



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Our Crisis of Homelessness How HOPICS is Leading the Way in SPA 6

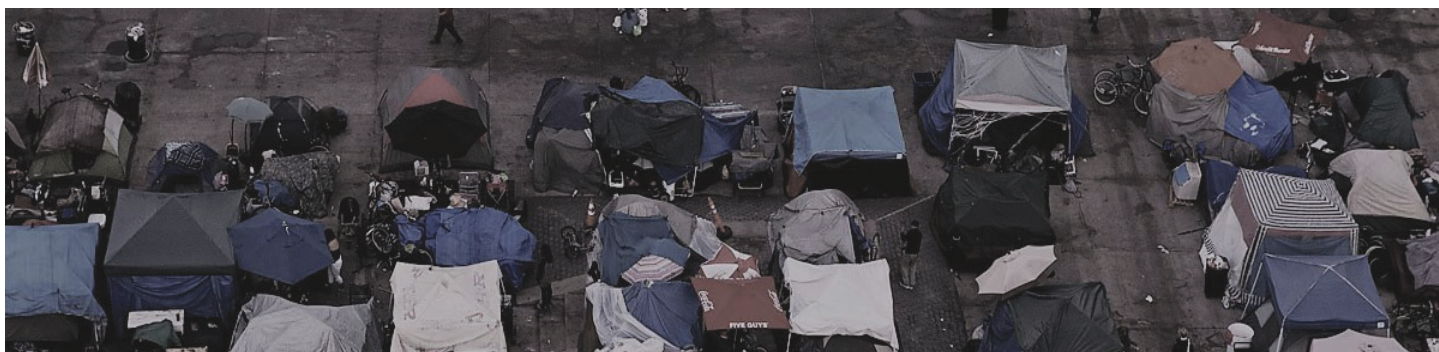
According to the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, over 58,936 people in LA County are homeless, seventy-five percent (75%) of whom are “unsheltered” or living in vehicles, tents or makeshift shelters on the street. This number represents an increase of twelve percent (12%) from 2018, despite significant local investments in addressing the issue, including 21,631 people placed in homes, 5,643 people prevented from entering homelessness, and intensive case management services provided to over 900 people with severe mental illness.

This is a crisis that defines our current lifetime. For those of us in the nonprofit world this is neither new nor unforeseen. SSG established a 1-person operation with Founder **Mike Neely** called the Homeless Outreach Program in 1987. The program (renamed Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System) grew steadily over the years and is now one of the leading homeless providers in LA County primarily serving SPA 6 which is made up of South LA, Compton, Lynwood and Paramount. SSG/HOPICS, led by Director **Veronica Lewis**, maintains four (4) full operational sites, 14 co-location sites, 1 ‘safe parking’ site, and 4 directly operated interim housing sites with over 240 staff including mobile response teams that connect unsheltered persons wherever they are located. Backed by Measure H funding approved by voters in 2017, HOPICS Family Solutions Center currently serves 300-450 newly homeless families per month. Every night HOPICS is keeping more than 2,200 men, women and children off the street.

It is hard to truly understand the breadth of the crisis in LA County. Per the 2019 Homeless Count there was an increase in families, youth (18-24), and seniors (62+) experiencing homelessness, as well as a persistent overrepresentation of Black/African American individuals (33.2%). There is no standard protocol to serve the diverse homeless population. Newly homeless often require different strategies than chronically homeless. Over 29% report a serious mental illness and/or a substance use disorder. Words are inadequate to describe the hard work and dedication of the men and women employed to serve this very vulnerable and challenging population.

Between July 2018 through March 2019 HOPICS has provided services and triage to more than 6,000 households experiencing homelessness. Permanent housing has been secured for more than 500 individuals and families. Safe and stable interim/temporary housing has been provided to 825 families with children and 150 single adults. On-the-street care including medical, mental health, addiction and case management has been provided to 2,400 unduplicated street homeless households. HOPICS has also provided thousands of meals and grocery/restaurant vouchers, clothing, and basic life supplies (i.e. infant formula, diapers, blankets, etc.) to those in need.

There is still a long way to go to address homelessness in LA County. We are proud to report that HOPICS is leading the way in SPA 6. Veronica Lewis can be contacted at vlewis@hopics.org.



