SSG & A3PCON Join Forces to Protect Immigrant Rights

Under the coordination of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), a press conference was held on January 25, 2017, with API leaders and local elected officials in support of the Los Angeleno undocumented community. Speakers stood up and shared their opposition to the federal administration’s xenophobic policies including the massive escalation of deportations, the imminent revocation of the immigrant reform policy Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the travel ban on the Muslim community, building a wall between the US-Mexico border, among others.

The following local initiatives were among the highlighted stances taken by the community and elected officials to protect the rights of the undocumented:

**Los Angeles County:**
- Establishing the new Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Confirming law enforcement will not investigate nor arrest based on suspected immigration status, only serious or violent offenders are referred to federal immigration authorities.
- Allocating $3 million to the L.A. Justice Fund, a public-private partnership providing legal representation to undocumented persons facing deportation hearings.

**Los Angeles City:**
- Confirming to implement Special Order #40, in which LAPD will not initiate investigations solely to determine immigration status. LAPD will not to turn over low level offenders to federal agents.
- Allocating $2 million to the L.A. Justice Fund

**U.S. Government**
- “Bridge Act”, Senators Durbin (D-Ill.) and Graham (R-S.C.) would allow 740,000 young immigrants who have gotten deportation reprieves and work permits under DACA to keep these benefits for three more years, if DACA is revoked.

**Los Angeles Unified School District**
- LAUSD Board has unanimously adopted a resolution stating that LAUSD would “continue to protect the data and identities of any student, family member, or school employee who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive action that results in the collection of any personally identifiable information.” The Board will not allow U.S. immigration agents onto LAUSD campuses without specific review by the Superintendent.

**Los Angeles Community College District**
- The L.A. Community College Trustees have passed a similar resolution protecting students’ rights to the privacy of their information.

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L to R: A3PCON Policy Director Mark Masaoka, SSG ED Herb Hatanaka, Thai CDC ED Chancee Martorell, PACS ED Mariko Kahn, LA Community College District Board of Trustees Mike Eng, EPIC Policy Coordinator Calvin Chang, 1st District Board of Supervisor Hilda Solis, and Chinatown Service Center ED Peter Ng.
OTTP-LA

Occupational Therapy in the 2017 Tournament of Roses Parade

OTTP had the opportunity to raise funds for and decorate the first ever Tournament of Roses Parade Float representing Occupational Therapy. The purpose of the float was to promote the wonderful profession and celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the birth of occupational therapy. The float included panels depicting various scenes from the life of an occupational therapist and a replica of the famous Hull House. Riding the float were inspirational OT practitioners and clients. This beautiful float was the vision of former OTTP Division Director, Dr. Sarah Bream.

Happy 100th Anniversary Occupational Therapy!!

L to R, top to bottom: Sarah Bream, Kelly Shaw, Sydney Shaw, Suzanne Afuso-Sugano, Austin Shaw

CYPHER

Clean Tech Competition

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA DESIGNED TO CHANGE THE WORLD?

It’s that time of year again for the Sustainable Earth Decathlon (SED2017). This event is for youth to showcase their CleanTech innovation ideas to investors and policy-makers so they can witness what community-defined climate innovation looks like.

SED2017 has two parts: a CleanTech Forum (Days 1 & 2) and a CleanTech Showcase (Day 3) designed to build bridges among technologists, social entrepreneurs, and youth innovators. The event will be held on April 26-28, 2017 at Los Angeles CleanTech Incubator (LACI) in Los Angeles, CA.

CYPHER would love to build a bridge with SSG youth who are already deeply interested in environmental issues. So we are calling on all youth who are interested in environmental studies, social work, or public health to join. We provide innovation coaching as the participants develop their ideas. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

The grand prize award will consist of a cash prize and an internship opportunity with either the EPA and CDPH. Ideas are due on March 24, 11:59pm!

If interested, please visit this link http://www.cypher-international.org/sed, which has all the details.

