



LINK Newsletter May/June 2015

President's Volunteer Service Award Johnie Belford

Last November (2014), Kevin Hamilton- Deputy Director of Programs (Fresno) nominated our volunteer in the Enrollment Assistance Program, Johnie Belford, for the "President's Volunteer Service Award."

Johnie dedicates 20-24 hours a week of her retirement from her position as County DSS Medi-Cal Outreach and Enrollment Manager to our CSV enrollment program. She works tirelessly to ensure our Medi-Cal aging applications are resolved and these individuals and families receive the benefits they deserve.

Johnie received a certificate and a gold embossed pin. Thank you Johnie for volunteering your time to our patients. We appreciate your dedication.

See Johnie's certificate here: [President's Service Award!](#)



Clinica Sierra Vista Launches New Program to Aid

Local Homeless



Left to Right: JR Browning, Therapist, Joni Sceales, Additional Specialist, Margarita Rosson, Homeless Respite Coordinator, Irving Herrera, Case Manager, Judith Carrillo, Care Manager.

In January of this year, Clinica Sierra Vista took on a new program that sought to solve an important problem: how to keep the chronically homeless in housing and off of the streets. Far too often, the formerly homeless find themselves in jeopardy of losing their housing for a number of reasons, the most common being chronic substance abuse and mental health. To address this problem, Clinica Sierra Vista applied for a grant provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment to individuals who are at risk of losing their housing or are in the process of obtaining housing through the Housing First

Model. Out of this grant, Clinica launched the Behavioral Health Interventions and Treatment with Housing Solutions program, located on 234 Baker St. in Bakersfield, headed by Margarita Rosson.

Sixteen weeks ago, this program launched their first Matrix Substance Abuse group treatment program. The group included four participants who in some form needed help to maintain housing, and five participants who were not in permanent housing. The Matrix group treatment takes clients through some of the common problems experienced during substance or alcohol abuse recovery. Clients spent their time in group recognizing some of the things that kept them from staying sober, and several ways to overcome a very serious obstacle in their lives. Matrix Substance Abuse Treatment relies heavily on education and group participation, while also including family members as part of the treatment.

In addition to the group treatment, program participants in Clinica Sierra Vista's housing Solutions program received individual Mental Health treatment by a staff Therapist, as well as individual substance abuse treatment provided by a professional Substance Abuse counselor. The Therapist provided clients with individual psychotherapy, assessment, and diagnosis for a psychiatric referral. The Substance Abuse counselor provided clients with additional sobriety planning and individual counseling to help clients through their struggle with sobriety. The program also has two case managers to assist clients with tasks such as appointments, food/clothing referrals, program referrals, and a tele-psychiatry referral that allows clients to receive psychiatric services at the Clinica location.

While the SAMHSA Housing Solutions program does not provide direct housing services, they are partnered with Kern County Housing Authority, FLOOD Ministries, California Veterans Assistance Foundation, and other housing agencies in the area that can provide clients with direct housing vouchers. The Housing Solutions team then ensures that the formerly homeless client has the support to maintain their housing and improve their quality of life. Without such support, many clients have never learned how to maintain their housing, and have ended up in a cycle of homelessness and substance abuse. The Housing Solutions team works with the client to learn skills that will hopefully keep them sober, healthy, and most importantly housed.

The program has met with great success with their first group, who graduated in early June. At the beginning of the sixteen week program, four out of nine participants (44%) were permanently housed. Now, at the end of the program, 100% of the program participants are permanently housed. Thanks to their participation in the Clinica Sierra Vista SAMSHA Housing Solutions Program, they have the necessary skills to stay in housing and maintain a sober lifestyle.

Written by: [JR Browning](#)



Graduates from the Matrix Program, Renata Mitchell and Jerry Richmond.

