



What's

Newsletter

MARCH 2020



Director's Message

Coronavirus is a type of virus that causes diseases of varying severities, ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory disease. A novel (new) coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that hasn't been identified before in humans. Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China that I'm sure you've heard about – especially if you're part of our Public Health Services (PHS) team.

In early February, the University of California, Irvine (UCI) brought together several experts including **Dr. Matthew Zahn**, Medical Director of Communicable Disease Control, to present the latest information at the time on coronavirus. You can

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Peer-to-Peer David Sanchez Teaching and Learning

“The Office of Public Guardian (PG) is unknown to many in the community and amongst other County agencies. Therefore myself, and all other deputies, constantly educate those we come in contact with about who we are and what we do to positively impact those we serve.” Teaching others about his responsibilities is one of the many things Peer-to-Peer recipient **David Sanchez**, Senior Deputy Public Guardian, said he likes about his job.

“Our work is so complex that it can be hard to explain. The easiest way to describe it is by saying that we provide assistance on managing all the aspects of someone's life when

they no longer have the ability to do it by themselves, and the court has allowed us to do it on their behalf.”

Managing the private and personal matters of others was something David said he learned early in his career. “I worked with a hematology and oncology office where I learned how fragile life was and how important it was to show dignity, respect, and empathy to someone experiencing a difficult condition.”

David has carried that mindset during his career with the County of Orange. “I began my County journey in the Auditor-Controller's Accounting Unit more than 12 years ago, where I worked with the

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Good Start for

Release Re-entry Program

Staff with the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) Correctional Health Services (CHS) Release Re-entry Program report success since starting operations in November of last year. The program, which works with partners from Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Adult and Older Adult Behavioral Health, and the OC Sheriff's Department (OCSD), provides medical and mental health case management services to the inmate population at the Central Jail Complex. It also facilitates a warm hand-off which increases the access to medical and mental health services in the community.

Inmates with medical or mental health illness undergo an intensive case management process. The process begins at the initial stages of incarceration all the way to discharge planning. The CHS Medical Case Management Team

and Jail to Community Re-entry Program Team (JCRP) ensures that all identified inmates are engaged and have a plan of care prior to re-entering the community. Depending on an individual's needs, this can be as simple as a listing of resources available in the community, all the way to placement in recuperative care facilities.

"The release re-entry program also gives us the opportunity to assist homeless patients with medical needs," said **Kathy Minnicucci**, Senior Nurse. "We have referred several patients to the temporary housing shelter through Illumination Foundation. Those referrals help reduce recidivism. Another community outreach program CHS has started is for the Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT). We have reached out to Korean Community Services to

bridge patients with Opiate Use Disorder receiving buprenorphine, to continue their treatment out in the community. These additional services have given the inmate population hope for their futures and demonstrates a caring attitude by providing proper resources."

Staff members point out the effectiveness of the program. "We are providing men and women knowledge and resources to help them transition from incarceration to the community setting," said **Abby Constantino**, Chronic Care Coordinator.

"By providing individuals with linkage and education about the resources available in the community, we're enabling a smooth transition," said **Donald Byrd**, Behavioral Health Clinician I. "That's vital for the homeless patients and those in need of services."



And clients value the service said **Jason Gerry**, Behavioral Health Clinician for JCRP. “It can be quite a daunting task for a newly released inmate, who is homeless, struggling with mental illness and addiction, to independently make their way to a much needed support program. The JCRP team is planning far in advance, several steps ahead. We do this by assessing the patient’s needs, educating them about the re-entry process, ensuring they are aware of what they need to do to be successful, and assisting them in areas they are unable to do independently.”

Early results are in: during the period from November 19 to December 31, 2019, the CHS Re-entry team reviewed 2,975 discharge plans with clients; referred 315 clients with medical

and/or mental illness to service providers in the community; and provided 1,150 clients with resources packets identifying various services available in the community. These results are from the Central Jail Complex which the program serves. The goal is to expand the program to the Theo Lacy Facility.

Staff attributes the success of the program to the great collaboration between CHS, BHS and the OCSD. The overall goal for all stakeholders is to improve long-term reintegration outcomes for individuals released from jail, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety.

