



# HHSA MOVES FORWARD IN CHANGING TIMES

## IN THIS ISSUE

HHSA Preparing for 2010 pg 1  
U.S. Census

Thank You Lions Club! pg 2

Carmel's Corner pg 2

Quilts for Children In Foster Care pg 3

Senior Fall Prevention Partnership pg 2

Community Health Services Report: Changing With the Times pg 3

HHSA Main numbers pg 4

## HHSA Preparing for 2010 U.S. Census

By Theresa McNerlin, HHSA Sr. Analyst

On Friday, Aug 21<sup>st</sup>, the U.S. Census Bureau held a multi-agency kick-off meeting in Ukiah at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Governor's Office, the U.S. Census Bureau, Lake County, Mendocino County, the City of Fort Bragg, and multiple community partners. The Health and Human Service Agency (HHSA) will be taking a lead role in the 2010 Census in Mendocino County. As HHSA Director Carmel Angelo commented, "It is of the utmost importance to HHSA and Mendocino County that every person be counted in the 2010 Census. Millions of dollars are at stake for our community."

The results of the 2010 Census will determine the amount of money and resources allocated to our community. Census data guides the distribution of more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year and \$3 trillion over the next 10 years. The census data is also used to determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress and to guide planning decisions, such as the placement of schools, hospitals, transportation, and business and industrial development.

The resounding note of the meeting was the need for everyone to be counted. The challenge for Mendocino County is counting people who do not want to be counted, those in the rural communities, without streets or mailboxes, and the homeless. Kathleen Stone, Program Administrator with HHSA, is leading the effort to count everyone in these special groups.

During the meeting Census Bureau representatives emphasized there will be no questions asked regarding legal status of residency or social security number. "Personal information provided to the Census will remain strictly

confidential. Every Census worker can face up to 5 years in jail and a large fine for releasing any personal information," stated one representative from the Bureau.

The Bureau will begin by mailing questionnaires to every address in February and March. The 2010 Census questionnaire will be one of the shortest in history, consisting of 7-10 questions. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. In the 2000 Census, Mendocino County had a 59% mail-back response rate, versus 70% statewide. For every 1% of the population nationwide that does not return the mail-back questionnaire, it costs the Bureau \$90 million in additional contact efforts.

Community members are needed to form Complete Count Committees (CCC). Made up of state, local and tribal governments, and/or community leaders, CCCs are one of the core strategic elements of the 2010 Census. Committees often include a cross section of community representatives—including government agencies, education, business, faith-based organizations and the media—and aim to address the various racial, ethnic, cultural and geographic considerations of their communities.

Using local knowledge, expertise and influence, CCCs plan and implement census awareness campaigns that address the special characteristics of their communities. Local campaigns are designed to reach traditionally undercounted populations by stressing the importance of an accurate census count, including how data is collected and used.

If you or your organization would like to be a part of a CCC, or if you have ideas on how to count specific communities within our county, please contact Kathleen Stone at 463-7968. For more information, visit [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov).



## LEADERSHIP TEAM

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472-2799

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463-7902

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463-7882

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472-2339

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472-2345

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472-2336

2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## Carmel's Corner



CARMEL ANGELO, HHS DIRECTOR

As we move into the fall season, I find myself moving into another changing time in my life. On September 9, 2009, I was appointed as Assistant Chief Executive Officer for Mendocino County.

I have lived in this county for a little over two years now. During this time, I had the pleasure of serving as Health and Human Services Agency Director. I have enjoyed every minute in the Agency and leaving was an extremely hard decision. I consider the HHS Director position a privilege and now, with the Assistant CEO position, I have an opportunity to serve this County in a different capacity. As Assistant CEO, I will function as the chief operations officer, continuing my commitment to fiscal accountability and operational excellence throughout our County system.

As I move out of HHS, this is not goodbye, as I plan to be a part of this community for a long time.

I will miss all the HHS staff, community partners, the work, our endeavors, and our Leadership Team.