L to R, Stephanie Hoffman, Dana Granado, Rhonda Windham, Suzanne Afuso-Sugano

L to R, Stephanie Hoffman, Dana Granado, Rhonda Windham, Suzanne Afuso-Sugano
BACUP

WELCOME TO VERA CALLOWAY!
NEW DIVISION DIRECTOR FOR BACUP

It is with pleasure that SSG announces Vera Calloway as the new Division Director of BACUP beginning 11/28/16. BACUP, a long-time SSG Division, began providing services to mental health consumers starting in 1986. BACUP has always specialized in public benefits assistance which is a keystone for many consumers struggling for independence and stability. BACUP is well known in LA County for their LIFE Center, the centerpiece of their wellness programming that includes innovative art projects and empowerment activities.

Vera’s experience includes being a Service Extender (Peer Specialist) for older adults at SSG/SILVER. She learned of BACUP 5 years ago when she noticed flyers in the elevator and was interested in seeing BACUP’s Art Corner because she was a longtime advocate of art and artists. With a history of major depression and anxiety, Calloway is a staunch believer in peer-run groups. So, visiting BACUP back then turned into a personal lesson in the potential and power of mental health’s peer movement.

She worked with other SSG Division management and was eventually offered the BACUP Division Director position after meeting with SSG Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka. She jumped at the chance to become part of a division she had long admired.

“I told Herb that I had always felt BACUP was the gem of SSG, so imagine how I felt when offered the directorship,” said Vera. Now, with a staff of eight, plus volunteers, Vera and her team are on course to ramp up outreach and build on the foundation created by former Division Director Andrew Posner. In regard to the LIFE Center Vera says “We really have to be at the top of our game in not letting people fall through the cracks getting benefits and having social activities to participate in. It is more crucial now than ever before in today’s unpredictable political and social climate.”

Vera, who dropped out of Stanford University after two and a half years due to a severe depressive episode, was appointed to the California Mental Health Planning Council and is active on the Council’s Health Integration Committee. She also is a member of the Project Advisory Committee for the Mental Health Older Adult System of Care Project at UCLA’s Center for Health Policy Research. In addition to SSG-SILVER, Vera worked as a Case Manager at Enki-Pico Union and has also worked in the fashion and entertainment industries prior to joining the mental health field.

In her spare time, Vera enjoys playing with her Australian Cattle Dog, Sinjin St. John, and also makes jewelry out of beads and natural stones.

APIOPA

Roots Community Supported Agriculture (Roots CSA) Spring season is now accepting subscriptions!

Roots CSA is a grassroots program in which we partner with small local Asian American farmers to bring fresh, sustainably-grown, and pesticide-free Asian produce to local communities throughout Los Angeles County.

Why participate in the Roots CSA program?

• Support small local Asian American farmers and get to know the people who grow your food
• Have the satisfaction of knowing how your food was grown (sustainably, pesticide-free, preservative-free)
• Reconnect to your food by eating with the changing seasons and trying out new recipes!

Work in the L.A. region? We can drop off produce at your office! All you need is at least 10 people to sign up!

More info here: http://www.rootscsa.org/deliveries/dropoffsites/

Spring pick up dates: Extended Season ($80): March 13th & 27th, April 10th & 24th, May 8th & 22nd, June 5th & 19th
CONGRATULATIONS TO ANGELA KANG!
NEW DIVISION DIRECTOR FOR AP RECOVERY

SSG is proud to announce the promotion of Angela Kang, LCSW to Division Director for AP Recovery (APR).

APR is a long-established SSG Division created in 1986 that was originally developed to provide culturally and linguistically sensitive mental health treatment to meet the needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander population living in board & care, residential and community settings. Recognizing community needs, APR steadily expanded their target population to serve all disenfranchised populations. They are now recognized throughout LA County as a unique and committed behavioral health provider serving individuals often overlooked and under-served.

Angela has a long and distinguished career already behind her at SSG since starting in 1999 as a social worker for the La Casa IMD-Alliance project that identified a historic number of API patients residing at Metropolitan hospital for eventual discharge and community integration. She rose steadily during her time at Alliance, eventually becoming the Program Director for the API Collaboratives Program overseeing the countywide Full Service Partnership program, Field Capable Clinical Services program and Samoan Outreach Program. She has extensive experience working with clients whose initial point of contacts are from the following settings: jails, hospitals, locked psychiatric settings, homeless shelters and the streets.