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

HOPICS

Groundbreaking Report On African Americans Experiencing Homelessness Released

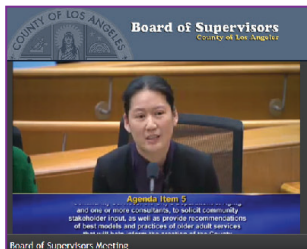


LAHSA releases first-of-its-kind study identifying institutional racism as the main driver of black homelessness - which has been persistently overrepresented in the population at 33.2%. HOPICS Director **Veronica Lewis** was one of the appointed members of the 26-member Ad Hoc Committee that was formed to find real solutions to address the disparity. The report provides comprehensive policy recommendations for all levels of our service delivery systems. Ms. Lewis noted “It was an honor to participate in this historic endeavor. This is a critical tool in our fight against racism and homelessness”. For a copy of the report please use the following link:

<https://www.lahsa.org/news?article=514-groundbreaking-report-on-black-people-and-homelessness-released>

SILVER

The Future of Aging in California



SSG SILVER Director, Yvonne Sun

May was Older Americans Month, marking an opportunity to reflect on the importance of preparing for the future of aging in California and in Los Angeles. As the population of older adults grows dramatically over the coming years, the number of individuals caring for older adults is not growing at the pace of the demand for their services. Thus, our infrastructure is not set up to meet the needs of this expanding population. A movement at the State and local level has initiated to address these issues and to improve the overall quality of care for older adults systemwide.

In fact, the Governor of CA, **Gavin Newsom** called for a Master Plan for Aging during his latest State of the State address and signed an executive order June 10th calling for this plan by October 2020. Previously, both **Mayor Garcetti** and the LA County Board of Supervisors had adopted the **Purposeful Aging LA (PALA)** Initiative, which brings together the City, County, other cities, AARP, the private sector, and universities to identify and implement ideas and strategies to make Los Angeles a more age-friendly region that allows people to age gracefully and stress-free.

Additionally, in February 2019, the LA County Board of Supervisors (BOS) also passed a motion to review the feasibility of creating a standalone department of aging to address the needs of older adults in Los Angeles County, likely involving a partnership with the City of Los Angeles. Such a new department would enhance the local service infrastructure and allow the City and County to be more proactive in program implementation, better coordinate services, increase efficiency of service delivery, and reduce consumer confusion about available services.

SSG SILVER Director, **Yvonne Sun** testified during a BOS meeting in support of the motion. Yvonne will also be joining the Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition in a one day workshop to develop a plan to inform the State's Master Plan on Aging in late June, 2019.



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

APAIT

APAIT plays key role in 2nd Annual Department of Mental Health LBGQTIA-2S Conference



Team APAIT co-leads the 2nd annual LA County Department of Mental Health (LAC DMH) on LBGQTIA-2S communities on June 12, at the Sheraton Universal North Hollywood. The event was co-chaired by the LAC DMH Underserved Communities of Color (UsCC) LBGQTIA-2S Committee Chair and APAIT Full Service Partnership (FSP) Case Manager **Terri Jay**. The event was hosted by APAIT's Health and Policy Coordinator **Jazzmun Crayton** and also featured APAIT panelists like Quest 2019 Advocacy Champion **Yue Begay**. This year's theme focused on "Reclaiming & Restoring - telling our stories."



APAIT Team

Advocacy Day at the State Capitol

In Sacramento on May 14, 2019 APAIT co-sponsored the annual LBGQTIA-2S Advocacy Day led by stakeholders who were consumers and advocates. Among the bills APAIT advocated for were: AB 512 (Ting) - county-wide cultural competency plans on LBGQTIA-2S



L to R: APAIT Orange County Director Hieu Nguyen, Case Manager Jesse Ramirez, consumer advocate Gil Rico, Senator Tom Umberg, APAIT Director Jury Candelario, Program Coordinator Johann Ortizo

communities; AB 1085 (McCarty) - youth substance use prevention, early intervention and treatment and disparities reduction priorities; SB 10 (Beall and LAC DMH) - peer support specialist certification; SB 132 (Wiener) - Transgender Respect, Agency and Dignity (RAD) Act; SB 741 (Galgani) - Affirming Marriage and Birth Records; and SB 159 (Wiener/Gloria) - Pre Exposure and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP) Access Expansion). APAIT also received a warm welcome from its Orange County State Senator **Colonel Tom Umberg** (Garden Grove, 34th District) who provided APAIT delegates with a private tour of the Senate Chambers.

Los Angeles Pride



This year's LA Pride parade in the city of West Hollywood was broadcast live for the first time in history by KABC News to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots that sparked the LBGQTIA-2S rights movement in 1969 led by trans pioneers **Marsha P. Johnson** and **Sylvia Rivera**. APAIT's dynamic contingent was led by its Director **Jury Candelario** and Health and Policy Coordinator **Jazzmun Crayton** and featured 2019 Quest Advocacy Champions **Ms. Quest Yue Begay** and **Mx Quest Adam Morella**. APAIT's contingent also included APAIT Team members and members of the 2nd annual Indigenous Pride Committee.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

