



Children's System of Care Newsletter

VOLUME III ISSUE 1

Mental Health Services at the Juvenile Justice Center BHCS Guidance Clinic

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, (BHCS) has a variety of programs in the Children's System of Care. In partnership with our local Provider Network, the Children's Department provides mental health services through Community Based Services, School Based Services, AOD (Alcohol and other Drug) Services, Foster Youth Services, Transition Age Youth Services, and a host of others.

One of the Unsung Hero's of Children's Services is located at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) in San Leandro, CA and has been providing services for over 20 years to youth and their families.



Guidance Clinic 2011-2012 Interns: (named from left to right) Ike Onuoha (Social Work), Corrine Lee (Social Work), Alma Enriquez (Psychology), Kimberly Levit (Psychology), Maha Yehya (Social Work), Rachelle Zemlok (Psychology), Juan Cornejo (Social Work), Christie De Guzman (Social Work).

Lead by Chief Psychiatric Social Worker Madeleine Nelson, **The Guidance Clinic** is a County Forensic Mental Health Clinic that provides services to wards of the Juvenile Court of Alameda County.

A wide variety of clinical services are provided, to include running an onsite school based day treatment program, crisis intervention, individual and group therapy, psycho diagnostic evaluations for the courts, psychiatric medication services, collaborative court services, adolescent sexual offender evaluation and treatment, and outreach services.

In June of 2002, the Alameda County Probation Department

opened a unit in Juvenile Hall to provide therapeutic and specialized mental health services to detained male and female youth with severe emotional and behavioral problems. The unit is a collaborative of Behavioral Health Care Services (Guidance Clinic), Juvenile Justice Health Services, Alameda County Office of Education and the Probation Department.

Girl's substance abuse education is provided by a contract with Oakland based Thunder Road Adolescent Treatment Program.

The Clinic also provides services to youth in the JJC, at Camp Sweeney, and from the community. Their mission is to provide quality compassionate, culturally competent mental health services, including treatment, crisis intervention, diagnostic and consulting services, using professional and community standards of care, to adolescents and their families involved in the Alameda County Juvenile Justice System to help them avoid re-offending and to advocate for their mental health needs.

The Guidance Clinic has been a training facility for graduate students from schools of social work, psychology, and marriage and family therapy for over 20 years.

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Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Second Annual Resource Fair

The second annual Alameda County Juvenile Justice (JJ) Resource Fair was held on Monday, August 29, 2011 at the JJC. The resource fair was hosted by Alameda County BHCS in collaboration with Alameda County Probation. The goal of the Resource Fair was to allow youth in custody to have available to them, community resources in which they could gather information about various topics. BHCS and Alameda County Probation partnered with several agencies in order to make this event a success. Several agencies attended the fair with representatives who spoke to the youth as they made their way around the fair. These providers also handed out materials to youth so that if they needed additional information, they would be able to contact them in the community. A few of the Resource Fair participants included:

- viewing & Coordinating Center
- Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Youth and Family Service Bureau
- Latino Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Alameda County
- Seneca Center
- Alameda County Family Justice Center
- Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
- MISSEY (Monitoring, Inspiring, Serving and Supporting Sexually Exploited Youth)

Alameda County Probation Chief David Muhammad gave opening remarks to kick off the day's activities. The youth were very positive through the event and thankful to have the opportunity to learn about resources available to them in the community. In addition, JJC staff as well as Probation staff were also present. were able to participate in the event.