With a history of success serving hard to reach and underserved populations, Angela is excited at the prospect of taking the helm of APR. She will bring her experience in working with a wide variety of behavioral health providers, community gatekeepers and others partners to continue to enhance APR’s service delivery system.

Angela states “I leave my SSG/Alliance family of 17.5 years with a multitude of emotions. For this next journey, I am very excited to expand my networks within SSG’s family and become part of the wonderful team at AP Recovery!”

Angela can be reached at akang@aprtp.org

AP Recovery - Lunar New Year Celebration 2017

Team member Danielle plays the Vietnamese Lucky game with clients.

Year of the rooster picture colored by client.

Team member Mimi has clients pick out raffle tickets for cultural prizes.
NEW ROLE AND TRANSITION for JAE SON
FORMER DIVISION DIRECTOR FOR AP RECOVERY

As of 2/1/17 Jae Son, LMFT stepped down from his position as Division Director of AP Recovery (formerly known as the Asian Pacific Residential & Treatment Program) to take on a new role with DMH. But SSG is happy to report that he will also continue part-time with SSG as lead specialist of the Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS), the electronic interface for LA County and SSG’s client information and billing system.

Jae was the Division Director of APR since 2005 although his history with SSG extends back to 2000 when he was first hired as a Mental Health Coordinator. In 2016, he and his staff facilitated a heartfelt 30th Anniversary celebration bringing in the original Director Marilyn Noriega, subsequent Director Tri Le and many others who had contributed to the success and expansion of AP Recovery.

In addition to his leadership of AP Recovery, he also shepherded in a new era of electronic health records and billing not only for AP Recovery but for the entire SSG Behavioral Health network as well. He calmly and effectively created a working communication system between DMH, Division Directors, IS staff from all Divisions and SSG’s fiscal and HR units. His expertise in this area cannot be emphasized enough as SSG’s Behavioral Health providers currently account for close to 80% of SSG’s total business. Hayley Levy LMFT, SSG’ Director of Administration and Clinical Services says “there is no one like Jae. Going from a primary paper system to an electronic health record and billing system is extremely difficult for a multi-provider agency like SSG. Day or night he has always been available when needed. His expertise has been invaluable for SSG’s current status as one of the top 3 mental health providers under contract with DMH”.

Jae is well-known for his unflagging energy, commitment and knowledge. His compassion for his staff and clients are evident to all who know him. When asked about his numerous successes he demurs and prefers to praise his staff and others, but those who work with him closely cannot sing his praises enough. He always empowers those around him and and teaches by example. Yen Tat, APCTC’s Support Service/MIS Supervisor adds “It’s been a wonderful experience working closely with Jae. He is so supportive, kind and knowledgeable. He is always able to trouble-shoot any obstacle!”

Jae will continue to provide his unique skills in providing leadership to SSG’s electronic behavioral health systems.

SSG thanks Jae Son for his many years of service and wishes him the best in all endeavors. Jae can be contacted at json@ssg.org.

AP Recovery - Lunar New Year Celebration 2017

The Vietnamese Lucky game.

Team members Simon and Angela discussing the rules of MahJong.
Development Team

Growing SSG

CONNECTING YOUR VISION TO FUNDRAISING

Did you know that anyone can visit www.ssg.org/donate and make a gift designated for your division?

If your division has a website and you don’t already have a DONATE button that links to this page, we encourage you to add one and can help you set it up! Email devteam@ssg.org to get started.

Grant Announcements

See our latest highlights below and stay tuned for more!

