



Community
Action
Commission
OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

2018 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Patricia Keelean

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR....

The most frequent question I've been asked since becoming the new ED is "what is your vision for the CAC?" The simple answer is this: for the CAC to be recognized as **the** organization in Santa Barbara County moving the dial on poverty in our community. That's a tall order.

It begins with a strategic shift in how we, as an organization, see our consumers: rather than "recipients" of services, we will begin to view them as partners in a journey toward self-sufficiency. Again, no small task without the proper systems, tools and resources. Fortunately, we were recently awarded a capacity-building grant from the Weingart Foundation that is launching us forward. With their support, we are adopting a performance-based management system called ROMA (Results-Oriented Management & Accountability). This system will help us to rethink our programs and services to ensure they are aligned with our vision, values and mission. In a nutshell, it will allow us to understand and address the needs of individuals and families we serve in a more comprehensive way. Equally important, ROMA will allow us to measure our success. As good stewards of local, state federal and private contributions, I am committed to demonstrating that our services not only help people, but that we change lives by moving them out of poverty.

Not being one to waste time, I've hit the ground running! We have already provided our Board of Directors with ROMA training and have begun the process of training staff and implementing ROMA principles. We've also begun implementing a new Client Information System which will allow us to evaluate the needs of our consumers at intake and then refer them to all CAC services they are eligible to receive, rather than just the service they are seeking. "Bundling" services in this manner helps to stabilize families. Finally, we are embarking on evaluating the unique needs of our North, Mid and South County Regions through a comprehensive community needs assessment. The needs assessment will lay the foundation for future strategic planning in the Spring of 2019 and our five-year work plan.

Of course, it is not possible to accomplish our mission in a vacuum, so we will be reaching out to strategic partners across the county who are addressing issues that touch the lives of people in poverty. Rather than duplicating the efforts and expertise that already exists in the community, we will be seeking to work together to build on each region's strengths. This includes partners in the private sector. For instance, we have just been awarded a 2-year grant from the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to implement a Financial Literacy Program and will be working with **Rabobank** to educate and empower families around managing their money and setting financial goals.

It is an exciting time at CAC and we are fortunate to have talented, dedicated staff who are committed to our mission. Moving forward, I also look forward to engaging with you – our stakeholders – to move the dial on poverty! **Pat**

The Towbes Group & CAC Partner for the Rodeo

This year marked the 75th anniversary of Santa Maria's first rodeo, and Community Action Commission was thrilled to be a part of the festivities. The Towbes Group supports CAC's Senior Nutrition Program and invited CAC to participate on their Villa del Sol float.

The Santa Maria Elks Rodeo took place from Thursday, May 31 to Sunday, June 3. This event is one of the largest and most influential events in the Santa Maria Valley, celebrating an important cultural tie between the community and the history of the valley. We look forward to next year's Santa Maria Elks Rodeo!



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NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County is pleased to welcome Councilman Eric Friedman, Sara Limas, Sharon Lutz, Ph.D., and Phylene Wiggins to our Board of Directors.

Eric Friedman is a current Council Member for the City of Santa Barbara who believes in creating public value through civic engagement. Councilman Friedman is a previous District Representative for the Board of Supervisors for Santa Barbara County and has a long history of volunteerism with local organizations.

Sharon Lutz, Ph.D., is currently the Vice President for Quality Support Services with Cottage Health System, Inc. In this role, Dr. Lutz works closely with community services to ensure safe transitions from the acute care system back to the community. She is also closely involved in Cottage Health's population health initiatives and oversees the Community Case Management Program.

Phylene Wiggins is a long-term resident of Santa Barbara County and has been involved with a variety of nonprofit organizations for over 30 years in board, staff and volunteer roles. She recently accepted a new role as Vice President of Programs and Grants at the Ventura County Community Foundation after working with the Santa Barbara Foundation for 25 years as Director of Community Investments.

New Head Start Policy Council Chair

Sara Limas was recently elected Chair for CAC's Head Start Policy Council and will represent the Head Start program on CAC's Board of Directors. While she currently has a child enrolled in our Head Start program in Lompoc, she also previously served on the Policy Council in 2003-04.

Summer Meals Program Locations

Nutritious lunches served in a safe environment
If you have any questions, please call
(805) 925-3010 CAC Nutrition Services Program
Community Action Commission, USDA and the CDE are equal opportunity



Santa Maria/Lompoc, CA
June 11, 2018 - August 3, 2018
Monday to Friday
Closed July 4th

Westgate Park 12:30 - 1:30pm
Tunnell Park 12:30 - 1:30pm
Santa Maria Boys & Girls Club 11:45 - 12:45pm
Oakley Park 12:30 - 1:30pm
Jim May Park 12:30 - 1:30pm
Good Samaritan Services 12:00 - 1:00pm
Evans Park - Boys & Girls Club 12:30 - 1:30pm
Lompoc Boys & Girls Club 12:30 - 1:30pm

Carpinteria, CA
June 18, 2018 - August 15, 2018
Monday to Friday
Closed July 4th

Carpinteria Girls Inc.
Breakfast 10:30 - 11:30am,
Snack 3:00 - 4:00pm

CAC Champions Dinner



Dr. Kevin Walthers, Fran Forman and Bob Freeman

On May 17, CAC held the 13th annual Champions Dinner at the Corque Hotel in Solvang. Once a year we gather to honor those who champion efforts to help youth, families, and seniors in our community. One of this year's Champions was newly retired executive director of CAC, Fran Forman.

