



# HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER



Solano County won the big Apple Trophy for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row by raising \$58,883.53 total as a county, **\$10,376 from H&SS**- Special thanks to our HSS coordinators!

**Congratulations! Great work team!**



## *hss* leadership

EMERY COWAN - DIRECTOR  
ROGER ROBINSON - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
GIRLIE JARUMAY - CHIEF DEPUTY, ADMINISTRATION  
JENNIFER MULLANE - CHIEF DEPUTY, BH  
NEELY MCELROY - DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CWS  
KELLEY CURTIS - DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EES  
BELA MATYAS - CHIEF DEPUTY, HEALTH OFFICER  
TERRY MCMANUS - CHIEF INVESTIGATOR, SIB

## EMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY: CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN EXCEEDING CALFRESH MANDATES

The E&E Division has surpassed timeliness mandates for the CalFresh program, processing over 90% of both Expedited Services (ES) and regular applications. Since June 2024, the average timeliness rate for ES has been 97%, while regular applications have maintained 96% since May 2024.

Despite challenges such as a 16% increase in applications, staffing shortages, and the transition to a new eligibility system, E&E faced a brief dip in meeting the 90% timeliness mandate. To address this, E&E implemented strategies such as offering overtime, collaborating with non-intake bureaus, and redesigning intake processes. A block appointment scheduling system, piloted in Vallejo and expanded to Fairfield & Vacaville in 2025, improved availability and flexibility. The clerical team focused on timely application registration, improving efficiency.

These efforts have led to recognition by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), with E&E invited to present at the CalFresh Roundtable to share their success story! Great work Team!

## CHILD WELFARE SERVICES: BECOMING A KIN-FIRST CULTURE

Foster care is a temporary, court-monitored service designed to ensure the safety and well-being of children, with funding and regulation provided through collaboration between federal and state governments. As of February 2024, there are 324 children in foster care in Solano County.

**Kinship care**, or placement with relatives, is the preferred foster care setting, as it helps with greater stability, fewer placement disruptions, stronger chances of permanency, and reduced trauma by maintaining children's connections to their family, culture, and community. Caregivers undergo training and licensing, known in California as Resource Family Approval (RFA), to prepare them for supporting children who have experienced trauma.

Solano County prioritizes a **"kin-first"** approach, although non-relative caregivers are used when kinship care is not possible. Our Child Welfare Services' Resource Family Approval (RFA) program certifies both relative and non-relative caregivers, actively identifying and engaging kin through thorough family inquiries and outreach.

As of March 2025, there are 194 approved Resource Homes. From October 2023 to September 2024, 30.8% of first foster care placements were with relatives, according to the California Child Welfare Indicators Project.



## Special Investigations Bureau NEW HIRES



HERE AT THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU, WE LOVE WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE SIB FAMILY!

From left to right, we have: **Nicholas Cuevas (Investigator)**, **Joanna Boucher (Appeals Specialist)**, **Patricia Cedilla (Office Assistant II)**, and **Andrea Mangila (Appeals Specialist)**.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our new hires!

## NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK 2025



**Solano County celebrated National Public Health Week (NPHW)** from April 7-13, 2025, honoring public health efforts and encouraging community action to improve health. Marking its 30th anniversary, this year's theme, *"It Starts Here,"* highlighted how health begins in our local environments—where we live, work, and play—and emphasized building community connections. Each day focused on key topics like climate action, health equity, advocacy, and strengthening the public health workforce. Solano Public Health hosted events throughout April, including walks, fitness classes, trainings, wellness webinars, and more. Thank you to everyone who joined the celebration! Follow along on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @SolanoCountyPH.