Keep up the good work,

*Carmel*

## CHILDREN & FAMILY SYSTEM OF CARE

### Thank You To The Lions Club!

By Becky Wilson, Deputy Director, Children & Family Services Division

Child Welfare Services would like to extend a warm and heartfelt thank you to Lions Club members and Secretary Marge Pardini for coordinating the Kases for Kids project. Over the past five years, 314 backpacks have been donated for the children we serve. Many of the children with whom we work are taken into protective custody without any personal belongings. We have a clothes closet with new or slightly used clothing and personal toiletries such as soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, shampoo, deodorant and combs. The backpacks are available to the children to carry any items they need as they enter our foster care system.

These brand new backpacks are donated

by the community and filled by the Lions Club with age appropriate surprises such as coloring books, notebooks, crayons, pens, pencils and a variety of small toys or stuffed animals. They are also tagged for boy or girl and by child's age (young, pre-teen or teen).

The availability of items such as these for children who have been removed from parental custody, often in incredibly stressful situations, is a godsend and a tremendous help to the social workers and social worker assistants as they prepare children for a stay in a new and unknown home. Again, thanks to our community partners. Together we can accomplish much.

## ADULT & OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE

### The Mendocino-Lake Fall Prevention Partnership: Collaboration to Prevent Senior Falls

By Mike Parkinson-Senior Analyst, Adult & Older Adult System of Care

Falls are one of the leading causes of injuries to seniors. One in three seniors in California will eventually fall. In Lake and Mendocino Counties alone, 5846 seniors were hospitalized between 1991 and 2004 due to injuries they sustained when they fell. But the good news is that with proper education and intervention, senior falls are preventable.

The Mendocino-Lake Fall Prevention (MLFP) Partnership was created in February, 2008 when the lack of exclusive fall prevention programs in the Mendocino/Lake County regions highlighted a need for an alliance to focus entirely on such programs and services, and coordinate with activities of independent organizations. Formed with an Archstone Foundation grant obtained by the Area Agency on Aging of Lake and Mendocino Counties, the partnership is a broad-based community coalition to reduce the risk of falls among seniors through education, training and interventions.

Members consist of representatives from a wide range of Lake and Mendocino County senior centers, hospitals, residential housing facilities, fire departments, emergency services, adult protective ser-

vices, skilled nursing facilities, and county health and social services. The resources these organizations bring to the coalition include expertise and backgrounds in senior issues and a desire to promote quality of life for seniors in Mendocino and Lake Counties.

The MLFP conducted community surveys targeting health care professionals and community-based service providers to determine community-specific fall prevention needs. They developed a 3-year strategic plan defining the mission, goals, priorities and actions necessary to implement community fall prevention efforts. Putting into action nutrition, physical activity and balance training programs at participating senior centers, they also coordinated home risk assessments and modifications for community seniors.

September 20 to 27, 2009 marks the second annual California Fall Prevention Awareness Week. The MLFP Partnership will participate in activities aimed at distributing information to the media and raising awareness among older persons and their families about the seriousness of falls and ways to reduce fall risks. ❧

## NEW WEBSITE FOR HHS!

Have you seen the new Health and Human Services website? Click [www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa) to view program and contact information, press releases, health and human services updates, and more ...

## COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

### The Community Health Status Report: Changing With the Times

By Stacey Cryer, Branch Director

Across the country, there is a movement among public health departments towards primary prevention -- to prevent health problems before they occur. Here in Mendocino County, Community Health Services (CHS) is also taking steps in the direction of primary prevention in order to improve the health of the population as a whole.

In order to know where the greatest health needs are, CHS needs to improve its capacity to collect and analyze local health data. Funded by a grant from The California Endowment, CHS will improve its data capacity in such areas as calculating life expectancy for different racial and ethnic groups within the county. The 2010 Community Health Status Report (CHSR) will introduce frameworks that further a preventive approach to health improvement. The goal is to assess health status at pres-

ent, and to work to improve health outcomes over time, measuring progress with objective measures along the way.