APAIT

LGBTQ+ Training for the Corporate World



As part of APAIT's ongoing technical assistance efforts on LGBTQIA-2S cultural competency and cultural humility to mainstream communities including our corporate sector partners, members of the team held trainings for Kaiser Permanente, Paramount Studios, and Neutrogena / Johnson and Johnson Families this spring season. The Neutrogena training was integrated as part of Drag and Lunch event (May 29th) at their Westchester corporate office. Pictured sitting from left to right are drag performer **Miss Shu Mai** and APAIT Advisory Board member **Karina S Theamala** of the Imperial Court of Los Angeles, Hollywood drag performer **Blasia Discoteca**, APAIT Advisory Board Chair **Rob Maullon**, Neutrogena Quality Systems and Compliance Manager with APAIT Director **Jury Candelario** and APAIT Health and Policy Coordinator **Jazzmun Crayton** behind them. The Kaiser Permanente presentation resulted in one of the attending physicians joining APAIT's Board of Advisors - **Dr. Vikas Jayaveda**. He will start his tenure with the APAIT Board on July 1, 2019, and will be sworn in during the July 21st Board Installation dinner.

CSAP visits APAIT

On May 21st, APAIT's SAMHSA CSAP Project Officer **Anthony Bethea** conducted an all-day site visit of its Koreatown-based headquarters. APAIT currently has two CSAP grants under Mr. Bethea - ASPIRE, a homelessness prevention program for transitioning age youth and SPARK, a substance use prevention program geared towards storytelling utilizing multiple social media platforms. Both CSAP programs are a 5-year investment totaling over \$2.5 million dollars. APAIT's current SAMHSA portfolio also includes a substance use treatment grant; over-all SAMHSA has a \$5 million investment in APAIT programming.



L to R: Director Jury Candelario, SAMHSA Officer Anthony Bethea, Evaluation Analyst Victor Crisanto, Case Manager Jacob Dougherty, APAIT Board Member Dr. Lois Takahashi, and Senior Program Manager Abigail Radaza.

APAIT Board of Advisors



APAIT Board of Advisors

APAIT would like to acknowledge the important role of its Board of Advisors. First created in the mid-90s by its Founding Director **Dean Goishi**, the Board primarily serves as a fundraising committee to raise discretionary funds for APAIT with a minimum annual give-or-get fund giving policy. They also serve as community ambassadors, conduct board cultivation and recruitment, mentor the youth advisory council, and provide informal guidance for the strategic direction of APAIT with the Division Director. They serve two consecutive two-year terms with an option to stay an extra year before terming out of their community service; many of them return after short breaks from their tenure. This past fiscal year's Board leadership included Chair **Rob Maullon** of Neutrogena - Johnson and Johnson and Vice-Chair **Richie Nguyen** of Health Partners - Da Vita Medical Group. As pictured from left to right, members include: ex-officio and APAIT Division Director **Jury Candelario**; **Dr. Lois Takahashi** of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy - Sacramento Center; UCLA Nurse Practitioner **James Simmons**; Trans Chorus LA Artistic Director (formerly of Paramount Studios) **Abdullah Hall**; Glendale Adventist Medical Center's Behavioral Health Director **Scott Robertson**; Chair Rob Maullon; SSG Board of Directors member and aerospace industry professional **Sanjay Chhugani**; Chair of Mayor Eric Garcetti's Transgender Advisory Council and Chair of Imperial Court of Los Angeles - Hollywood **Karina Samala**; SSG Board of Directors member and banking sector professional **Glen Pacheco**; Reliance Aluminum and Steele Corporation human resources professional **Yolanda Mationg**; E-Central Credit Union Senior Vice President **Laurent Sy**; United States Deputy Federal Public Defender (formerly Litigation Associate at Manatt, Phelps, Phillips LLP) **Lillian Chu, Esq**; Health Net - Centene Group health insurance professional **Elizabeth Creager**; and Vice-Chair **Richie Nguyen**. Their term begins fiscal year July 1st to June 30th. Thank you all for your contributions!

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SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

SSG

SSG Shines at DMH Provider Luncheon



Picture L to R: Trang Hoang, Noriko Kajiwaru, Sheila Wu, DMH Director Jonathan Sherin, Carmen Chacon, Vera Calloway, Herbert Hatanaka and Hayley Levy

SSG Behavioral Health leadership attended the Los Angeles DMH Provider Luncheon on June 6th at the Sheraton Universal Hotel. SSG is one of the top agencies contracted by DMH and includes the amazing work of the following SSG Divisions: APCTC (Director **Dr. Sheila Wu**); SSG ALLIANCE (Director **Dr. Trang Hoang**); AP Recovery (Director **Angela Kang**); APAIT (Director **Jury Candelario**); BACUP (Director **Vera Calloway**); HOPICS (Director **Veronica Lewis**); IBHT (Director **Carmen Chacon**); OTTP (Director **Suzanne Afuso-Sugano**); Project 180 (Director **Emily Bell**); SILVER (Director **Yvonne Sun**) and Weber Community Center (Director **Deenne Houston**). Keynote addresses by DMH Leadership included DMH Director **Dr. Jonathan Sherin** and **Mr. Reginald Randles**. The event highlighted the exemplary work done by all providers throughout Los Angeles County.