CPCA - Day at the Capitol 2015



California Primary Care Association (CPCA)

The CPCA's Day at the Capitol, hosted this past April, is an annual event that allows physicians, clinicians, directors, patients and health center advocates to engage in dialogue with legislators and legislative staff about budget and legislative priorities impacting community clinics and health centers (CCHCs).

The Day at the Capitol is critical to CPCA as a forum in which the voice of CCHCs can unite and be heard.

From our CSV team, the following individuals attended the meeting (picture above, left to right):

Bill Phelps, Chief of Programs, Theresa Haas, Assistant Director of Behavioral Health, Claribel Gutierrez, CSV Board Vice President, and Kevin Hamilton, Deputy Chief of Programs.

Participants attended legislative visits with their respective representatives to emphasize the importance of clinics in the current year's budget and legislative session, in addition to expressing the vital need for administrative streamlining.

To the right, our team met with Jahmal Miller who was appointed by Governor Brown as Deputy Director to the Office of Health Equity at the California Department of Public Health.



NACHC - 2015 National Farmworker Health Conference May 5-7, 2015



Hosted by the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Farmworker Health Conference is the only national conference dedicated solely on the health and well-being of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

This May in San Antonio, Texas, six (6) of our CSV team members attended the conference, and five of six had the opportunity to meet with George N. Miller, Jr., MHSA the Chief Executive Officer at Community Care and his staff members in Austin Texas. Community Care has 100% implemented the NextGen software and was able to share their experience along with their best practices with our team.

From our CSV team, the following individuals attended the conference (see photo above, left to

right):

Socorro Gaeta, CSV Board Member, Ruben Chavez, Chief Administrative Officer, Christine Goltz, Chief of Operations, Tony Carbone, Chief Information Officer, Sarai Moore, Director of Nursing, and Tina (Ernestina) Schmidt, Technology Trainer.



Senate Bill 4 Health For All Health care coverage: Immigration Status

Senate Bill 4, the "Health For All Act", would allow undocumented immigrants to purchase health insurance on the state exchange, pending a federal waiver, and enroll eligible people under the age of 19 in Medi-Cal, the state's insurance program for

the poor. A capped number of undocumented adults would also be allowed participate, if additional funding is appropriated in the state budget.

Current status: Passed the Senate Floor with a historic bipartisan vote, 28-11!

Next Steps: On 6/15/15 the bill was sent to the Assembly Committee on Health, and then it heads to Gov. Jerry Brown's desk for final approval.

To learn more, click here [SB 4 Fact Sheet](#)

Primary Care Residency New Slots funding

Teaching Health Center - Graduate Medical Education Kern & Fresno

The Office of Statewide Planning and Development (OSHPD) awarded both of our Family Medicine Residency programs funding for the next academic year, 2015 to 2016. Our programs were two of the seventeen recipients for the capitation proposals. The Fresno program, the Sierra Vista Family Medicine Residency Program, received \$450,000, and the Kern program, the Rio Bravo Family Medicine Residency Program, received \$150,000.

Our Teaching Health Center programs have been facing challenges with federal funding; therefore, both programs are actively pursuing supplemental funding to support the operation of the programs. Over the last couple of years, both programs have received Capitation and Special Program funding from the OSHPD through their Healthcare Workforce Policy and Development Divisions.

Thank you to Dr. Lydia Herrera-Mata (Fresno) and Dr. Carol Stewart (Kern) for their work on preparing and presenting to the OSHPD Commission.



Sierra Vista Family Medicine Residency Program (Fresno Program)

In April 2015, the Teaching Health Center program located in Fresno matched its 3rd class of four (4) residents. These 4 new residents will officially begin their family medicine training in July 2015 at the Regional Medical Center in Fresno.

With the addition of this class, we now have a full complement of residents, totaling twelve (12) residents.

Meet our next class of family medicine residents for academic years July 2015 to June 2018!



Sergio Viera



Mireya Sandoval



Michael Davis



Rajvir Singh

A story from our first year residents at the Bakersfield - Rio Bravo Family Medicine Residency Program.





