



District 5 Fall Newsletter

Supervisor Keith Carson

Release Date: November 15, 2010

1221 Oak St., Ste 536
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel. 510-272-6695
Fax 510-271-5151
dist5@acgov.org

The Fifth District includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and West Oakland, North Oakland, Rockridge, Grand Lake, and portions of the Fruitvale, Manzanita and Dimond District neighborhoods.

Alameda County Judge Saves Childcare Subsidies for Thousands of Families

On the eve of The Terminator’s exit from office, California’s neediest families are still fighting tooth and nail to defend themselves against destructive budget cuts. If Governor Schwarzenegger’s plan to veto crucial childcare subsidies had gone forward, more than 1,100 children in Alameda County would have been left with nowhere to go during the work day.

The troubles began the day the State budget was signed into law. On October 9, Governor Schwarzenegger blue-penciled the entire budget of CalWORKS Stage 3 Childcare, a program that provides subsidies for low-income working families who are transitioning off public assistance. The Governor’s line-item veto gutted \$256 million in funding for the program and would have affected approximately 56,000 families and 81,000 children state-wide. Under Schwarzenegger’s proposal, the program was to end on November 1, 2010. In October, a coalition of parents and child advocates sued the state to prevent the program from being eliminated.

In the meantime, Supervisor Carson and members of the Alameda County First Five Commission met in an emergency session on November 1 and voted to provide up to \$1.75 million in bridge

Childcare cuts...continued on page 4

Please Join us
At Our

Annual Holiday Party & Food and Toy Drive

 **Socially Responsible Network** **Free!**

Thursday, December 16th, 2010
5:00pm-8:00pm

Z Café & Bar
2735 Broadway, Oakland

Light refreshments will be served.

Study Proposes Changes in Behavioral Healthcare Delivery for African Americans

African Americans are “inappropriately served” by the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBHCS), leading to culturally unsuitable interactions and even misdiagnosis, according to a recent study by the department. Key recommendations include cultural competency training for clinicians and staff.

According to Gigi Crowder, Ethnic Services Manager for ACBHCS and a lead researcher for the *African American Utilization Study*, community members and providers had expressed concern that the behavioral healthcare priority populations identified by ACBHCS did not include African Americans. Priority populations were identified through the Mental Health Services Act, a law that was adopted following the passage of Proposition 63 in 2004. Under those guidelines, priority populations were defined as underserved populations, for example groups experiencing language barriers to care.

African Americans are in fact *over-served* by behavioral health care systems all around the state. Here in Alameda County, African Americans comprise 23 percent of the prevalence population, i.e. those expected to use behavioral health care services, yet 43 percent of the actual consumers are African Americans. In other words, African Americans are over-represented in the system by 20 percent. The gap between population prevalence and consumption is especially acute when it comes to high end, costly services such as involuntary hospitalization, foster care and services for those incarcerated in the criminal justice system.

The root cause of this disparity, according to Ms. Crowder, is institutionalized racism. “The criminal justice system is the entry point

Behavioral Health care...continued on page 2

Behavioral Health care...continued from page 1

for many African American males into the system,” she explained. According to the [Alameda County Public Health Department](#), as of March 2008, 55% of inmates at Santa Rita Jail were African American, compared with 20.7% Latinos and 18.1% Whites. In the general population, Whites comprise 40.5% of the population, followed by Latinos at 19.9% and African Americans at 12.2%.

Confronted with these statistics, in December 2008 ACBHCS launched the *African American Utilization Study* to examine the specific needs of African Americans and develop a set of cost-effective, community-defined recommendations to improve the quality of behavioral healthcare. The study group included representatives from the faith community, community-based organizations, school districts, public health departments, family members, veterans and Board of Supervisors staff. A report detailing the findings is forthcoming.

To serve the African American community more effectively, the study group recommends training for all behavioral health care staff in cultural competency and effective communications strategies for use with African American clients. The group goes further in recommending that ACBHCS develop and implement a plan to recruit and hire African American clinicians, especially men. Currently, 96 percent of behavioral health care services delivered to African Americans in Alameda County are delivered by non-African American clinicians.