Kress House Visit

Last October 2018, SSG Project 180 proudly opened the doors of their new 'Kress House' a supportive residential site with capacity to house up to 30 forensic clients. Since it's opening, Kress House has been a great success and lauded by community leaders and elected officials. On May 25th, 2019, SSG welcomed visitors DMH Director **Dr. Jonathan Sherin** and Superior Court Judge **James Bianco** (appointed by former California governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**) who came to tour the site. Several of the residents recognized Judge Bianco from their time in court and enjoyed having a relaxed and uplifting personal conversation in the home-like setting. A very different environment indeed from a concrete jail cell. SSG Executive Director **Herbert Hatanaka** was in attendance as well as Hayley Levy and P180 Director **Emily Bell**. After the meeting, Herb noted "Watching the interaction between our clients and the judge was inspiring and made me proud of the work we do".

AP Recovery

On the move!



AP Recovery has moved from their long-time location at 1665 W. Adams Blvd. The transition was smooth as AP Recovery had been in regular discussion with the **Lee Family** owners who had informed AP Recovery in advance that the building was to be sold in 2019. While hard to say goodbye to so many good memories, staff expanded to their nearby AP Recovery/FAME location at 1968 W. Adams Blvd. (less than a mile away). Please contact AP Recovery at 323-731-3534 if you have any questions.

APCTC

2019 Hope Event in Riverside



Pictured L to R: Al Choi, Steven Jeon Peter Cho, Elsa Pena, Samuel Yoon, Rudy Cueva, Jun Park, Jeffrey Lim (Band Leader)

The 2019 Hope Event was hosted by Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health and the Asian American task force in Riverside, CA. APCTC's Never Stop Band performed several songs for the attendees during lunch hour to everyone's enjoyment. APCTC Program Manager **Al Choi** noted "I have had the pleasure of working with Never Stop Band for several years now. They have grown into an amazing band and I can listen to them all day!"

SSC NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Weber

2019 Weber Olympics

The Second Annual Weber Olympics occurred throughout the month of June at Weber Community Center. Each department (RRR, Intensive Services, Wraparound, BVOW, Admin. etc.) selected a color and defended their team against the other departments in friendly competition to see who is the Weber Champ. Among the activities were: Water Balloon Toss, Connect 4, Free Throw Contest, Musical Chairs, Family Feud, Jenga and Trivia, among others. The award ceremony will take place on Monday, June 24th. Who do you think took the trophy this year?



APIFM

A Taste of Home

Do you ever have memories connected to your food? Have you ever felt more welcomed in the sight of certain foods? Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement (APIFM)'s Food Roots Team recently released a short film called, "A Taste of Home", exploring those ideas of how our memories shape the way we consume food. The film follows the story of a grandmother struggling to settle in after recently moving in with her daughter-in-law and granddaughter. After an unexpected birthday experience, she begins to find the ingredients and the courage to make a home for herself. "Through this film we are hoping to express how bok choy holds a special place in the hearts and memories of many Asian American families," said **Kyle Tsukahira**, APIFM Program Manager. "We also hope this film encourages people to go out and support local Asian American family farms by buying more bok choy (and other Asian specialty produce items), cooking it at home, and sharing a meal with their loved ones."

Bok choy is a popular, culturally traditional Asian produce item that APIFM's Food Roots program has found to be beneficial to health and palates, in general, which is why the film chooses to honor the often used vegetable with its own special storyline. The film features one of Food Roots' partner farmers, **June Moua**, who owns and operates Dream Farms with just her and her husband.

This film is a part of APIFM's #localbokchoy campaign. The team continues to create free informational materials and content sharing Bok Choy's culinary versatility and health benefits. To see more materials, please visit: www.foodroots.co and follow us on instagram @foodrootsla. To watch "A Taste of Home", please visit the APIFM YouTube page @ForwardAPI.



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

OTTP-LA

Upwards 2019



OTTP team members, Courtney Quintero, MA, OTR/L, and Jennifer Hong, AMFT/APCC, joined staff, students, and parents from Figueroa Street Elementary School at the UPawards event as part

of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools. OTTP was nominated by Figueroa Street Elementary School for the “Community Partner of the Year” award. Partnership for Los Angeles Schools is one of the largest, in-district public school transformation organizations in the United States. They are an independent non-profit organization that promotes change through an innovative transformation model: working with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LA Unified), the Partnership manages a network of district schools in Boyle Heights, South LA, and Watts. They have this annual celebration to recognize excellence and bring all stakeholders together to celebrate community growth and achievement while embracing Partnership’s core values of courage, creativity, continuous improvement, and collective action. OTTP staff are honored to accept this amazing partnership award.

WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

Though the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863, slaves were not informed they were free until June 19, 1865 when General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas to make the announcement. Today, though not yet recognized as a national holiday, this day is celebrated as the historical Freedom Day.



OTTP’s 8th Annual Art Show



On May 16, 2019, OTTP hosted our 8th Annual Art Show in the OTTP Youth Center. OTTP staff transformed the Youth Center into an art gallery providing clients with an opportunity to highlight their visual art and performance

art talents to the community. The event provided an opportunity for family, friends, staff, and even previous clients to come together and celebrate the creativity and personal growth that client’s have achieved at OTTP. It was wonderful to see our clients receiving acknowledgment and positive feedback from their families and community members. Art Show attendees snacked on treats like nachos and ice cream while enjoying the gallery of drawings, paintings, paper mâché pieces, and poetry. The audience was also treated to a variety of live client performances including singing, rapping, and a ukulele player. Selected works by OTTP artists will be showcased in the SSG Core office lobby soon. Congratulations to all of OTTP’s artists!

SAVE THE DATE



SSC NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

OTTP-SF

OTTP-SF 2nd Annual Youth Empowerment Fundraiser

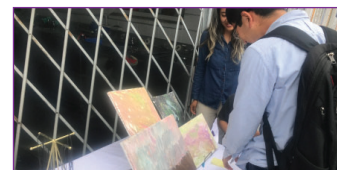
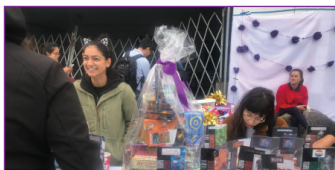
On May 30th, 2019, OTTP-SF hosted their 2nd Annual Youth Empowerment Fundraiser. For those unfamiliar with OTTP-LA's sister organization, OTTP-SF is a non-profit that provides mental health services to SF Bay Area youth who have been impacted by trauma. This year the annual event was generously sponsored by **Realize CPA**. The purpose of the fundraiser was to raise funds so that the division would be able to provide their clients with food, school supplies, interview clothes, supplies for coping activities, and so much more. The funds would also help to provide increased services to more youth in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Staff, family, friends, donors, and community members gathered at F8 Nightclub and Bar to dance the night away to lively music from the band **Raw Honey** and to beats by OTTP-SF's very own **DJ Sean Cochrun**. Snacks were provided by Whole Foods, Azucar Lounge, Work of Art Catering, B Street and Vine, and Extreme Pizza. Beautiful T-shirts designed by one of OTTP-SF's talented youth were worn by staff. Bidding wars abounded as a silent auction - with more than 50 incredible items - drew to an end during the event, and many laughs were had in the photobooth provided by **Night Owl**. A fun night was had by all, and the event was a success in raising funds for the fiscal year to come!



Divisadero June Art Walk

OTTP-SF was excited to be the featured nonprofit organization at the Divisadero Street June Art Walk. Merchants all along the corridor generously donated gift cards and other fun items for an exciting opportunity drawing, which benefitted OTTP-SF. The opportunity drawing was so popular that staff had to quickly print out additional tickets to meet demand! Though San Francisco came out strong with its infamous June Gloom, that didn't prevent everyone from having a blast. Many community members stopped by to have ice cream with staff members and learn more about the organization, while the incredibly talented youth of OTTP-SF featured some of their beautiful art. Meanwhile, Duke the dog turned heads in his lion costume at the Smooch the Pooch booth, and everyone learned how much more fun a little wind can be if you just bring a pinwheel!



The Hang-Out Program



OTTP-SF has a thriving internship program and they are proud to encourage their students to take on exciting projects of their own. This year, two OTTP-SF interns created **The Hang-Out Program**. This program brings together current OTTP-SF youth clients and alumni clients to support one another, and to explore new places and activities as a group. To raise funds for their project, the interns held a third-party event amongst friends at Jackalope in San Francisco; where the restaurant proceeds were donated back to the Hang-Out Program. There was also a fun opportunity drawing with tons of amazing prizes. These donations will help fund community outings, cooking activities, and arts & crafts. The event had a wonderful turn out and the interns were thrilled with their success!

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

BACUP

HAWAIIAN LUAU



Reflecting the spirit of Aloha, BACUP held its 2nd Annual Hawaiian Luau on May 17th to honor Mental Health Awareness Month. The party was attended by more than 70 guests who had fun eating Hawaiian-style chicken, stir-fry veggies, Hawaiian mac salad, Asian cashew salad and other morsels of tasty food.