Director’s Message

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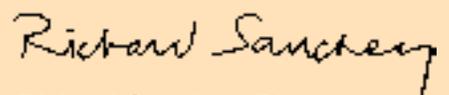
watch the video presentation [here](#). The OC Register covered the event, which you can read [here](#).

I want to thank OC Health Care Agency (HCA) staff for your around-the-clock dedication to helping prevent the spread of COVID-19 here in Orange County. The amount of collaboration between PHS, HCA Communications, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health has been extensive and is ongoing. More to come on that in a later edition of “What’s Up.”

In the meantime, I wanted to make sure you’re aware of factual information about COVID-19 as rumors and misinformation around this new virus have been fairly rampant on social media. At www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus, we have up-to-date frequently asked questions and infographics in a variety of languages as well as the most recent situational information. There’s also a website that debunks myths over coronavirus. It’s from the World Health Organization, and you can find it [here](#).

News as it breaks is also on the HCA’s Facebook account [@ochealthinfo](#) and Twitter account [@ochealth](#). If you are not following us officially on social media, please do (and tell your family and friends, too).

Sincerely,



Richard Sanchez, Director

“This empowers individuals with the tools they need to be independent, productive and drug-free in the community.”

Jocelyn Romey, CHS Case Manager

NEW

Behavioral Health Training Center

“This state-of-the-art facility is the result of several years of effort. We are grateful the County of Orange Board of Supervisors recognized that a facility such as this would serve as a dedicated location for providing the best training for County staff, and to do so, in a cost-effective way.”

Dr. Jeffrey Nagel, Deputy Agency Director, BHS

Training, growth and innovation are the foundation and the mission of the new Behavioral Health Training Center, which opened for service in January, at 750 The City Drive, in the city of Orange. The newly renovated training facility, operated by the Behavioral Health Training Services staff, is available for qualifying organizations and departments in Orange County.

The training center features five rooms, with adjustable layout options. The total capacity for the all the rooms combined, is 250 people. The audio/visual components in the rooms are state-of-the-art, with large screens, LCD monitors, video

cameras, microphones, recording equipment and overhead projectors. On-site technical assistance is also available. To top it off, there's ample, free parking.

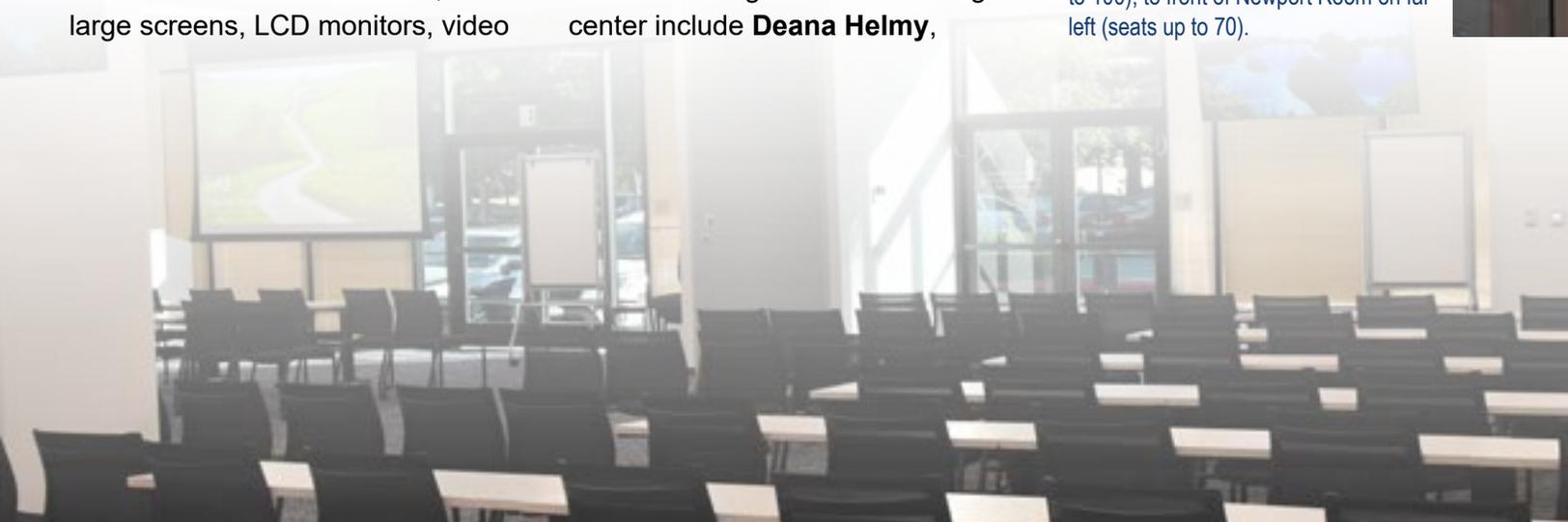
“This is a new, dedicated training site for Behavioral Health Services (BHS) and the OC Health Care Agency (HCA),” said **Jason Austin**, Administrative Manager III, Navigation, Innovations & Training. “This facility is comfortable, flexible and professional. We expect HCA staff, and everyone else who uses it, will be extremely pleased by what it offers.”