- Mid Alameda County Children and Family Services
- Beyond Emancipation
- Planned Parenthood
- Center for Family Counseling
- CALICO (Child Abuse Listening, Inter-

Left to Right: Judge Tara Desautels, JJC, Liz Bauman, BHCS, Presiding Judge Trina Thompson, JJC, and Madeleine Nelson, BHCS Guidance Clinic JJC



Withelma "T" Ortiz-Macey Glamour Magazine, Woman of the Year 2011

Withelma "T" Ortiz-Macey is truly an inspiration. She is one of the BHCS TAY (Transition Age Youth) participants who was recently in the October 2011 issue of Glamour Magazine listed as one of the seven Women of the Year! The following is an excerpt from Glamour Magazine:

Her childhood memories are not pretty. The daughter of drug addicts, Withelma Ortiz-Macey, known by everyone as T, remembers being left wearing dirty diapers for days, staying in a crack house with blood on the walls and feeling roaches crawl over her body. Shuttled between more than 14 different foster homes, at age 10 she met a man who promised to love and care for her. But there was a catch: She had to stand on an Oakland street in her tiny jean shorts and pink sneakers, selling herself. "I felt scared, worthless," she says. "I'd be beaten if I didn't bring back \$1,000."

That T managed to escape this life at 17, thanks to a court-appointed advocate, is in and of itself a miracle. But then she did something even more remarkable: She dedicated herself to telling her story to the most influential people she could find; she's testified to Congress and made her case at the White House. "I felt like I had to do it," she says, "so people would understand what these girls go through."

Today, at 22, T is becoming one of the nation's most effective voices on a problem many people think plagues only foreign countries: the sex trafficking of children.

For the full article, please visit: <http://www.glamour.com/women-of-the-year/2011/withelma-ortiz-macey#ixzz1ca8sLElw>

Pictured top right; Miss "T" Photographed for Glamour Magazine, Woman of the Year 2011



Pictured bottom right; Miss "T" photographed in Washington DC at the White House Vice President Joe Biden



The Gathering Place

On April 1st 2011, Alternative Family Services (AFS) opened its doors to the Gathering Place, a collaborative effort among AFS, Alameda County Social Services Agency, and Alameda County behavioral Health Care. The Gathering Place is a visiting program for children, youth and their families when they are separated by the authorities due to parental abuse or neglect. It is the mission of the Gathering Place to facilitate healthy communication between family members and help parents gain skills and emotional controls so that parents and children can be reunified quickly and safely.

The facility provides a warm, therapeutic environment where families can maintain connections while separated from one another. Located in East Oakland, The Gathering Place is designed to replicate a home, allowing families to interact in typical day-to-day activities.

In addition, three levels of service are offered and they are as follows:

Therapeutic Visitation is a form of family therapy that is guided by trained clinicians and focuses on improving parenting skills and family functioning, promoting positive parent-child interactions, and reducing the impact of separation. **Supervised Visits** are managed by Support Counselors. Some activities may include: direct observations, supportive feedback and proactive of positive parenting skills. **Observed Visits** are the least restrictive services offered. Here, Support Counselors periodically observe families throughout their visits.

Because of the success of The Gathering Place, all the physical space is being fully utilized at this time. Discussion are being held to expand the amount of space leased as well as opening another location in East Oakland and in Livermore.

The Gathering Place is committed to maintaining family attachments during the difficult period of separation.

It seeks to eliminate obstacles to visitation while promoting positive family interaction.



The Gathering Place Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 401 Roland Way, Suite 100 Oakland, CA 94621

Lincoln Child Center

It's long been recognized that poor school attendance is one of the factors that places youth at risk to have poor outcomes in their futures. It has been proven that youth who drop out or have poor school attendance often end up in negative situations like being incarcerated or underemployed. While there are numerous risk factors for truancy, school truancy itself is a red flag to several other, more serious, problems. Lincoln Child Center (LCC) has launched a host of new programs to help students stay in school, attend regularly, and get access to a first rate education that will help them live a healthy and self-sustaining life.

In 2010 LCC launched the School Engagement Program (SEP) to work with youth and families where the child is experiencing chronic absenteeism or truancy. SEP mental health counselors conduct home visits to work with the youth and their families to identify barriers that prevent the child from attending school regularly. SEP is a partnership between LCC, The Alameda County District Attorney's Office, The Superior Court of Alameda County,

and school districts throughout Alameda County. Students between the grades of Kindergarten and eighth-grade who are chronically truant (a youth may have missed anywhere from between 30 to 40 days or more of school) are referred by their home school district to have their situation monitored by the District Attorney's office and the Courts.