Since December 1, 2016, SSG has been recommended* for the following grants:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>SSG Division</th>
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<tr>
<td>HCIDLA - Alliance for Housing and Healing</td>
<td>HOPWA Subcontract</td>
<td>APAIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIDS Project Los Angeles</td>
<td>HOPWA Subcontract</td>
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<td>QueensCare Foundation</td>
<td>CARE</td>
<td>APAIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation</td>
<td>James Sakakura Family Room</td>
<td>APAIT</td>
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<td>Arcus Foundation</td>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td>TransLatin@ Coalition</td>
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<td>Edison International Year End Small Grants</td>
<td>The Environmental Justice Summer Institute (EJSI)</td>
<td>A PIOPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole Cities Foundation</td>
<td>Roots CSA Operating Support</td>
<td>A PIOPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County Department of Health Services</td>
<td>Benefits Advocacy Services</td>
<td>HOPICS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Southern California Region</td>
<td>SPA 6 CES - Homeless Families</td>
<td>HOPICS</td>
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*Note that some contracts are pending official approval.

Project 180

Please welcome our new therapy dog JD!

Derek Pieper is a new Case Manager at Project 180 and works predominantly within our AB 109 program. Derek is originally from Lake Tahoe and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from San Francisco State University. His dog, JD, named after the main character on the TV show Scrubs, is an 8 year old miniature Australian shepherd and has been a service dog for 4 years. Recently, Project 180 welcomed JD as the newest staff member; working as a therapy animal providing Animal Assisted Treatment to Project 180 clients. JD has a sweet and gentle demeanor and although he is known to occasionally fall asleep during staff meetings, he has been a great addition to the team.
**HOPICS Leads SPA 6 Homeless Count 2017**

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count took place on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 - Thursday, January 26, 2017. Los Angeles County has the highest unsheltered homeless population in the nation and the Homeless Count is an effort to shed light on the issue of homelessness and to get a census of homeless individuals in order to determine how to best allocate funding and resources across the county. Once again, HOPICS played a critical role as the SPA 6 deployment site, which was charged with counting 19 census tracts in one day. HOPICS coordinated and hosted 62 volunteers on the night of the SPA 6 Count. The evening began with a training for all volunteers on their roles as Navigators, Drivers and Counters. Volunteers then departed HOPICS and began the effort to count the homeless in the designated census tracts. At the end of the night, volunteers returned to submit their counts. Final Homeless Count results for South LA and the entire LA County will be available in early May at [www.lahsa.org](http://www.lahsa.org). Congratulations to HOPICS Division Director Veronica Lewis and her team for another successful Homeless Count and for their tireless dedication to serve the homeless around the County.

**Los Angeles County Homeless Initiatives SSG Endorses Measure H**

On 12/6/2016, SSG Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka and HOPICS Division representatives attended the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting to show support for Measure H. The Measure will be on the March 7th ballot and if it passes, it is expected to generate approximately $355 million annually through a ¼-cent County sales tax to exclusively fund proven ways to reduce and prevent homelessness and help an estimated 45,000 families and individuals move from homelessness to permanent housing in the measure’s first five years. This measure is part of the Los Angeles County’s 47-point plan for addressing LA’s growing homeless crisis. SSG is a proud provider of mental health care, housing services, case management, job counseling and substance abuse treatment for homeless or at-risk individuals and families.

SSG’s HOPICS division is a longstanding leading homeless service provider in South Los Angeles and is currently the lead agency for the area’s homeless Coordinated Entry System (CES). The CES provides outreach, screening and assessment, housing placement, and supportive services for homeless individuals. As the lead agency for CES, SSG/HOPICS is responsible for extensive community coordination to expand and enhance the impact of the CES. SSG stands ready to support the county in its efforts to end homelessness and applauds county leadership for their efforts to get Measure H on the ballot.

