

GET HEALTHY NEWS

BUILDING HEALTHY, EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

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SPOTLIGHT

New Public Health, Policy & Planning (PHPP) Director Announced

We are pleased to share that Dr. Tamarra Jones has accepted the job as PHPP Director. She has been with PHPP since 2022. During this time, she has served as the Health Policy and Planning Manager, Public Health Equity Officer, and Interim Director for PHPP. Dr. Jones holds a Doctorate in Public Health, with specialization in Preventive Care. She also has a Master of Public Health, with a concentration in Health Promotion and Education. Her experience includes 20 years as a public health manager in three local health departments. Her scope of experience has included managing a wide range of public health programs and services. She also has substantial experience with community engagement and is dedicated to collaboration. Her goal is to continue to build trust and work with internal and external partners to identify and support strategies that advance health equity and well-being for all who live, work, learn, and plan in San Mateo County.



Tamarra Jones

We Value your Feedback: Guide Future Newsletter Content!

Please take a moment to complete our survey and let us know what interests you and how we can improve our newsletter. Your input helps us bring you the content you want to see and how often you want to see it. Thank you for your time and support! [Complete the survey before 6/7 at noon.](#)



Photo credit: Canva



Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Released

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for San Mateo County has been created and the report is now available. The 2024-2026 CHIP outlines how San Mateo County Health and its partners plan to collaborate on enhancing health and promoting health equity. This plan is the result of a seven-month assessment and planning process involving over 90 partners, including representatives from divisions throughout San Mateo County Health, community-based organizations, behavioral health organizations, hospitals, health plans, and community advocates and leaders. The plan emphasizes joint efforts in three key priority areas:

- Access to Health Care Services
- Social Determinants of Health
- Mental Health (Please note that strategies and objectives for this area are under development; an updated report will be issued once finalized)



This significant achievement represents San Mateo County's inaugural CHIP, although partners have previously worked together on various assessments and plans that have guided our collaborative initiatives. Our goals for this process included:

- To develop and improve engagement with community members to identify and guide health priorities
- To establish a meaningful partnership with community partners for community-wide strategic planning and shared decision-making
- To co-develop an actionable CHIP that will lead to improved health outcomes
- These goals are being realized because of the dedication and commitment of our partners whose input in this process has been invaluable. We look forward to the continued collaboration that is required to implement our identified strategies and objectives for improving community health.

The [report](#) is available on the PHPP Strategic Direction webpage. If you are interested in joining the efforts of a CHIP Work Group, reach out to Jiana Riguera (JRiguera@smcgov.org).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Justice for Kids Funding Opportunity

The Newman's Own Foundation is accepting applications for the Food Justice for Kids prize. Grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded to organizations focused on indigenous food justice or nutrition education & school food. Non-profits, federally recognized tribes, tribal governments, public schools and other government organizations are eligible. Applications must be submitted by June 11, 2024. Learn more and apply to fund important [food justice work in your community!](#)



Photo credit: Canva



HPP UPDATES



Photo credit: Kate Hiester

Meet Our New Community Health Planner, Kate!

Health Policy & Planning (HPP) is proud to welcome Kate Hiester as the team's newest Community Health Planner. Kate was born and raised in San Mateo County. She has worked in education, workforce development, and juvenile justice across the country. For over a decade, she has focused on addressing issues of equity for children and youth in the Bay Area, most recently as the San Francisco and San Mateo County Region Director for Fresh Lifelines for Youth. Kate's work with HPP will focus on the Community Collaboration for Children's Success and other initiatives to improve youth outcomes. She is excited to work with the HPP team to elevate the needs and voices of youth in San Mateo County to create a more equitable future.

Othering and Belonging Conference

In April, Health Policy & Planning (HPP) staff attended the Othering and Belonging conference in Oakland. The conference was hosted by UC Berkeley's [Othering and Belonging Institute](#). Conference speakers discussed how various forms of Othering are dividing people against one another and have been for generations and provided strategies for creating a sense of Belonging for all, with a goal of reducing inequities. Attendees came away inspired to make change in their communities to systems that foster inclusion, without asking individuals to sacrifice their identity or assimilate. Recordings of the conference are available on their [YouTube channel](#).