HCA staff assigned to the training center include **Deana Helmy**,

Behavioral Health Clinician II and **Alexandra Merritt**, Office Technician. (Pictured)

To make a reservation, HCA staff can use Outlook Calendar to check availability and request a room by using the name of the room. Those outside HCA can call (714) 667-5600 to start the reservation process.

1. Alexandra Merritt and Deana Helmy staff the Behavioral Health Training Center. **2.** Entrance doors to Behavioral Health Training Center. **3.** Partial view from Huntington Room on right (seats up to 100), to front of Newport Room on far left (seats up to 70).

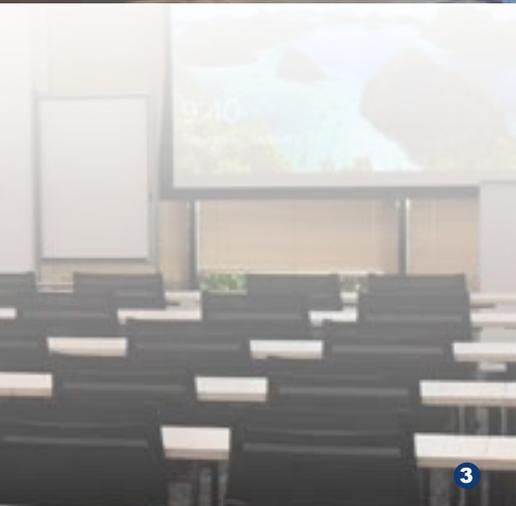




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Save the Date

5TH ANNUAL SOAR

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY



March 12, 2020

Service and Compassion go a long way!

Save the date for the OC Health Care Agency's (HCA) 2020 Service & Outstanding Achievement Recognition (SOAR) Awards. The theme this year, "Service and Compassion go a long way!"

This is the 5th year the HCA has presented the SOAR Awards to recognize and honor employees who have distinguished themselves in their work. There are two categories: the SERVICE award and OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT. Nominees are chosen for their uniqueness in service and for making significant contributions to the HCA and the clients we serve. For more on HCA recognition programs visit <https://intranet.ochca.com/erp/>.

The recipients will be honored during a ceremony March 12, at 3 p.m. in the Orange County Board of Supervisors hearing room. We'll share more about them in next month's newsletter.



Keepi Vacc

In the United States, we expect to be safe and healthy. We expect our drinking water to be clean, the kitchens in our restaurants to be sanitary, and airplane cabins to be free of cigarette smoke. But most of us rarely ask ourselves how these things actually happen. They happen because every day, public health professionals work to protect the safety and health of individuals, families and communities.

One of the key responsibilities of public health professionals is to ensure the safety of vaccines that protect us from serious diseases. They develop and manage systems that closely monitor how well vaccines work and about any side effects reported by people who get the vaccines. That information helps public health professionals detect possible safety problems and take action if needed.

Vaccine monitoring actually starts during the development of the vaccine itself. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ensures the safety and effectiveness of vaccines for the United States. Before FDA approves a vaccine, it is tested extensively. FDA scientists and medical professionals then carefully evaluate all the information to determine a vaccine's safety and

efficacy. Once a vaccine is licensed, FDA regularly inspects vaccine manufacturing facilities to make sure they are following strict regulations. Vaccines are manufactured in lots, and vaccine manufacturers must test each and every lot of a vaccine to make sure they are safe, pure and potent. Vaccine lots cannot be marketed and distributed until licensed by the FDA.