To learn more about Measure H and the county’s 47-point plan for addressing LA’s growing homeless crisis, please visit: [http://homeless.lacounty.gov/get-educated/](http://homeless.lacounty.gov/get-educated/).
SSG/HIARC

As a part of the western region, SSG/Health Integration for At-Risk Racial Ethnic Communities (HIARC) has been a chosen site from various regions nationwide to implement the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Minority AIDS Initiative Continuum of Care Pilot Project. The goal is the integration of HIV Prevention and Medical Care into Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Programs for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations at High Risk for Behavioral Health Disorders and HIV. Currently in its 3rd year, SSG/HIARC is co-located with Central City Community Health Clinic at 1730 W. Olympic Blvd., Ste. 150 and provides individual and group therapy sessions for individuals dealing with trauma and/or substance abuse issues. Clients are connected to HIV primary care, if needed, and screened for Hep A/B and provided vaccinations, all for free. What makes this program unique is its diverse staff that includes a Registered Associate CSW, MFT Registered Intern, Certified Addictions Treatment Counselors, and a Registered Nurse all working in tandem to provide comprehensive services all in-one site. SSG/HIARC targets the Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) community of Los Angeles County, but is able to serve anyone needing services.

If you have any questions about our services and/or would like to refer a client to this program, please contact Everardo Alvizo, Project Coordinator at ealvizo@hiarc.ssg.org.

AIDS United Partnership

Appetite for Advocacy event panelists from L to R: APAIT Housing Specialist and trans activist Maria Roman, APAIT Division Director Jury Candelario, consumer advocate Nancy Shearer, and APAIT Consumer Advisory Board Chair Mario Scott

In partnership with AIDS United’s Positive Organizing Project (POP), APAIT launched the Appetite for Advocacy campaign to engage people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) into activism at a time when lifesaving health care services are under threat. The project aims to mobilize consumers to advocate for themselves and to preserve safety net programs like the Affordable Care Act, Medi-Cal (Medicaid), the Ryan White Care Act, and the AIDS Drugs Assistance Program (ADAP) which 89,000 PLWHA rely on for their HIV treatment. APAIT’s specific project will involve advocacy training, letter writing campaigns, action alerts via multiple social media platforms, legislative visits, and a digital HIV awareness campaign. For more information, please contact Claire Romillo at clairer@apaitonline.org.

SAVE THE DATE

APAIT 30 YEARS

Dinner & Fashion Gala
Thursday, October 19, 2017, 6 PM
Taglyan Cultural Complex
1201 North Vine Street
Hollywood, CA 90068
www.apaitonline.org
Congratulations Miss Quest 2017

On Saturday, December 17, 2016, Colombian native Carolina Gutierrez was crowned Miss Quest 2017, at the David Henry Hwang Theater, Los Angeles.

“Every year the statistics of violence against trans people are a clear reminder that my job as an activist and a proud transgender Latina woman is one of my top priorities. I will not stand idly by while these atrocities continue to occur. Let’s raise awareness and educate society because this is not a question of gender identity or sexuality but of humanity,” Carolina stated on her Instagram account caroland14.

Quest was designed to encourage the empowerment of the often marginalized transgender and gender non-conforming community. The event also aims to decrease rates of high risk behaviors in the community, including those contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS infection. Quest celebrates uniqueness and diversity, while supporting the community. Previous winners have gone on to become leading advocates for the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

API LGBTQ Community Forum

On January 11, 2017, multiple local API LGBTQ serving groups including APAIT held a community forum to strategize how to best engage and mobilize in response to the new federal administration’s policies that will directly impede the progress made for LGBTQ rights in the nation. Intersecting topics ranged from immigrant rights, marriage equality, health care safety net preservation, anti-bullying, transgender, queer, and gender non-conforming (TQGNC) harassment, xenophobia, Islamophobia, hate crimes, and increased generalized anxiety within the community. The forum was generously sponsored and hosted by the California Community Foundation. The APAIT team led most of the event organizing including Peter Cruz, Ron Cortes, Jeffrey Liang, Daniel Nguyen, Jimmy Sianipar, and Zulma Velasquez.
TransLatin@ Coalition

TransLatin@ Coalition’s Founding Director Bamby Salcedo leads the ribbon cutting ceremony flanked by community members.

Los Angeles’ First Trans Drop-in Center
Center for Violence Prevention and Transgender Wellness

On February 1, 2017, the TransLatin@ Coalition opened the first transgender drop-in center in Los Angeles. The Center for Violence Prevention and Transgender Wellness is a much needed safe space for Trans people to receive daily lunches, access a computer lab, and participate in leadership and workforce development trainings. Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals experience marginalization in employment, housing, health care, and education based on their gender identity and/or gender expression. The Center for Violence Prevention and Transgender Wellness will provide a safe space for trans and gender non-conforming people to access crucial, lifesaving services.