Fran worked tirelessly for 17 years on behalf of children, teens, families, and seniors to promote their education, job skills, physical/emotional well-being, and economic security in an effort to stabilize their lives.

Dr. Kevin Walthers, President of Allan Hancock College, was also honored. Under his leadership, the college launched The Hancock Promise, which allows students who graduate from high schools in Santa Maria, Lompoc, Santa Ynez, and Cuyama to receive their first year of tuition and fees for free.

CAC's third Champion was CenCal Health, which began as a small local health plan and is now the largest health insurer in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. CenCal provides healthcare for those who would not otherwise have coverage.

The event's top sponsors were CenCal Health, Rabobank, Arthur J. Gallagher & Company, BB&H Benefit Designs, the Chumash Foundation, and Deckers. The funds raised at the Champions Dinner benefit the Healthy Senior Lunch Program, which provides hot, nutritious daily meals for seniors throughout the County and ensures that they remain healthy and independent.

Every year the Senior Lunch Program serves over 137,000 meals to Santa Barbara County seniors. To obtain services, call (805) 683-4458. To learn more about the program, please visit our website at www.cacsb.org or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CAChelps.



Anthony Castillo, Vianey Lopez, Raquel Lopez Luis Villegas (RaboBank Platinum Sponsor), Tami Mason, Vanessa Garcia and Sergio Villa

CAC Champions Dinner Sponsor

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Sharon Kennedy Estate Management

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Keith Mautino Moore
Oliver Packaging
Randy Weiss
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Santa Barbara County has more than 2,719 programs and services designed to help residents in crisis, whether that be a personal emergency, family difficulty, or even a natural disaster.

The 2-1-1 helpline connects the public to these crucial resources 24/7, confidentially, and in 150 languages, at no cost to the caller. Typically, 2-1-1 is used for mental health and addiction services, housing, legal assistance, and public safety, but during the Thomas Fire and Montecito flood/debris flow, disaster-related calls to 2-1-1 increased by 1,000%. There were 5,220 calls and texts in December 2017 and 7,474 calls and texts in January 2018, compared to an average number of 500 inquiries per month.

"Our 2-1-1 staff is specially trained to refer disaster and crisis calls to appropriate resources including evacuation shelters and specialty transportation, or 911 rescue services in life-threatening cases. We want the public to know about and make use of this valuable community service, but we also want them to know that in a life-threatening emergency, always dial 911 first." –Elisa Pardo

"Our staff worked around the clock during recent disasters – connecting people to resources and helping them get answers and direct aid. Our program helped fill the gap when the emergency response systems were unexpectedly overloaded"

– Pat Keelean, Executive Director –

What's Up in Energy!

CAC Energy in partnership with Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is now offering minor home repairs for seniors throughout the County. This program is one of the many programs AAA offers to assist seniors that choose home care over facility care. The programs focus mainly on fall prevention and health and safety measures for our seniors. There are no income guidelines and clients are only asked for a small donation to help offset the cost of the program. We have fielded over 110 clients and have served over 80 seniors so far! If you know a senior that could use these services please have them call the Energy Hotline at (805) 617-2897!

Tony Mitchell Named New CAC Chief Operating Officer



Tony Mitchell was recently selected as CAC's new Chief Operating Officer (COO) from a highly competitive pool of candidates. Tony began his career with CAC in human resources in the early 1990s and brings to the position over 27 years of professional experience in both the corporate and nonprofit environment. For over 7 years, he has served as a senior level executive with CAC.

Tony's exemplary leadership skills, together with his commitment to the mission of CAC, strategic thinking, team orientation and collaborative skills, make him uniquely qualified for the COO position. Moving forward, he will be responsible for implementing Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) systems, implementing a new client information software system (CAP60), and will also oversee all Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) activities and reporting.

Please join us in congratulating Tony on his new role as COO!

Preventing Child Abuse through Financial Literacy

According to the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect, children whose families live in poverty have significantly higher rates of abuse and neglect. Through a new 3 year project in partnership with the California Office of Child Abuse Prevention, CAC will offer financial education to reduce this statistic.

This effort will be a partnership with Children's Services, Family & Youth Services and the Energy Program with target participants being parents of children 0-5 years of age. The project will utilize the "Your Money, Your Goals" tool kit developed by the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau and will assist parents to assess their current financial situation and needs leading to setting goals to increase their financial stability. Participants can receive the information in a group setting or one-on-one through case management. **Rabobank** will be a partner to offer banking information and answer individual questions at each concluding group session. The project will launch in Fall 2018 in the North County and will strive to have 75% of participants gain financial literacy knowledge.

New Healthy Senior Program Sites OPEN

Monday thru Friday
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
except Holidays

Cypress Court Center
125 S. 7th Street
Lompoc, CA 93436

Weitzel Center
640 N. Q Street
Lompoc, CA 93436

Healthy Senior Lunch is served at senior centers across the County with home delivery available for those with limited mobility. To obtain services call (805) 683-4458.