22	Earth Day
4/24	Easter
4/27	Administrative Professionals Day

ASIAN PACIFIC COUNSELING AND TREATMENT CENTERS

APCTC - Cerritos Collaborates with NAMI

APCTC-Cerritos is excited collaborating with NAMI to host a Korean speaking support group. This is the first NAMI family support group especially for Korean families in Service Area 7. The group is open to the community and will be held at the Cerritos office the first Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00 pm. Please call the Cerritos office at (562) 860-8838 or **Ronny Choe** at (562) 619-5732 for more details.

SSG Implements 3-Day Mental Health Provider Training January 10 - 12, 2011



l-r: Brett Sevilla, Theresa Costello, Diane DePanfilis, Sheila Wu, Chong Suh

Special Service for Groups implemented its third three (3)-day intensive mental health prevention and early intervention training on January 10 - 12, 2011 at the Tessie Cleveland Community Service Center in Carson, California with over 53 trainees in attendance. The DMH approved training for the *Caring For Our Family/LA Model* is based on the nationally accredited evidenced-based practice Family Connections, created by the University of Maryland School of Social Work's Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children. The Principal Developer and Center Director for Family Connections is **Dr. Diane DePanfilis**. The Principal Developer for the LA-based Caring for Our Family model is **Dr. Sheila Wu**, Assistant Director for APCTC. As of this January 2011 Health Provider Training, a total of 195 clinicians, therapists, case managers and other professionals have been trained in Los Angeles. The CFOF/LA Model provider network includes APCTC, API Alliance, HOP Family Center/Avalon, OTTP and partner agencies TCCSC and PACS.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

TONGAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

TCSC debuted its Computer Class early this month at the Center. Parents, guardians and elders are welcome to attend the course which is taught in Tongan and English by Mele Fusi. Mele is TCSC's newest student intern from BYU-Hawaii, who also proposed this wonderful project. The class covers keyboard basics, typing, word processing and internet basics including email, search engines, news sites and social networking. The goal of the course is to increase computer literacy for parents and guardians so that they can benefit from the conveniences of computer technology. Participants will be able to use the computer to find driving directions, search news and research topics, check email, communicate through online chat and more. Classes are held every Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12 noon until the end of March.



HOP/ICS FAMILY CENTER

HOP-ICS Avalon held its *Annual Tree Distribution Event* on January 24, 2011. The Tree Distribution, led by Wraparound's Child and Family Specialist **Daisy Perez**, is an all day event in which clients and their families receive free apple, plum, apricot, nectarine, and peach trees. The Annual Tree Distribution is a fun activity for our clients and even our staff. Many of our clients learn how to properly care for and nurture a growing tree. Trees from previous years have already begun producing fruit. The trees were donated by **TreePeople** which is an environmental nonprofit that unites the power of trees, and people to grow a sustainable future for Los Angeles.



BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT & LIFE CENTER

This year the *4th Annual Bringin' In The New Year* celebration was held on January 14, 2011 and was shared with 65 guests and staff who feasted on various ethnic foods. There was a short program lead by **Andrew Posner**, Project Director, that celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; his message and its meaning to the mission of BACUP. **Bob Watson**, Benefits Assistance Rep at BACUP talked about what it meant to him to be present at the "I Have a Dream Speech" in Washington DC in 1963. **Patricia Johnson** a LIFE Center participant wrote and recited the poem below to close the program

A New Year with Dr. King

By Patricia Johnson

*May we withstand the ups and
downs of what might be in store.
We dedicate this day to what the
future brings
and wish a happy birthday
to Dr. Martin Luther King.
He encountered many obstacles
days mixed with stress and strife
He remained a soldier of
love and peace, in his
short well loved life.
Millions won't forget a life
trusting in the Lord
a life without regret.
So as we face our New Year,
let's pray for negative thoughts
to cease, and ask God to shape
our lives more like Dr. King,
a man of peace.*



Guests were asked to donate a plant to the LIFE Center's "Plant Project" in honor of Dr. King. **Cherie Edwards**, Group Facilitator/Hospitality Host, aka Plant Talker (left) accepts plant from a CALIF guest.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM - BROADWAY

Homeless Connect Day

On February 10, 2011 HOPICS hosted the SPA 6 Homeless Connect Day at South Park, located in South Los Angeles. Five years ago, LA County began a County-wide effort to participate in the National Project Homeless Connect Day to provide a variety of resources to homeless families. In 2010, the County announced that they would no longer host this event. HOPICS, in conjunction with our community providers, continued the great tradition of Homeless Connect for SPA 6. The event serviced more than 450 households which included 189 homeless and 279 families at risk of becoming homeless. Homeless Connect provided a variety of resources to attendees with more than 30 provider booths including rapid HIV testing, on-site food stamp application processing, emergency and transitional housing, low-income permanent housing options, education and employment resources.