The implications of staffing issues are profound. According to a large body of literature, African Americans are more likely than other ethnic groups to be misdiagnosed with a mental illness, which frequently leads to inappropriate treatment or even incarceration. A [January 2010 study](#) by Jonathan Metzl, Director of the University of Michigan’s Culture, Health and Medicine Program, revealed that black men in the United States are misdiagnosed with schizophrenia at least five times more often than any other racial group. Similar patterns of misdiagnosis exist for other mental health illnesses.

To reduce the likelihood of such misdiagnoses, the Alameda County study promotes the use of “clarifying assessments,” a type of assessment that takes into account a person’s family history, social environment and cultural heritage during diagnosis. Ms. Crowder emphasized the need to call upon “cultural brokers,” individuals rooted in African American culture and customs, to ensure that clinicians are culturally sensitive when performing such assessments. The study group stresses the importance of using clarifying assessments especially when diagnosing children and youth.

For transition-age youth and adults, the study group suggests employing peer counseling programs and therapeutic support groups



NATIONAL CENTER ON SENIOR TRANSPORTATION (NCST) Breaking New Ground – Small Grant Program

The NCST is inviting applications for developing or enhancing community collaboratives that focus on the mobility needs of culturally and ethnically diverse older adult populations. The NCST expects to make four to six awards of \$10,000 to \$20,000 each. Projects are for six to nine months and include individually tailored technical assistance from the NCST.

The application deadline is December 16th, 2010 at 11:59 p.m. ET

For more information, including the online application, go to: http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_homepage

Please direct questions to Lynn Winchell-Mendy at ncstgrant@n4a.org or (202) 872-0888.

to build capacity in the community to address wellness issues. For African American older adults, clinicians are encouraged to create programming that meets adults in the community in familiar locations.

Faith-based providers are highlighted in the study as key players in creating support mechanisms for behavioral health care consumers. The study group participants recommend training for faith-based providers, clergy roundtables around behavioral issues, and the designation of slots for faith-based providers on ACBHCS decision-making bodies.

Many of these recommendations, including clergy roundtables and the use of clarifying assessments, have already begun to be implemented. A master trainer has been hired to run train the trainer sessions on the California Brief Multicultural Competency Scale, a tool that helps clinicians increase their cultural competency. The next step, says Ms. Crowder, is for the completed report to be disseminated so that the full set of recommendations can be implemented throughout the County.

Learn more at [Alameda County Behavioral Health Care](#)

As the recession continues and unemployment in California holds steady at 12.4 percent, job seekers will be heartened to know that many sectors will be hiring as is traditional during the holiday season.

According to the outsourcing firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas, retailers in the U.S. will boost their workforce by 550,000 to 650,000 during the holidays. Although the numbers are an improvement over the 501,400 jobs added last year, it is still lagging behind the 720,800 added in 2007 at the beginning of the recession.

A search of the website Indeed.com, which aggregates job listings, came up with 4,758 holiday job opportunities in the region.

Nationwide, the most promising sectors for holiday employment are:

Retail: Jobs in sales, shipping, receiving, warehousing, accounting, information technology and security

Shipping: Jobs in processing, delivery, neighborhood shipping stores

Catering: Servers and food preparers for corporate and private events

Restaurants: Attendants, cooks, bartenders, servers

Entertainment Venues: Movie theater staff, performing arts venue staff

For further resources, visit these links:

Job seeking advice: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39977091/ns/business-forbescom/>

UPS hiring: http://jobview.monster.com/getjob.aspx?JobID=91742460&WT.mc_n=FDJD

Fedex hiring: <https://fedexhourly.hire.com/index.html>



Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson is currently accepting applications from residents in the Fifth Supervisorial District who are interested in serving on a countywide board or commission. The Fifth District encompasses North Oakland, West Oakland, Montclair, Rockridge, Trestle Glen, portions of the Fruitvale and San Antonio District, and the cities of Piedmont, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Albany. The following is a list of boards and commissions that have vacancies:

Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging/1 Vacancy

The commission provides guidance to policymakers on senior issues, in addition to programming and advising the Area Agency on Aging in the allocation of funds for services.

Meeting Time: 9:30a.m., 2nd Monday of each month at 6955 Foothill Blvd, Suite 300, Oakland

Measure A Citizen Oversight Committee/1 Vacancy

Measure A is the voter approved ½ cent sales tax to fund healthcare in Alameda County. The Citizens Oversight Committee monitors Measure A spending and publishes yearly reports covering the spending for each fiscal year.