CHS knows that the public and our Community Partners rely on the CHSR for data on community health. Health status indicators that are not available elsewhere will continue to be reported in the CHSR. Data available in other agencies' reports will be referenced in the CHSR so they can be easily found. In 2010 CHS will survey users of the CHSR to assess which information is most useful, and what could be improved in future years to help prioritize health resource delivery. CHS envisions the CHSR as a tool to improve the health of all Mendocino County residents, and to reflect how well we are doing at improving the health of specific populations and the entire county. ❧

### QUILTS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

DONATED BY GRAPEVINE QUILTERS GUILD OF MENDOCINO COUNTY



Shown above are an array of quilts and pajamas, lovingly crafted by the Grapevine Quilters Guild of Mendocino County and donated to children who must be removed from their home and placed in foster homes. At such difficult times, receiving something special to carry with them may remind them that people care. Agency staff at the Yokayo Campus organized a silent auction in August, raising almost \$475 for the Family Center Children's Summer Activity Fund. In addition over \$300 was raised through the raffle of a beautiful quilt, also generously donated by the Grapevine Quilters Guild.

### AODP Participates in National Recovery Month

By Leslie Kirkpatrick-Substance Abuse Program & Services Manager, Adult & Older Adult System of Care

HHS's Alcohol & Other Drug Programs Will Be A Participant In National Recovery Month. The theme for 2009 is "Join The Voices For Recovery—Together We Learn, Together We Heal".

Here in Mendocino County, AODP provided treatment services for 725 county residents in fiscal year 08/09. Clients stayed in treatment an average of six plus months. People seem to receive some benefit from treatment if they stay in 3 months or longer, regardless of completion. Additionally, Mendocino County's AODP services had a 4% higher satisfactory completion rate in 2008 than other counties, statewide.

Recent client graduates have spoken about positive changes they have made in their lives as a result of treatment, including becoming reunited with their families, appreciating CPS workers and law enforcement, and enrolling in college. A Ukiah-based outpatient program graduation, August 5th, had as witnesses staff members from HHS, CPS, Federal Probation, a superior court judge, and the Ukiah City Manager. A client's child movingly spoke congratulations to their parent for completing treatment—this child and the many healthy new babies there "joined the voices for recovery" in a wholehearted appreciation of treatment and beyond!

The addiction field continues to gain in sophistication regarding etiology and treatment options. Addiction has come to be recognized as a chronic illness, which should be treated as such, and which has as much compliance with treatment recommendations by those being treated as do other illnesses such as asthma, heart disease and diabetes. With insurance parity a legislative reality, we look forward to a lessening of the stigma which still at times keeps individuals away from treatment, and causes families and communities to continue to suffer from the collateral effects of this devastating illness.

We've sent the following information to the California State Alcohol and Drug Programs, and will be included in their website listing on Recovery Month activities.

Mendocino County's Board of Supervisors will recognize September as National Recovery Month. We hope that recovering community members can attend this important Supervisor's meeting to acknowledge the role their recovery plays in the health of our community.

# free children's health fair

## WILD ABOUT HEALTH

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009

10-3 p.m.

Alex Rorabaugh Center  
1640 S. State Street, Ukiah



707.463.1921  
HealthFairUkiah.org

Major  
Underwriters:



Ukiah Valley  
Medical Center  
Adventist  
Health

### HHSA MAIN NUMBERS

	UKIAH		WILLITS		FORT BRAGG
Adult & Older Adult System of Care	(707) 463-7900 (Social Services) (707) 463-4303 (Mental Health) (707) 472-2657 (AOD)		(707) 456-3740 (Social Services) (707) 456-3850 (Mental Health) (707) 456-3821 (AOD)		(707) 962-1100 (Social Services) (707) 964-4747 (Mental Health) (707) 961-2519 (AOD)
Community Health Services	(707) 472-2700 (707) 472-2663 (AOD) (707) 463-4038 (Environ. Health)		(707) 456-3701		(707) 964-4713 (707) 961-2519 (AOD) (707) 961-2720 (Environ. Health)
Children & Family System of Care	(707) 463-7990 (Social Services) (707) 463-4303 (Mental Health)		(707) 456-3700 (Social Services) (707) 456-3850 (Mental Health)		(707) 962-1100 (Social Services) (707) 964-4747 (Mental Health)
Employment & Family Assistance Services	(707) 463-2437 (877) 327-1711 (toll free)		(707) 456-3700 (800) 771-2453 (toll free)		(707) 962-1000 (877) 327-1677 (toll free)
Veteran's Services	(707) 463-4226		(707) 456-3792		(707) 964-5823



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