Staff and guests spent most of their time listening to LIVE music. The surprise of the day was that soundman, **Tice**, turned out to be a music man as well. His mellow rock drifted from his guitar to our ears and kicked off the entertainment lineup. Client, **Ausha**, was a wee bit nervous as she sang Mariah Carey's hit song, Hero, but the audience had nothing but love and encouragement to give her in return. The Alliance band, **Dire Wolves**, rounded out the set by rocking the audience to show what they're made of—aside from being two clients, **Tim** and **Brian**, and Care Coordinator, **Martin**! Finally, for the third year in a row, BACUP's own **Bob Watson** humored us with his timely comic relief.

Special guests (BACUP Ohana!) included **Naomi Kageyama** and **Peter Wong** from SSG Core along with Vera's longtime friend, **Tylana Thomas**, from the Department of Mental Health. With raffle gifts galore, this year's Luau will be hard to top, but BACUP has every intention of doing just that in 2020! Mahalo!



Latino Immigration Conference

BACUP actively participated in the annual 'Alcance Latino A Través De Las Artes' all-day event held on May 28, 2019 at The California Endowment (TCE). The theme this year was mental health and immigration with a focus on the Latino population. Providers including BACUP showcased amazing artwork created by consumers. The Keynote speaker was Dr. **Jorge Partida Del Toro**, DMH Chief of Psychology with opening words by Dr. **Jonathan E. Sherin**, DMH Director - who appeared impressed by the artistic efforts of the many client participants whose work was displayed at the Conference. BACUP Director **Vera Calloway** together with BACUP Art Instructor **Juan Burgueno, Jr.** and other BACUP staff along with ardent BACUP supporter and Director of Risk Mgmt. & Special Projects, **Naomi Kageyama** were proud to display BACUP artwork created by consumers, and were also presented with a Special Certificate from DMH officials. BACUP's selection of client art work—particularly a self-portrait by artist, **Jorge Torres**—touched conference attendees with its timely relevance to immigration among L.A.'s Latino population.





SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

The Development Team

A COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, REENTRY, AND SHAKING THINGS UP

On May 30th, several SSG staff members from various divisions attended Shaking up Reentry: A Collaborative Approach to Reentry in L.A. County, the first ever Adult Reentry conference hosted by the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Cleverly titled “Shaking up Reentry”, the conference encouraged attendees to embrace change and a willingness to stray from the path of what’s always been done, in order to identify innovative practices that could yield better results for our reentry population. The conference attracted over 600 attendees, ranging from local law enforcement to service providers, city government representatives, and community members personally impacted by the justice system. Notably, the conference also featured a Chief’s Panel which provided a rare opportunity to hear a discussion on reentry directly from the heads of several LA County Departments including the District Attorney, Sheriff’s Department, Public Defender, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Social Services, Mayor’s Office of Reentry, and more. The event also hosted breakout sessions with topics related to employment, health access, housing and community-driven innovations to support reentry.

SSG/HOPICS Director, **Veronica Lewis**, was a panel moderator for: “The Comprehensive Nuts and Bolts of Contracting and Capacitation”, which explored how to successfully acquire county contracts to support the reentry population. SSG/HOPICS Associate Director of Homeless Systems Integration, **Marion Sanders**, was a panelist on the session “Housing First: Building an Inclusive and Sustainable Housing System for LA County’s Reentry Population”. Also in attendance was **Veronica Galdamez**, SSG Development Team, and **Emily Bell**, SSG/Project 180 Division Director. Bell was impressed by the strong focus on recovery that the event emanated, with the conference thoughtfully elevating the stories of those with lived experience through both keynote speaker and closing panel presenters sharing their personal stories of hardship, incarceration, and how they were able to change their lives for the better.

This momentous event represented the County’s new commitment towards improved collaboration across disciplines, with the hopes of identifying innovative and multidisciplinary models for reentry. From housing to behavioral health, many SSG divisions engage in the work daily to ensure better outcomes for our reentry populations, and this conference showed promise of a not-so-distant future where our returning community members can access improved services and supports to lead full and meaningful lives. The Development Team looks forward to helping secure resources for the implementation of new strategies to achieve such an impact.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

From May 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 SSG has been recommended for the following grants:*

FUNDER	DIVISION	PROGRAM
San Francisco DCYF	OTTP-SF	Mentorship: Connective Services
LA County WDACS	SILVER	Supportive Services Program
California Victim Compensation Board	HOPICS	Trauma Recovery Center