### We are excited to WELCOME the newest members of our Public Health team:

Lailah Hortelano – Public Health Microbiologist (Trainee)  
Charmel Sala – Public Health Nurse (Entry)  
Sujata Baral – Health Education Specialist  
Ana Cabezas Garcia – Health Assistant  
Jennifer Aguilar – Health Assistant  
Monica Minnieweather – Public Health Nutritionist  
Nandini Devi – Public Health Nutritionist  
Breanna Hardy – Administrative Secretary  
Prince Norman – Health Assistant

### We are pleased to announce the promotion of our Public Health team. Congratulations!

Tara Scheuer – Health Services Program Manager Sr.  
Megan Gaa – Epidemiologist





## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BUREAU

- ASB now has a new encumbrance form now located @ [Purchasing – Purchasing Forms – All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#).
- Please make sure that approved Purchase Authorizations are sent via interoffice mail in advance of posted deadlines. Purchase Authorizations received past the deadline will be held until the purchasing cut-off is lifted in July 2025 and purchasing can commence. We will send out a notification at that time.
- Except for bulk copy paper (and some specialty items), ALL items are shipped to 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, for receiving and processing. (The cutoff for all office supplies, including paper, is 6/6/25. Please plan for at least a month and a half of no office supply orders

Friday 4/11/2025	Friday 4/18/2025	Friday 5/02/2025	Friday 6/06/2025	Friday 6/25/2025
<b>Last Day to:</b> <b>Purchase Equipment, Assets (over \$1500) &amp; Electronic Data Processing (EDP)</b> Computer hardware & accessories Software Cellphones Medical & Dental – Vital Sign / Dental Drill / Scopes / X-Ray Sensors, etc.  <b>Review encumbrance report for PO's that have no activity since opened</b> • Notify Accounts Payable of encumbrances that can be closed	<b>Last Day to:</b> <b>On-board new vendors</b> • ASB & Purchasing must receive the COMPLETE Vendor Application package, including tax forms • CHAIRS (Replacement & Ergo)	<b>Last Day to:</b> <b>Request NEW Annual POs for current fiscal year and</b> <b>Submit new Purchase Authorizations for services or supplies</b> • Medical and Dental Supplies • Custom Office Depot Web Orders	<b>Last Day to:</b> <b>Purchase on-line Office Depot supplies and</b> <b>Order from Existing PO's; including Annuals and</b> <b>*Submit new Purchase Authorizations for ASB credit card purchases and Amazon</b>	<b>Deposits to cash due to Treasury by 12:00 noon</b>  <b>Last Day to:</b> <b>Submit June Credit Card packages &amp; FYE 24-25 Mileage Claims to AP</b> <b>Review open PO's for items that have not been received</b> • Provide status update to Accounts Payable • No Purchase cutoff for: * Envelopes and State Forms stocked in ASB * Toner Requests for Caltronics

Call the ASB Main Line, Ext. 8940 or email: [HSSPurchasing@solanocounty.gov](mailto:HSSPurchasing@solanocounty.gov)

## COMPLIANCE CORNER

As a county employee, it is crucial to protect sensitive information like Protected Health Information (PHI) and Personally Identifiable Information (PII) due to legal and ethical obligations. Mishandling this data can result in identity theft, legal issues, and reputational harm, often caused by oversights or unawareness.

To reduce risks, employees should:

- Securely store documents
- Limit access to authorized personnel
- Never leave sensitive data unattended on devices

Additionally, emails should be double-checked for accuracy, and any breaches must be reported immediately, with detailed reports aiding response efforts. Regular training and adherence to procedures are vital for preventing breaches.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: MAY IS MH MONTH AND STAFF WELLNESS

The Behavioral Health division celebrated Administrative Professionals Day with a joyful potluck, featuring delicious food and laughter- recognizing the hard work and dedication of the administrative team!



**May is Mental Health Month**— a time to raise awareness, foster support, and connect residents with vital resources. This year's theme, "Navigating Mental Health Together," highlights healing through shared experiences. We invite you to join free events all month long to promote mental wellness:

- 1. NAMI Walks 5K** – Join the Solano County team at William Land Park in Sacramento to raise awareness. Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., 1950 Sutterville Road in Sacramento.
- 2. Mental Health Month Radio and Podcast Launch** – Tune in to local radio stations and streaming platforms for inspiring personal mental health stories shared by Solano residents. Ozcat Radio Interview, Tuesday, May 6, 10 – 11 a.m. by listening on radio station 89.5 FM and the Solano Connex Podcast, Thursday, May 8, 15, 22, and 29, starting at 12 p.m. Listen on Spotify @SolanoConnex.
- 3. Resource Fair** – Get free resources, learn about Mental Health Services, and connect with community providers on Friday May 9 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., located at 601 Texas Street in Fairfield.
- 4. Generations of Strength: Embracing BIPOC Diversity in Mental Health Summit** – Attend this special event to explore the impact of generational trauma on Wednesday, May 14 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., located at 601 Texas Street in Fairfield. **Register here**
- 5. Crescent Moon Center** – Join us for a mindfulness and wellness morning with healing activities and mental health resources on May 17 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at 3521 Grizzly Island Road in Suisun City.
- 6. Healing Through Stories** – Come together with community members sharing personal journeys of resilience and recovery in a safe, supportive space on Thursday, May 22 from 2 – 3 p.m., located at 505 Santa Clara Street in Vallejo.
- 7. Inside Out 2** – Join us for a free movie screening followed by a family friendly mental health discussion on Thursday, May 29 from 5:15 – 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:45 p.m., located at 601 Texas Street in Fairfield.