Meeting Time: 9:00a.m., 4th Friday of each month at 1000 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro

Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission/ 1 Vacancy

Advises and assists the Board on issues relating to veterans and their families pertaining to their basic needs for veteran's benefits, housing, food, shelter and employment.

Meeting Time: 10:00 am, 3rd Monday of each month at the San Leandro Library, 2nd Floor, 300 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro

If you are interested in serving on any board or commission, please send a resume and cover letter to:

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson
Attention: Mina Sanchez
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612
Fax: (510) 271-5151
Email: mina.sanchez@acgov.org



Member of Boards and Commissions meet for an annual reception

Childcare cuts...continued from page 1

loans to keep the program running in the event the lawsuit was unsuccessful. The State and County First Five Commissions were established by a 1998 voter-approved 50-cent tax on tobacco. The commissions support children, parents and teachers through programs and public education campaigns focused on nutrition, early literacy and language development, and smoking cessation.

Following a month of uncertainty and legal wrangling, thousands of families were given some breathing room on November 17 when an Alameda County Superior Court judge ruled that the State must extend funding for the program until the end of the year.

Nancy Williams is Executive Director of the Berkeley Albany Licensed Day Care Operators Association (BALDCOA), an organization that provides care for 50 children. The Governor's line-item veto and the ensuing court battle has put her organization and the parents she serves in limbo. "What do we tell the parents?" Ms. Williams asked as she awaited the court decision. "Do they get childcare from elsewhere while the court sorts through the legal issues?" Some of the parents simply can't afford to pay for childcare and would be forced to go back on cash aid, she added. If the Governor's line item veto had been allowed to go through as planned, Ms. Williams' agency would have lost \$278,000 in operating costs, potentially putting staff positions on the chopping block and severely impacting her ability to serve Alameda County families.

In October, four parents and an advocacy group called Parent Voices Oakland filed the lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court. They argued that working parents would be forced to quit their jobs or leave their children at home if the program were eliminated. The parents' suit also criticized the state for giving them inadequate notice of the removal of the subsidy and for not offering parents alternate options for childcare.

At the beginning of November, Alameda Superior Court Judge Wynne Carvill ordered a temporary stay on the veto. On November 17, the judge handed down the settlement ordering the state to extend the program through December 31, 2010 and requiring state-supported childcare providers to communicate to families about their right to a screening to identify child care alternatives.

Advocates stressed that the settlement is a short-term fix and called upon the new Governor and Legislature to find a long-term funding solution. In a press release from the attorneys who represented the families, Melissa Rodgers of the Child Care Law Center noted, "There is not enough funded child care to meet the needs of all these families." Others worried that

after the New Year families will be scrambling again to find long-term care.

In January, leaders in the Legislature hope to propose legislation that would simply reverse the veto, an action which should require only a majority vote because it deals with education appropriations. In case there is a delay in passing that legislation, Speaker of the Assembly John Pérez has secured \$34 million in temporary bridge loans from First Five commissions around the state, with an additional \$6 million thrown in from the Assembly's own operating budget.

In light of the recent court ruling, Alameda County First Five officials were optimistic that the loan would not be necessary. With The Terminator out of Sacramento and a new Legislature installed, there is hope that the New Year will bring brighter news for California working families.

Learn more at the [Alameda County First Five website](#)



2010 Inductee for Community Service, boona cheema

Do you know an outstanding woman in Alameda County who is worthy of recognition? Nominate her for the 2011 Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 18th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame luncheon and awards ceremony. Nominations are being sought for outstanding women in 11 categories: Business and Professions; Community Service; Culture and Art; Education; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Science; Sports and Athletics and Youth. The deadline for nominations is December 3.

The event is hosted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women. The 2011 Women's Hall of Fame inductees will be announced in January and the event will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2011, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Lincoln Avenue in Oakland.

Tickets to the luncheon and awards ceremony are \$75. Visit <http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/> for an online nomination. For information call (510) 272-3884 or (510) 259-3871.



UPDATE: HOW SERVICE CHANGES WILL AFFECT YOUR RIDE

Many residents of District 5 ride the bus to and from work, school, shopping and entertainment. Especially for seniors and youth, the bus provides affordable transportation and keeps them connected to the community. In March and October of this year, AC Transit was forced to reduce its bus service in an effort to balance its annual budget. A third round of cuts planned for December were avoided when a contract dispute between AC Transit and its bus drivers and mechanics was resolved. Because of these fiscal problems, many routes have been reconfigured, service has been reduced on 28 lines, and some lines have been discontinued. The table below shows the changes that took place in District 5 following the October service changes.