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Accomplishments

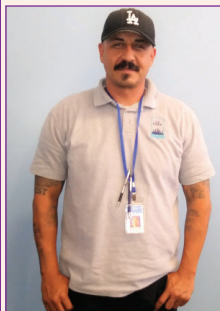
BEST WISHES TO SCOTT CHAN



SSG bids a fond farewell and best wishes to **Scott Chan**, Founder and outgoing Director of API Forward Movement (APIFM). Nearly 8 years ago in 2011 Scott began his amazing journey as Director of the APIOPA Program, which later changed to APIFM. The mission of APIFM is to cultivate healthy, long-lasting, and vibrant API communities through grassroots organizing. APIFM is known for promoting health and wellness through education, advocacy and social justice initiatives. Under Scott's leadership, the division grew from a 1-person operation to a staff of 16 with 3 office locations (downtown/central, downtown/Chinatown and Alhambra) and multiple funding sources and projects. SSG congratulates Scott on his new role with the LA County Department of Public Health working on partner engagement and collaboration at the Center for Health Equity. Scott's final day was June 7, 2019. APIFM leaders **Diyana** (diyana@apifm.org) and **Kyle** (kyle@apifm.org) are currently working as interim co-Directors for APIFM.

WAY TO GO!

New National Peer Council Member



Project 180 Field Supervisor, **Jose Rodriguez** will serve on the National Peer Council, newly formed by Community Catalyst and Faces & Voices of Recovery. Jose was one of 10 people chosen to serve on the council in a national search for members. The purpose of the council is to help improve the substance abuse treatment and services system. The council will identify outcomes of treatment and services that matter most to people with substance use disorders. This will help guide research and action to improve treatment and services. It will also guide evaluation of existing services and help ensure people with substance use disorders have more useful information when choosing among those services. Congratulations Jose!

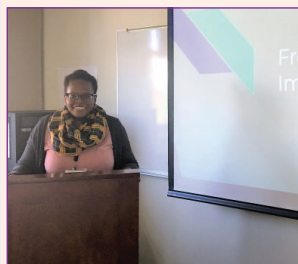
BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to ED Herb Hatanaka! Proud grandfather to Mikayla Emiko Kaifesh born 6/17/19.



YOU ROCK!

NSWM Presenter



Gabrielle Waring, MSW (SSG CORE) presented an hour long session workshop at the Network for Social Work Management 30th Annual Conference, which was held at Chicago Loyola University from May 29 to May 31, 2019. The conference's theme was Accelerating Impact: Harnessing the Power of Human, Social, and Financial Innovation". Her presentation entitled "From Outcome to Impact", focused the community partner work done involving many behavioral health divisions at SSG. Great job Gabrielle!



SSG UPDATES

SAFETY

Reducing the Risk of Rear-End Crashes

According to Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, the average driver will file an auto collision claim of about 3-4 collisions in a lifetime. Of these claims, rear-end crashes are one of the most commonly reported motor vehicle incidents that can result in serious injury or fatality.

What's the quickest answer on how to avoid a rear-end crash in most cases? To help minimize the risk of being involved in a rear-end crash, ask yourself the following questions:

Could my footwear contribute to a crash?

Footwear having slippery soles, especially new leather soled shoes, or soles that are wet or greasy can slip off of the brake pedal and result in not adequately braking in time. Wear clean and dry footwear having soles that are non-slip.

How do I back it up?

Putting your car into reverse such as backing out of a parking space is a potential for a rear-end collision with a fixed object, pedestrian or another vehicle. Remember to do a visual inspection around your vehicle before entering it to make sure there are no obstructions.

Do I have tunnel vision?

Scan more than just the windshield area, look beyond it too. Looking ahead of the vehicle in front, the side and back of you makes you more prepared to respond to the unexpected situations like as a child chasing after a ball two vehicles ahead of you, a ladder flying off the back of a pick-up truck on the freeway or a distracted driver following you.

Am I following a safe driver and is a safe driver following me?

Rear-end crash avoidance is also about "seeing" the behaviors and actions of other drivers. Can you see whether a driver is a distracted or an aggressive driver? Texting, looking at a GPS device, being in a rush/speeding, rubber-necking, talking on a hands-free or handheld phone, looking and talking to passengers, etc. Try to maintain a distance away from an aggressive or distracted driver as safely as is possible as they may be unable to quickly respond to a situation on the road like sudden stopped traffic.

Do I have a cushion of space?

What is a safe driving distance from another vehicle? As many rear-end crashes are a result of tailgating, create more space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

Can I read a driver's mind?

While we cannot read each other's minds, you likely have been on the road and could sense when a driver wanted to make a lane change into your lane before it happened. Sensing what another driver wants to do is thinking ahead and planning to act to avoid a potential for a collision. Always have an out, and try not to be in a driver's blind spot.

Can other drivers read my mind?

Be a predictable driver. Give drivers visual signals of your intentions. Brake in advance instead of hitting the brakes suddenly. Plan ahead when changing lanes or turning and use your turn signals. Visual signals are the only way for you to be able to effectively communicate with other drivers.