SSG

Integrated Systems Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Integrated Systems staff members were thanked for their long-term dedication. 
L to R: LaShawn Smith - HOPICS, Jennifer Kyomen - APCTC, Armine Mkrtchyan - APCTC, Sylvia Kimball - OTTP-LA, Lydia Cosio - WCC, Yen Tat - APCTC, May Poon - Alliance

The SSG Executive Director, Herbert Hatanaka and the directors of every behavioral health division hosted a celebration lunch on January 9, 2017, in honor of the various ‘IS’ staff across all of SSG’s Divisions. This lunch, dedicated to “Our Behind-the-Scene Heroes,” represented a chance to recognize the hard work and dedication of these essential members of the SSG family. Herb acknowledged the longevity of many of our ‘IS’ staff, many of whom have been with SSG for 15, 20, and 30 years. The group reminisced about the days when everything was recorded and submitted by hand and on paper!

Thank you again to all of “Our Behind-the-Scenes-Heroes” for ensuring that our behavioral health divisions operate smoothly, allowing services to be delivered to our community members.
SSG Core

Holiday Luncheon

The Core Office celebrated the holiday season on Thursday December 22nd, 2016 with a delicious lunch, games and prizes. Thank you SSG for this fun opportunity to enjoy some holiday cheer.
Some Dates to Remember for March-April

3/17  St. Patrick's Day
4/01  April Fools Day
4/10  Passover begins at sundown
4/15  Tax Day
4/16  Easter Sunday

Special Recognition for 25 Years of Service!

Dr. Leo Pandac is the Program Director of SSG’s Pacific Asian Alcohol and Drug Program (PAADP) serving LA County. PAADP was established in 1978 by the late professor and community leader Royal Morales, Dr. Pandac’s long-time mentor. Throughout the years Dr. Pandac has ensured that PAADP continues to provide culturally competent alcohol and drug prevention and recovery services to minority populations. He is known for his leadership and advocacy in various cultural and educational initiatives locally and statewide.

PAADP’s services are annually highlighted in the annual Lotus Festival in Echo Park, a collaboration with the City of LA and the LA Lotus Festival, Inc. where Dr. Pandac serves as President.

His extensive community involvement shows his commitment to both service and the arts. He is the President of the Federation of Filipino American Associations, Inc. based in Long Beach that provides affordable housing and support services. Dr. Pandac is also the president of Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA) and active board member since 2003.

He was appointed to the Veterans Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation (VACOR) of the US Department of Veterans Affairs in June 2016 to serve for a 2-year term. Recently, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors appointed Dr. Pandac to the Los Angeles County Commission For Older Adults.

Congratulations, and thank you for 25 years of service and accomplishments!

Congratulations to Sylvia Kimball who graduated on December 9, 2016 with her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Cal Poly Pomona.

Ms. Kimball is OTTP’s QI/MIS Manager II and has worked for OTTP for 16 years. She is responsible for managing the submission and reimbursement of claims for OTTP and plays a key role working with the electronic medical records system. She also oversees the bilingual unit at OTTP by coordinating administrative support. Ms. Kimball is a valuable member of OTTP’s management team and we are proud of her accomplishment!

APAIT’s Associate Director Peter Cruz was named one of the inaugural Fellows for the California HIV Policy and Research (CHRP) program!

The Fellows Program provides policy research training and education to individuals who are affiliated with HIV/AIDS community-based organizations in California that serve people living with or populations disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. The two-year fellowship program will increase the capacity of community-based organizations to address the HIV epidemic in CA by shaping public policy. Peter begins his fellowship late spring 2017. Congratulations Peter!
Seat Belts

Seatbelts prevent injury by:

- Preventing ejection from the vehicle.
- Shifting crash forces to the strongest parts of the body’s structure.
- Spreading forces over a wider area of the body.
- Allowing the body to slow down gradually.
- Protecting the head and spinal cord.