For more information, please call 510-891-4700 or visit <http://www.actransit.org>

1R	Weekday southbound service before 6:30 am discontinued.
11	Weekday route extended to Estates Dr. via Hampton Rd. during commute hours; frequency reduced to every 30 mins. all day. Weekend route shortened to operate from Piedmont to Lake Merritt BART only.
12	Weekday frequency reduced to every 30 mins. during non-commute hours.
18	Frequency after 10:00 pm reduced to every 30 mins.
20	Route shortened after 10:00 pm to operate from Park St. & Otis Dr. to Fruitvale Ave. & MacArthur Blvd. only.
26	Route extended along 14 th St. to Lakeshore Ave., ending at Wala Vista Ave. Route also changed to operate via Adeline St., 40 th St., and Shellmound St. into the Emery Bay Public Market. Hours of operation reduced to 6:00 am – 10:00 pm. (Service to Lake Merritt BART and MacArthur BART discontinued on this line).
31	Weekday route changed to terminate at MacArthur BART via 40 th St. Weekend route shortened to operate between Alameda Point and downtown Oakland only. (See Line 26 for replacement service to Emeryville).
40	Weekend frequency reduced to every 15 mins. to Eastmont Transit Center and every 30 mins. to Bay Fair BART.
51A	Weekday frequency reduced to every 20 mins. before 6:30 am and after 7:00 pm evening, and every 10 mins. during commute hours.
51B	Weekday frequency reduced to every 20 mins. before 6:30 am and after 7:00 pm evening, and every 10 mins. during commute hours.
52	Weekday commute-hour frequency reduced to every 15 mins. on trips toward campus. Weekend frequency increased to every 35 mins.
57	Weekday frequency reduced to every 15 mins. from morning commute hours through evening commute hours.
58L	Route changed to operate along Lake Park Ave., Grand Ave., Harrison St., 20 th St., and Broadway to Jack London Square. Hours of operation reduced to 7:00 am – 6:30 pm.
88	Service after 10:00 pm discontinued.



Ready to Learn Fun Fair
 5th Annual
 Saturday November 6, 2010
 Rosa Parks Elementary School
 920 Allston Way, Berkeley
FREE BOOKS, RESOURCES & GAMES
MEET CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG
 FREE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
 10AM-1PM
 Keith Carson
 Supervisor, District 5



Thanks to our sponsors: Alameda County First 5, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Scholastic Books, MassMutual, The Socially Responsible Network

Over 300 children, parents and family members packed the Rosa Parks Elementary School multi-purpose room on Saturday, November 6th for the 5th Annual Ready to Learn Fun Fair. The free event was conceived as a way to make valuable resources available to as many people in the community as possible.

After picking up a free book and dental kit, children and parents wove their way through resource tables filled with fun and engaging activities. Twenty-two organizations serving Alameda County families shared resources relating to education, family support, nutrition, recreation and art. Each organization offered a hands-on activity for children and helpful information for parents and caregivers.

Alan Bern of the Berkeley Public Library participated in the event. “Early Literacy and Creating Young Readers’ is one of Berkeley Public Library’s primary strategic planning goals,” Bern explained. “Because children (and even their families) cannot always easily come to us, our priority is to meet them where they are so that they can learn about our services and programs.”

To view video of the Ready to Learn Fun Fair, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOgHUjQLUdg>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Day of Forgiveness

A “Clean Slate” event
Saturday December 4, 2010
10 am—2 pm, Laney College
 Co-hosts:
 Congresswoman Barbara Lee,
 State Senator Loni Hancock,
 Assemblymember Sandre Swanson,
 Assemblymember Nancy Skinner,
 Supervisor Keith Carson

East Bay Nonprofit Forum

Friday, December 10, 2010
 9 am - 1:30 pm
 Oakland Asian Cultural Center
<http://www.compasspoint.org/ebforum10>

District 5 posts periodic e-newsletters dedicated to keeping residents informed about local, state, and federal issues.

We hope the District 5 e-newsletter is a useful and engaging source of information about the issues that concern you most.

Subscribe today!
www.acgov.org/board/district5/newsletter

For more information visit:
www.KeithCarson.org