Once vaccines are licensed and approved, FDA works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor their safety. At CDC, the Immunization Safety Office (ISO) is responsible for multiple vaccine safety activities, including monitoring and research.

Through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), anyone – including parents, patients and health care professionals – can report any health problem that may happen after getting vaccinated, whether they believe the problem was caused by a vaccine or not. CDC also utilizes the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) to look for potential safety problems. The VSD uses electronic health records of millions of people to monitor for possible vaccine safety problems and to conduct research. The VSD data allow CDC scientists to determine how often certain side effects occur, and whether or not certain groups of people (for example, young children or pregnant women) are

ng vaccines Safe for Everyone

affected by them.

In addition, CDC partners with medical research centers on the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project to conduct clinical research on vaccine safety. The CISA Project also allows U.S. health care providers to consult with vaccine safety experts when they have patients with complex health issues following vaccination. Finally, in the event of a disease outbreak where a mass vaccination campaign is needed, CDC can activate emergency preparedness activities that include vaccine safety monitoring, to ensure that potential vaccine safety problems are rapidly detected and assessed.

As part of vaccine safety efforts in the United States, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a group of medical and public health experts external to the federal government, carefully reviews safety and effectiveness data on vaccines and makes recommendations for their use. When needed, ACIP can modify existing recommendations, based on ongoing safety monitoring.

If vaccine safety monitoring identifies a potential problem with a vaccine, CDC and FDA take action to inform the public, health officials, and health care providers. Public health officials, including those on

the ACIP, weigh the benefits of a vaccine against any known risks to determine if recommendations for using the vaccine should change.

For example, RotaShield® vaccine was the first vaccine approved for use in the United States to prevent rotavirus gastroenteritis. Some infants developed intussusception (a rare type of bowel obstruction most common among young children) soon after the vaccine was licensed in August 1998. CDC quickly recommended that use of the vaccine be suspended and immediately started two emergency investigations in collaboration with the FDA and state and local health departments to find out if receiving the vaccine was causing some of the cases of intussusception. When the results of these investigations linked the vaccine to intussusception, the ACIP withdrew its recommendation to vaccinate infants with RotaShield® vaccine, and the manufacturer voluntarily withdrew the vaccine from the market in October 1999.

Vaccine safety efforts in the United States are extensive, and supported by multiple monitoring and research systems. These efforts are ongoing, and help ensure the U.S. vaccine supply is as safe as possible.

5 Things You Need to Know About:



1 Since the first of the year, 911 responders in Orange County (OC) have been required to carry automated chest compression devices when they respond to calls of cardiac arrest. The devices maintain consistent, uninterrupted compressions. There are variations in design of the devices. You can see one style of the devices in this [video](#).

2 Orange County is the first county in California to require the automated compression devices be carried by 911 responders said **Dr. Carl Schultz**, Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services (EMS). There are 10 agencies in OC which use automated chest compression devices. Dr. Schultz provided information about the devices, their history and their use, in a story by the OC Register that you can read [here](#).

Discussing Homelessness in **ORANGE COUNTY**



There are many factors that have an impact on whether someone experiences homelessness in their adult life and there are many pathways to housing stability. These facts on homelessness and an overview of available resources were presented recently by the OC Health Care Agency's (HCA) **Paul Duncan**, Continuum of Care (CoC) Manager, Office of Care Coordination.

He was invited to a presentation on homelessness hosted by the University of California, Irvine's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The event, before a full



Automated Chest Compression Devices

3 The decision to require the devices was based on two factors said Dr. Schultz. “First they provide better outcomes for patients treated in emergencies. And second, they increase safety for paramedics who care for those patients during the ambulance ride to the hospital.” He noted, for example, that the devices can be used if patients are being carried up or down stairs and that paramedics can use seat belts when the ambulance is in motion instead of hovering or kneeling by a patient.

4 A study published in the National Institutes of Health (read [here](#)) found a 10% increase in the number of adults who were resuscitated using automated chest compression devices compared to manual cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The study recognized the impact of the automated devices since they do not endure fatigue.