SSG Projects Collaborate

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - LA AND ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Services (SHAPES) Program

OTTP-LA will bring their expertise in substance abuse prevention in the southern Los Angeles region together with APAIT's expertise in HIV prevention in northern Orange County to build capacity that will provide a continuum of services for the underserved populations in these connected parts of the two Counties.

The SHAPES Team hosted their first Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting on January 26, 2011, to begin community mobilization. The 15-member CAB consists of 10 community members and 5 OTTP & APAIT staff members. Each member brings a wide range of expertise and passion to the area of HIV & substance abuse prevention and the SHAPES Project.

Congratulations on a successful kick-off to the SHAPES CAB!



GREATER WEST HOLLYWOOD FOOD COALITION Christmas Dinner at CBS



Twice a year the GWHFC is able to come in off the street from Sycamore & Romaine and provide a meal to our guests indoors. Thanksgiving is at the House of Blues and Christmas is at CBS Television City. This is our twelfth year at CBS. Sodexo provides the food and CBS donates the sleeping bags that are handed out to our guests at the end of the meal. The volunteer carolers come every year to provide the holiday spirit. All of our volunteers offer their assistance including a group from Sinai Temple and this year a group from LACMA. The guests were brought to CBS on buses that picked them up at Sycamore & Romaine around 11am and lunch was served at 12pm.

The meal consists of turkey and all of the trimmings as well as salad, bread and dessert. Sodexo makes a cake and pies are donated by Thee's Pastries at the Farmers Market.



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

PALS FOR HEALTH AND ALAS PARA TU SALUD

Chinatown 33rd Annual Firecracker Run

Many thanks to the runners and walkers who supported PALS for Health and ALAS para tu Salude in the Firecracker Run on Sunday, February 13, 2011. Supporters included a large group of staff and community members representing the Tongan Community Service Center and two members of the SSG Core staff along with PALS Director Anita Le.



OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM

Health Access to Pacific Asian Seniors

On Monday January 31, 2011, SSG OAP's Health Access to Pacific Asian Seniors (HAPAS) project was featured on Little Saigon TV's weekly hour-long broadcast, *VietView*. *VietView*, a Vietnamese program, creates a forum for open dialogue and psycho-education on issues affecting a person's mental health. The broadcast covers the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, and Orange. Lan Trinh, the HAPAS Vietnamese community coordinator and Michelle Wong, the HAPAS program manager, introduced the HAPAS program and then discussed both the mental and physical benefits of physical activity and healthy eating. In order to provide viewers with a tangible opportunity to engage in healthy living, Lan announced efforts to organize walking groups for any interested parties, namely individuals and their family members who desire to pursue health together. The response has been very positive as viewers immediately began calling and reaching out to HAPAS to sign up for the walking groups. In addition, SSG and the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA, an SSG affiliate) were both mentioned as resources in Los Angeles and Orange County, respectively, for those in the Vietnamese community who are looking for answers to their health questions, looking to receive more information about health and/or mental health, and/or looking for appropriate services for their respective health needs.



l-r: Viet View Host Suzie Dong-Matsuda, LCSW, Psy.D., Lan Trinh, MSW and Michelle Wong, MPH

The REACH HAPAS project is part of OAP and focuses on reducing health disparities among Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander seniors in the areas of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and adult immunization. Recently, the HAPAS collaborative (community leaders from each ethnic community represented by HAPAS) completed a community needs assessment related to physical activity and healthy eating. As a result, the HAPAS collaborative resolved to spearhead efforts to promote a healthy environment through policy advocacy efforts, and to organize and promote walking groups to address specific health concerns in the community.