SSC NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

SAFTY

Tips for Keeping Information Secure

Chances are high you have read or heard news about companies being hacked. Maybe you have received email notices that your information was exposed through a major data breach. This resource is meant to provide general tips and steps you can take to increase your security online.

What is information security?

- Information security refers to the practice of protecting data. Data is considered protected when it cannot be accessed, used, shared, changed, destroyed, or otherwise influenced by someone who shouldn't have the authority to do so.

Why is it important?

- Data is valuable, and there are plenty of people out there trying to get access for malicious purposes. The majority of data breaches are financially motivated - a hacker might want access to a health organization's client data so they can either use it to impersonate others (for tax returns, credit card applications, etc.), or resell that data on what's called the "dark web".
- Protecting your own data and your employer's data can reduce chances of an attacker's success, and in turn reduce costs. When a data breach happens, it can create significant financial, emotional, reputational, legal, and other kinds of challenges for a person or group.

What can you do?

- Use strong passwords! A strong password is:
- Unique. use a different password for every important account. A password manager application helps you generate & keep track of all your passwords. Popular password managers include LastPass.com and Dashlane.com.
- Long. at least 8 characters, preferably 12+.
- Not easily guessed. Don't use personal info or common words!
- Use multi-factor authentication. If there is an option to set this up, take it. For example, Google allows you to request that a code be text to your phone when you log-in, so you can enter the code online to verify it's actually you attempting to access your account.
- Inspect before you click or download and be sure to report suspicious emails at work. Attackers commonly use email to trick the receiver into clicking a link or downloading a file. The link could be a login website resembling one you recognize (to capture your login credentials), or the email attachment could be infected with malware (short for malicious software). Read closely, and if something doesn't look quite right, don't proceed. When browsing online, make sure the URL starts with "https" before you enter any sensitive data.
- Leave things secure. Always lock or turn off your computer when leaving it unattended, and keep any sensitive paper documents (including anything with passwords!) out of sight and locked away.
- Keep adding to your safety toolkit! Google "security awareness."

- An article by Diyana Mendoza-Price, APIFM -

FUN FACTS

Summer Solstice

FUN FACTS:

- 1 This year's Summer Solstice is on Friday, June 21st and is also the first day of summer.
- 2 It is the longest day in the year, with about 5 hours and 50 minutes longer than the Winter Solstice (December).
- 3 In Ancient Egypt, the summer solstice coincided with the rising of the Nile River. As it was crucial to predict this annual flooding, the Egyptian New Year began at this solstice.
- 4 Many European cultures hold Midsummer celebrations at the solstice, which include gatherings at Stonehenge and the lighting of bonfires on hilltops.
- 5 During the Summer Solstice, Earth is positioned in its orbit so that our world's North Pole is leaning most toward the sun; this is as far north as the sun ever gets.





SSG PERSONAL UPDATES

SSG

SSG Newsletter Scavenger Hunt

Hi SSG family! Here is the May-June 2019 Connecting the Dots - SSG Newsletter Scavenger Hunt. Are you ready to win some prizes?! The multiple choice challenge will be hosted on an online game app called Kahoot! The scavenger hunt will begin as soon as the SSG newsletter is emailed out - be sure to read this newsletter first. The first 4 SSG employees to answer all 4 questions in the challenge quickly and most accurately will each win a **\$25 gift card!** If you've won 2 consecutive times you must sit out the next round.

Instructions: Please visit: <https://www.kahoot.com> on your smart phone, click on "Play!" at the top and enter the following game pin# **0338202** to access the challenge. You will need to download the free app. When the game begins it will ask you to create a "nickname". Be sure to use your SSG employee number listed in ADP. The *timed* challenge will begin as soon as you click "Ok, go!". You'll need to be fast! Members of the SSG Newsletter Committee are not eligible. The quiz will be open until noon **July 19th** and the winners will be notified by the end of July.



Happy reading & Good luck!

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER JULY AUGUST

7/4	4th of July (SSG Holiday)	8/4	U.S. Coast Guard Day
7/17	National Hot Dog Day	8/12	Eid-UL-Adha
7/19	National Ice Cream Day	8/21	Senior Citizen's Day
7/24	Amelia Earhart Day	8/26	Women's Equality Day
7/30	International Day of Friendship	8/31	International Bacon Day

SSG Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Offered Through **aetna** Life Assistance Program

How to Access:

- By Phone: 855.283.1915
- Online: www.mylifevalues.com
- Website user name and password: RESOURCES

Benefits:

- Face-to-Face Assistance (3 sessions)
- Support & Referral Services
- Discounts on Health & Wellness Services
- Confidential (information not shared with SSG)

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 approve of this, then 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 inquiries at lmcgowan@ssg.org.