5 Automated chest compression devices are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). EMS does not require any specific device be used by a 911 responder, only that the device is approved by the FDA. The cost for one device ‘package,’ including the compression module, frame, battery pack and more, starts at just under \$13,000 on this [website](#).

room of attendees, included representatives from the state legislature, the Irvine police department and Irvine city leaders.

The presentation was part of a series to provide an overview of homelessness; to debunk myths about the why and who of homelessness; to advocate for reducing homelessness in Orange County (OC); and to encourage communities to become part of the solution.

Paul described for the crowd how the service areas in the HCA are working with community stakeholders and partners to reduce homelessness in OC. He outlined how the Office of Care Coordination works to promote an effective response to homelessness; coordinates public and private resources to prevent and address homelessness; and integrates the various components of the System of Care to increase care coordination and facilitate access and navigation for those experiencing homelessness. Learn more at www.ochealthinfo.com/occ.



Automated chest compression device demonstration.



Dr. Carl Schultz, EMS Medical Director, far right during automated chest compression device demonstration in Newport Beach.



Dr. Carl Schultz talking to an OC Register reporter about automated chest compression devices.

County Employee Wellness Center



County of Orange employees can now use the new Employee Wellness Center that's located in the new County Administration South building.

There are two facilities, the Employee Wellness Center and the Employee Fitness Center. Each has its own requirements for use. The Employee Wellness Center is

accessible for all County employees at no cost and no membership required. The Employee Fitness Center is for employees working in Hall of Administration, OC Health Care Agency (HCA) staff working in 405 W. 5th St. and 200 W. Santa Ana Blvd., the Old County Courthouse, and County Administration South.

The Employee Wellness Center includes a quiet room; a Tele-health room to connect privately with a health professional; and classes such as virtual fitness, fitness and wellness programming. There's no membership or cost for the Wellness Center. To schedule a visit and learn more about the Employee Wellness

Lunar New Year Celebration

“May this New Year bring you good health and fortune, happiness and lasting prosperity.” That’s one of the greetings given during the celebration of the Lunar New Year (LYN). Expressing good wishes was part of a LYN 2020 event hosted by staff from Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Older Adult Services (OAS). In addition to staff from BHS, staff from Public Health Services (PHS) and other County of Orange agencies also joined in for the event.

“The Lunar New Year is the celebration of who we are and where we came from,” said **Natalie Nguyen**, Service Chief I, BHS, Adults & Older Adults Services. “If we have that...life is good.” The LYN is celebrated in many Asian countries including China, Korea, Laos, Singapore and Vietnam.

Natalie said the celebrants wear bright colors for the LYN. The LYN celebration featured traditional foods such as fruit candy, rice with sweet and salted ribs, chicken curry, crispy shrimp and pork, sweet coconut milk and much more. Natalie also presented an overview about the Lunar New Year, featuring its history, culture and traditions, along with an overview of 2020 being the Year of the Rat. For more from Natalie, including more pictures, click [here](#).

Center, click here: <https://countywellnesscenter.weebly.com/>. You can also make an appointment with the Wellness Coach Holly Lattimer by email at holly.lattimer@cigna.com or by calling (949) 445-9215.

The Fitness Center, next to the Wellness Center has a separate entrance. Capacity is limited to those who are selected through a lottery. To sign up for a future lottery, send an email to CountyWellnessCenter@ocgov.com.

◀ Meet Holly Lattimer, Cigna Wellness Coach. ▶ Meet Tanya Longoria who staffs the front desk at the Employee Wellness Center.



CHECK YOUR Sodium Intake

Staff with Public Health Services (PHS) Nutrition Services are now using the information on Sodium that you see on this page to encourage healthier lifestyles. “This messaging was recently approved by our California State Nutrition Consultant for use with our clients,” said **Maridet Ibanez**, Administrative Manager II, Nutrition Services. “We hope OC Health Care Agency employees and other readers of ‘What’s Up’ will find it useful too.”

The Food and Drug Administration says Americans eat about 3,400 milligrams of sodium per day. The dietary guidelines recommend less than 2,300 milligrams per day, which is equal to about 1 teaspoon of salt.

(Click on image for full size flyer)

Sodium: Look at the Label

Over 70% of dietary sodium comes from eating packaged and prepared foods.

Use the Nutrition Facts Label!