Sr. Juan Hernandez a native of Guatemala presented to the Emergency Room at Kern Medical Center, he was admitted and there began his care with Kern Medical Center doctors and the Rio Bravo Family Medicine Residents.

Sr. Hernandez had no family in California and was diagnosed with Esophageal Cancer, and other diagnosis. He remained for over two months in the Hospital and was stabilized. He was being fed intravenously and will need to do this for the remainder of his life.

He shared his desire to return to his county to live out his last days to Dr. Josue Balart and Dr. Adan Romero, our two residents from the International Medical Graduate (IMG) program who trained at UCLA.

Sr. Hernandez's story touched Dr. Balart's heart and then began his mission to help return him home. He called the embassy of Guatemala to ask them to assist in finding a way to return him to his Country. After many telephone calls and conversations to the Guatemalan embassy, they finally agreed to send him home and pay for his travel home. They would provide an escort to travel with him, due to his medical necessities.

Sr. Hernandez shared his story further; he had arrived in the United States in 2001 and worked in Los Angeles selling ice cream. After being robbed twice he decided to venture north to work in the fields picking lettuce, lemons and other crops. The Rio Bravo team was moved by Sr. Hernandez, and wanted to help, so everyone donated a little something, Dr. Romero supplied him with some nice clothes, and a monetary collection from the Clinica Sierra Vista employees was taken up for his travels.

When Dr. Balart found out that Sr. Hernandez would have to travel by bus to the Los Angeles International Airport alone, Dr. Balart and Dr. Romero took it upon themselves to escort Sr. Hernandez to the airport.

To the right is a photo at LAX airport with Sr. Hernandez, his family member, and Drs. Romero and Balart.



"Mission Accomplished"

Rio Bravo team, thank you for sharing your story.



MARCH OF DIMES 2015



The **Fresno Team** hosted a walk on April 11th at Woodward Park located at 7775 N. Friant Rd, Fresno, CA 93720.

Big Thanks for Brandon Hauk (ext. 5924), Ruben Chavez ext. 5860, and Beth Mendoza ext. 5877 for putting this event together!

The **Kern Team** hosted the March for Babies Walk on Saturday, April 18 at The Park at Riverwalk @ 1129 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield Huge Thanks for the Team Capitan's Lilly Cortes, Greenfield ext. 3535, Claudia Esparza, Lamont ext. 3115, and Alexis Rodriguez, WIC ext. 4607.



Making Strides Walk Against Breast Cancer

[2015 Komen Central Valley Race for the Cure
Saturday, October 24, 2015](#)

Our Patient Navigator program, led by Ashley Gregory, RN - Supervisor, will be hosting the Susan G. Komen Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

The Walk will take place on Saturday, October 24th for both Bakersfield and Fresno.

Place:

Fresno State/Satellite Student Union/Maple Mall located at
5241 N Maple Ave, Fresno, CA 93740

Bakersfield at Yokuts Park on Empire Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93309

We'll provide updates as we get closer to the event.

To sign up for the team and/or make a donation, please contact Ashley by phone at 661-845-3731 or by email at Ashley.Gregory@clinciasierravista.org.

WELCOME NEW HIRES!

On behalf of Clinica Sierra Vista, we want to welcome all new employees to our organization. We hope you will have an amazing time working with us. If you are in need of any assistance, please reach out to your supervisor or our HR department. Welcome aboard!

Pritika Ram, Director of Resource Development

Kern Administration
1430 Truxtun Ave, Suite 400
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Ph: 661.635.3050 ext. 2192
EM: ramp@clinciasierravista.org



california health⁺

STAY CONNECTED



[Forward this email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™

This email was sent to pratika.ram@clinciasierravista.org by pratika.ram@clinciasierravista.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Try it FREE today.

Clinica Sierra Vista | 1430 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 400 | Bakersfield | CA | 93301