**For more information for on any of these events, please contact [wru@solanocounty.gov](mailto:wru@solanocounty.gov) or visit our event page: [Solano County - Awareness Events](#) (flyers in Eng/Span)**

# OLDER DISABLED ADULT SERVICES

We are excited to announce some accomplishments in ODAS!

1. Completed our first In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Training Cohort earlier this year. Our Social Services Manager, **Mike Watson**, Social Services Supervisor, **Jacque Russell Bibb**, and Social Services Program Coordinator, **Vang Xiong**, led this effort! Our Social Services Supervisors supported this training with monitoring and home visit support. Over 4 months, seven successful Social Workers learned the complexities of IHSS and are thriving in assessing clients for services!
2. Our IHSS Quality Assurance team, **Michelle Ilaoa**, and **Jacque Russell-Bibb**, completed an IHSS annual monitoring review with minimal findings for the California Department of Social Services. This is quite a feat as we serve over 6,800 IHSS recipients, and our QA team must review over 300 cases for the state to choose a portion of these to review!
3. Our Napa Solano Area Agency on Aging Executive Director **Elaine Clark** and support from Clerical Operations Supervisor **Jaquetta Jefferson** received a perfect score, the highest rating ever on a California Department of Aging program monitoring review of hundreds of submitted program documents. Our eight monitoring meetings were so short since the auditors repeatedly commented – “Amazing! Great effort! Can you talk with other counties?!!”

We are proud of our entire ODAS team and the positive difference each team member makes daily! Go ODAS!

## H&SS CARE Team

### Five Ways to Support Belonging Through Curiosity

Curiosity helps foster connection, understanding, and inclusion. By staying open-minded and genuinely interested in others, Civil Servants can build a stronger sense of belonging in Solano County.

**Expand Your Network:** Connect with colleagues across different H&SS divisions.

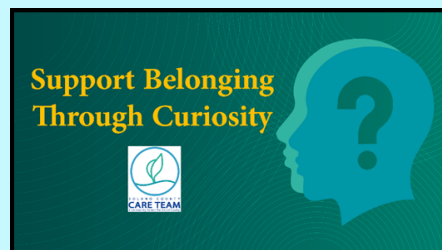
**Cultivate a Growth Mindset:** View challenges as chances to learn and grow.

**Practice Active Listening:** Ask thoughtful questions and value others' perspectives.

**Seek Diverse Perspectives:** Engage with different cultures and viewpoints.

**Ask Questions & Learn:** Stay curious through reading, courses, and conversation.

Curiosity drives empathy, creativity, and a shared sense of purpose.



## Events & Observances

We invite staff to an virtual event focused on fostering cultural understanding and promoting mental well-being within the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community.

#### Event Details:

- Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025
- Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM PDT
- Format: Virtual Event

**Register here** by 8:00 AM PDT on Monday, May 12, 2025, to secure your spot!

### May

- Mental Health Awareness Month
- Older Americans Month
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Jewish American Heritage Month
- Public Service Recognition Week (May 4-10)
- Nurses Week (May 6-12)
- Women's Health Week (May 11-17)
- EMS Week (May 18-24)

### June

- Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
- Men's Health Week (June 9-15)
- PTSD Awareness Month
- LGBTQ+ Pride Month
- Juneteenth (19th)

### July

- Disability Pride Month

## About

HSS publishes this newsletter quarterly—February, May, August, & November. For ideas or questions, feel free to email the HSS Admin.

We'd love to hear your  
Newsletter feedback!  
Scan here