Packaged and prepared foods can contain high levels of sodium, whether or not they taste salty. Even though sodium may already be in these foods, you can follow these steps to lower your daily sodium intake.

- **Limit sodium to less than 2,300 milligrams (mg) per day**—that's equal to about 1 teaspoon of salt
- **Use % Daily Value (%DV)** to see if a serving of food is high or low in sodium and to compare food products. As a general guide: 5% DV or less per serving of sodium is considered low, and 20% DV or more per serving of sodium is considered high.
- **Pay attention to the serving size** and the number of servings you eat or drink to determine how much sodium you are consuming.

Choose Less Sodium



Sodium and Health

According to the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, diets higher in sodium are associated with an increased risk of developing **high blood pressure** (also known as **hypertension**). Uncontrolled high blood pressure can raise the risk of heart attacks, heart failure, stroke, kidney disease, and blindness. Consuming less sodium can help reduce your risk of developing these health conditions.

* The Daily Value (100% DV) for sodium—reference amount not to exceed each day for adults and children 4 years of age and older.



Funded by USDA SNAP, an equal opportunity provider and employer. Visit www.cachampionsforchange.cdph.ca.gov/en for healthy tips.



Lunar New Year celebration for 2020 Year of the Rat





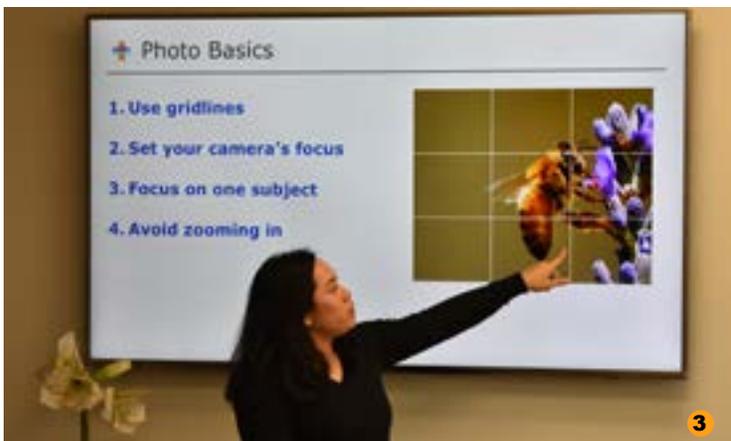
A Picture is Worth a Thous

That familiar expression is being put to use by staff in the Public Health Services (PHS) Health Promotion and Community Planning division. Since the start of the year, the team has been working with high school students in Orange County to use [Photovoice](#) for raising awareness, inspiring action and change, and to educate decision makers on issues that impact the students, their families and their communities.

“We’re using Photovoice to train students on how to use pictures to tell the story of what they deal with on issues that matter to the students. In our case, we are focused on the effects of tobacco and vape use in the

community. We’ll work with the students to bring those issues to stakeholders,” said **Anabel Bolaños**, Program Supervisor II, Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP).

The students’ training on Photovoice included a presentation from **Megan Beard**, Health Educator, Safe Routes to School Coordinator. She told the students what to look for when they take pictures. “In the ‘Safe Routes to School’ example, the students looked for conditions that made their walk or ride to school unsafe,” said Megan. “We encourage students to point out what they believe the issues are and also recognize and celebrate what is positive about their environment. Because students





Peer-to-Peer Update: Sara Moskowitz

We have an update on the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) Peer-to-Peer recipient introduced to you last March, **Sara Moskowitz**. Sara is a Behavioral Health Clinician I who works with 18 to 26 year olds in the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program in the Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) team in the Fullerton clinic. When she was selected as the Peer-to-Peer recipient, Sara shared with us that she was pregnant. At the time, we didn't include that in the story, but now we're happy to introduce you to her daughter Penelope Isabel! Miss "Penny" arrived on August 30, 2019. Penelope weighed 7 pounds, 9.3 ounces, and she measured 18 inches.

"Of course she's the cutest baby in the world," said Sara with a laugh. Sara was able to spend some quality time with "Penny", husband Thomas and their 3-year old daughter Matilda before returning to work in January. "She is such a joy and it's been great to see Matilda caring for her like the big sister she is. My husband and I are truly grateful for this next chapter in our lives."



and Words

present their findings to stakeholders and this type of work requires partnerships with said stakeholders, we don't want a report that is overwhelmingly negative."