The District Attorney and the Office of the Courts issue a citation for the parent of the youth to appear before a Judge who provides the parent with an opportunity to have the citation dismissed if the parent agrees to get help from LCC and to follow through with insuring the children re-engage in school. With support from the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, LCC is able to engage youth in Medi-Cal supported counseling and services, connect the family to housing or substance abuse assistance, and/ or any other services necessary to help the youth and families get back on track.

Through another LCC program called CEO Youth LCC engaged high school youth who were previously truant to work with other youth to help improve their attendance. In the 2011-12 school year, LCC aims to work with 100 youth and family members and to help youth re-engage in school and develop a bright future. **If you or someone you know would benefit from support in improving their attendance have them contact the School Engagement Program at Lincoln Child Center at (510) 867-0956.**



United Advocates for Children and Families Holiday Toy Drive

United Advocates for Children and Families (UACF) is a non-profit organization with a mission to improve the quality of life for all children and youth with mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges and to eliminate institutional discrimination and social stigma. Families and children served by UACF's Oakland location have a bit of a brighter Christmas this year; they have been showered with donated toys and gift cards through a community based, youth ministry of Bay Area Christian Church.

On December 11, 2011, the Bay Area Christian Church (BACC) had their annual Holiday Celebration Service at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Their youth ministries, comprised of middle and high school students of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Francisco Counties, have a program called "XCED" which holds a toy drive each year to provide thousands of toys to children in the adoption/foster care agencies.

For the second year in a row, UACF was honored to be one of the recipients that benefited from this toy drive. Marcia Headley UACF Family Partner Extraordinaire, created a wish list from the boys and girls in each of the families UACF serves. Not only did BACC's XCED program meet the requests, they went above and beyond with extra toys and gift cards!

On Friday, December 16, 2011 UACF Family Partners hosted a Holiday Extravaganza party for these families. Not only did the families pick up the toys and gift cards for their children, they also enjoyed a welcomed break with food, festivities and fun! UACF would like to thank the XCED program of BACC for their compassion in giving this holiday season.



Announcements

Campus Mental Health Education and Services Grants Request for Applications (RFA)

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, in partnership with the City of Berkeley, is now accepting applications for the Campus Mental Health Education and Services Grants program. These service grants will support the development and implementation of an array of services to: 1) promote student mental health and wellbeing; and 2) reduce the stigma associated with seeking help for mental health issues in the higher education setting.

Eligibility for this grant program is limited to the California State University (CSU) Colleges and California Community Colleges (CCC) that are located in Alameda County and Alameda County community-based organizations that currently provide behavioral health services in Alameda County.

For all RFA details, please go to the BHCS website at <http://www.acbhcs.org/Docs/docs.htm#RFP> and click on the RFA announcement.

GRAND OPENING! ACBHCS Crisis Response Program & The Family Education and Resource Center

www.askferc.org

Date: Thurs, January 19th, 2012

Time: 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Location: 1453 First Street

Livermore, CA 94550

RSVP Requested

(510) 746-1700 or

(925) 583-3770

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Inspirational Quote:

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

- Nelson Mandela

Note from the Editor

Now that 2011 has come to an end, we usher in the new year, I hope that 2012 will find us refreshed and ready to forge ahead continuing to diligently advocate and serve the of children and families of Alameda County.

While coping with budget uncertainties and program restructuring of 2011, we have managed to stay focused on what's important. What's important is providing the best support services possible for the children and families we see everyday in our clinics, classrooms, probation offices, courtrooms, offices, and every other place in between.

Thank you all for your flexibility, partnerships, understanding and most of all, your dedication. I hope that 2012 fairs well for you all.

Thank you,
Lisa Carlisle, Editor