Why Seatbelts?

- When a crash occurs, the driver and other passengers and objects in the vehicle are still traveling at the vehicle’s original speed at the moment of impact.
- As the vehicle comes to an abrupt and complete stop, an un-seat belted driver will slam into the steering wheel, windshield, or other parts of the vehicle’s interior.

Put another way:

In a frontal collision occurring at 30 mph, an un-seat belted person continues to move forward at 30 mph causing him to hit the windshield at about 30 mph.

This is the same velocity a person falling from the third floor window would experience upon impact with the ground.

Statistics - National Safety Council Injury Facts:

Seatbelts save an estimated 15,000 lives each year.

An additional 6,000 lives could be saved each year if all vehicle occupants wore seatbelts.

Over the last 40 years (1975 to 2016), an estimated 225,000 lives were saved because of seatbelts.

An estimated 2,500 lives are saved each year because of air bags.

Excerpted: SafetyFirst Training Topics 2/2017

A new CA law regarding cell phone use while driving.

SACRAMENTO (KPIX 5) - Looking to curb distracted driving in California, Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation that expands restrictions on cell phone use behind the wheel.

Brown signed AB1785, which prohibits drivers from checking maps, adjusting playlists, taking photos or live streaming on their phones unless a hands-free device is used. The new restrictions add to existing bans on calling or texting without a hands-free device.

The new law allows for drivers to swipe on their devices, if their phone is attached to a dashboard or windshield mount.

The new law goes into effect in January. Violators will be subject to a $20 fine for the first offense, with fines going up for additional offenses.

Decrease in the Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is decreasing the mileage reimbursement rate for privately owned automobiles from 54 to 53.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven effective January 1, 2017.

Please note that effective January 1, 2017, any mileage incurred on SSG business on or after January 1st will be reimbursed at the 53.5 cents rate.
Safety in the Field

**PLAN AHEAD**

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**#1** Have clear directions; know the risks and possible hazards

---

**#2** Know your potential "safe havens" en route to & from your destination

---

**#3** Contact clients ahead of time to schedule your visit; ask who else will be there and if there are pets or other situations to be concerned about

---

**#4** Schedule new and questionable visits early in the day

---

**#5** Call the office to check-in at scheduled times and to report a schedule change

---

**#6** Carry your cell phone at all times; with a fully charged battery

---

**#7** Program your cell phone’s speed dial with emergency numbers

---

**#8** Lock valuables in the trunk of your car before leaving the office

---

**#9** Place items needed for your visit in a carrying case prior to leaving the office; reduce trips to your car

---

**#10** Do not take purses on your visit - they may contain personal or hazardous items such as: medications, cosmetics, pepper spray or coins

---

*SSG*
February is a time to reflect on heart health and the prevention of heart disease, which is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States.

Heart Attack: Symptoms
- Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back
- Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach
- Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort
- Breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or feeling lightheaded
- Women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea or vomiting, and back or jaw pain
- If you have any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately

Heart Attack: Reducing Your Risk
- Quit smoking.
- Become more physically active.
- Eat a healthy diet rich in fiber and low in fat.
- Lower high cholesterol.
- Reduce high blood pressure.
- Lose weight.
- Head off diabetes or get diabetes under tight control.
- Manage the stress in your life.
- Get plenty of sleep.

SSG’ Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Offered Through

Cigna. Life Assistance Program 24/7

Achieve Work/Life Balance
- Face-to-Face Assistance (3 sessions)
- Support & Referral Services
- Discounts on Health & Wellness Services
Call 1-800-538-3543 or www.Cignabehavioral.com

Your Name or Picture May Appear in SSG’s Newsletter and Website
If you participate in an agency event and an article or picture from that event is submitted for publication, your name and/or picture may be included. If you do not want your picture or name to be included, please refrain from being photographed at events and let your supervisor know not to include your name in articles. You may also contact Tonie Diaz in the HR Dept. at adiaz@ssg.org or Leah McGowan for newsletter publishing and donation inquiries at lmcgowan@ssg.org.