Once students were instructed on what to look for, they were given training on how to shoot pictures and video from **Kristin Alix**, Health Communication Specialist. "Since so many students use their cellphones for pictures and videos, we want them to understand how colors, angles and lighting are among the things to consider when framing a shot. Each of these brings a certain perspective to the image or images and to the students' message."

The students then held a brainstorming session, facilitated by Anabel, **Nabila Bolisay**, Staff Specialist and **Tiffany Vong**, Health Education Associate, to determine what the students want to focus on while working with PHS staff.

1. Photovoice Training (L-to-R): Nabila Bolisay, Staff Specialist; Tiffany Vong, Health Education Associate; Megan Beard, Health Educator; Kristin Alix, Health Communication Specialist; and Anabel Bolaños, Program Supervisor II. 2. Anabel Bolaños, Program Supervisor II, Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP). 3. Kristin Alix, Health Communication Specialist. 4. Megan Beard, Health Educator, Safe Routes to School Coordinator.



ZEST

For Health

March is National Nutrition Month®!

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics created this annual campaign to focus on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

This year's theme – Eat Right, Bite by Bite – supports the philosophy that every little bit (or bite) of nutrition is a step in the right direction. Small goals/changes can have a cumulative healthful effect. Nutrition doesn't have to be overwhelming. To learn more, visit the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at eatright.org and follow hashtag National Nutrition Month throughout March.

Add a little green to your meals by trying this Broccoli Salad. This sweet and savory salad is packed with antioxidants to keep you feeling great!



Broccoli Salad

Ingredients:

- 4 cups** Broccoli - washed, trimmed and cut into bite-size pieces
- ¼ cup** Red onion – diced
- ½ cup** Raisins
- ¾ cup** Radishes - thinly sliced
- ⅓ cup** Mayonnaise
- 2 ½ tbsp** low-fat plain yogurt
- 1 tbsp** Sugar
- 1 tbsp** Red wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar



Leveraging Your Benefits



If you're looking for a new bank or credit union, the County of Orange lists the Orange County Credit Union (OCCU) as an institution for you to consider. The Santa Ana-based financial services provider was named the third best credit union in California last year, in the Forbes' Best-In-State Credit Unions list.

The OCCU offers a range of services including checking, savings, loans, insurance and investments. Their website contains information and articles on a variety of topics including [home-buying](#), ways to [improve your credit score](#) and even [5 Myths about Tires](#). You can visit their website here www.orangecountyscu.org.

Membership to the OCCU is open to anyone who lives or works in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

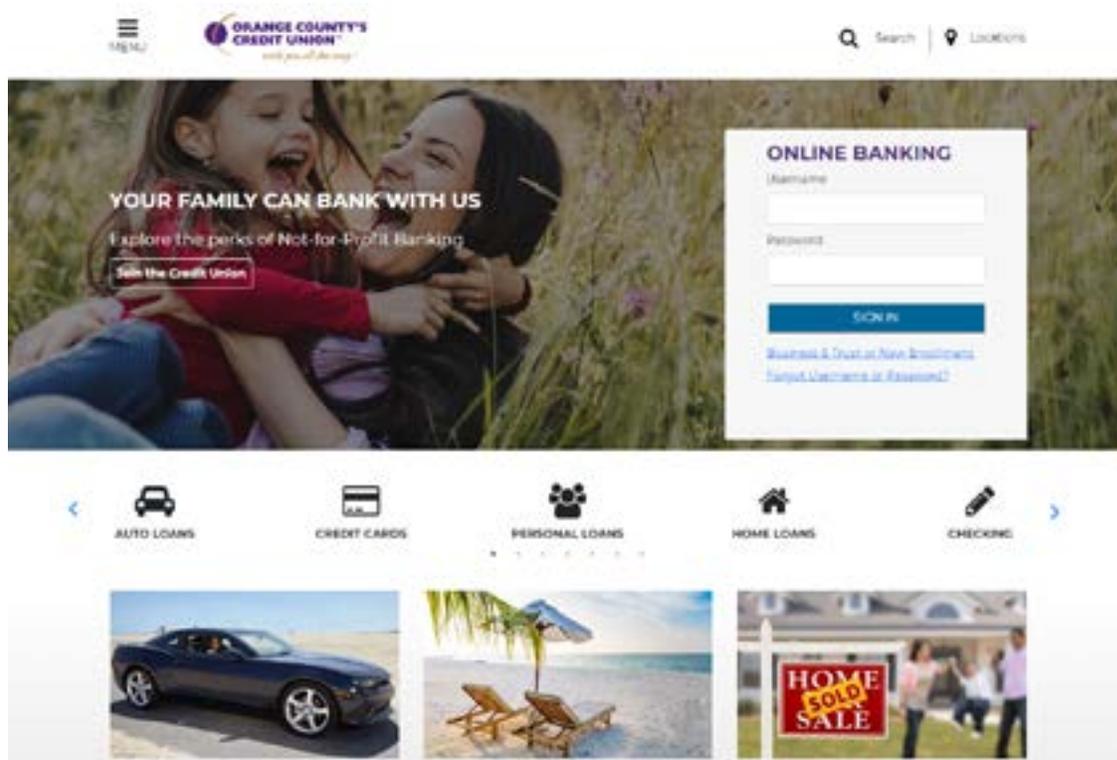
Meantime with tax season approaching, remember you can get a free 30-minute consultation on tax and Internal Revenue Service questions and preparations from Aetna. There's also a 25% discount on tax preparation services. For info: (800) 221-0945 or www.resourcesforliving.com.

Information in "Leveraging Your Benefits" is to make you aware of benefits available to you as a County of Orange employee. This is not an endorsement of any program.

Directions:

1. In a medium bowl: combine broccoli, onions, raisins and radishes.
2. In a small bowl: blend mayonnaise, yogurt, sugar and vinegar.
3. Pour dressing over broccoli and mix well.
4. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving.
(This will help marinate the ingredients but is not essential.)

Recipe source: <https://eatfresh.org/recipe/salads/broccoli-salad>



Health Care Agency (HCA). I had the opportunity to see the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Clinics Staff and was always inspired by the amazing work they did to assist our clients suffering from mental illness, drug addiction and those who were court-ordered to complete programs.”

David stayed with the HCA about 5 years before moving to the Orange County Probation Department, where he eventually promoted to supervisor. “I enjoyed leading a team of 9 Collection Officers collecting Victim Restitution for the entire County’s Felony Offenders on Probation program.”

He returned to the HCA with the Office of Public Guardian in 2018. “I was encouraged to return to the HCA as it represented the opportunity to make a positive impact on our constituents’ health, safety and quality of life. Our clients either do not have any family or have family/friends who are unable or unwilling to act on their behalf. Our deputies are on call 24/7 to attend to matters related to our conservatees. We handle the clients’ matters with the utmost professional and ethical approach.”

David said he likes to look on the positive side when working with clients in order to lend a hand in times of

need. “I’ve always had a passion to help others and my calling has always been to be a public servant. This is a job that really touches my heart. I enjoy that feeling at the end of the day knowing that I have helped someone. Some days it is about knowing that a client’s situation was resolved because of the steps I took. For example, it is nice to sit at your dinner table and think that your clients are also having a warm meal because of what you did. That is the biggest reward and gratification. It feels great to know that there is a program that would provide this level of care to the less fortunate.”

David also compliments his colleagues. “I feel that sharing what we know makes us stronger as a team. I enjoy having a team of hard working deputies and leadership to who I look up to as role models. Our culture in Public Guardian is to work hard in the community and to always treat the public and each other with great levels of respect and dignity regardless of how difficult or complex the day gets.”

When he’s not at work, David said he enjoys marathons, short road trips and spoiling his dogs. “I have two Boston Terriers, Frida and Paloma, they are a handful and very active.” He also said he is blessed with a supportive family and enjoys quality time with them.



MISSION

In partnership with the community, protect and promote the health and safety of individuals and families in Orange County through:

- Assessment and planning
- Prevention and education
- Treatment and care



Connect with Us



The **What's Up** newsletter is created and distributed monthly by HCA Communications. We welcome your ideas, input and/or insight into HCA people and programs. To contribute, comment or connect please email us at hcacomm@ochca.com or call (714) 834-2178. Thank you!