Photo credit: Othering and Belonging Institute

Together Bay Area (TBA) Conference

[San Mateo Park Prescription \(Park Rx\) staff](#) attended the [Together Bay Area](#) (TBA) Conference. TBA is a regional coalition for climate resilience and equity. In collaboration with its member organizations across our 10-county region, the coalition champions social and environmental changes for healthy lands and communities.



Photo credit: Photo credit: Bryanna Whitney, POST

This inspiring gathering reminded us that we must work at the speed of trust to create sustainable and equitable systems change. A lot of our work is collaborative, about connections and relationships, sharing power and building trust over time. As part of the TBA, Peninsula Open Space Trust ([POST](#)) and SMC Park Rx hosted the Equitable Health Access: [Audrey Edna](#) Cabin Tour. In this tour, more than a dozen Bay Area organizations representatives learned about how [SMC Health](#) clients get to an immersive nature experience at the Audrey Edna cabin, a unique approach to increasing equitable access to the health benefits of spending time in nature. The SMC Park Rx Team is so grateful for the partnership and collaboration with POST and appreciate the space to 'move at the speed of trust'. Learn more about [Together Bay Area](#).



Photo credit: Nupoor Kulkarni

Equity in Practice

The goal of the Public Health, Policy & Planning (PHPP) Equity Plan Work Group (WG) is to apply equity practices in our daily work. The group recently held its first in-person meeting to celebrate the creation of PHPP's first-ever Equity Plan. The meeting included an activity to reflect on members' collective journey. Each WG member created a 'tarot card' that symbolizes equity for them. Using images and phrases, they each drew and shared their card's story. The activity provided an opportunity for creativity and fun in our work. It also equipped members with another tool to expand our understanding of what equity means.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us at the San Mateo County Pride Celebration

Bring your family, friends, and pets to the 12th annual Pride on the Peninsula Celebration! This year's theme is "Love at Our Core: Pride in 2024." Join in on the fun with food, live music, resource tables, and more! Below are details for the event:

Date: June 8, 2024

Time: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: San Mateo Central Park
50 E. 50th Avenue, San Mateo

Check out [SMC Pride Celebration webpage](#) for more information.



Mural Unveiling and Open House Event

El Concilio was selected by the East Palo Alto Arts Center (EPACENTER) Creative Corp Program to receive a new mural on their North Fair Oaks Building. Come celebrate the mural reveal, light food & drinks, and music on June 13, 5-7 p.m. for this free event! [Learn more here.](#)



Photo credit: El Concilio



Free Juneteenth Celebration Event!

San Mateo County's African American Community Initiative (AACI) is hosting Juneteenth 2024. This year's theme is "Hope, Persistence, & Purpose: The Continuing Journey." The event is free, and details are below:

Date: June 14, 2024

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Eastside College
Preparatory School

1041 Myrtle Street, East Palo Alto

For more information, contact Dee Pennix at
AACIInitiative@gmail.com or smchealth.org/juneteenth



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTS

BACHAC Hosts Soul Stroll 2024

The Bay Area Community Advisory Council (BACHAC) hosted Soul Stroll on May 18. This year's event returned to Coyote Point Park with its scenic views of the San Francisco Bay. Over 500 community members of all ages and abilities engaged in physical activities. Participants walked, ran, or biked for one, three, or five miles. The event also included a health and wellness fair. Over 45 community-based service organizations provided education and screening for various health conditions. This year's Soul Stroll Ambassador was Negro Baseball League Museum Hall of Famer Kenny Lofton. Mr. Lofton's seventeen-year career included a stint with the Giants in 2002. He spoke at the opening VIP event on May 17 and stressed the importance of physical movement in resisting health conditions. He also rallied walkers to the finish during the event. Find out more about [BACHAC's health programs and services](#). Also check out [BACHAC's Movement is Resistance video](#).



BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

There are multiple vacant seats for the County of San Mateo:

County of San Mateo: There are eight vacancies on the Commission on Disabilities, Open until filled. This 21-member Commission promotes programs that address quality of service and positive attitude about people with disabilities; review and report on availability and accessibility of community services to people with special needs; establish a channel of communication with the community to garner input and educate the public to the needs of persons with disabilities. Open until filled. [Start your application today!](#) There are two vacancies on the Agricultural Advisory Committee. This fifteen-member Committee actively assists in the preservation of agriculture on the Coastsides, advising and recommending to the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Open until filled. [Start your application today!](#) Applications are now being accepted for the 2024-25 Youth Commission. The Youth Commission is comprised of twenty-five youth between the ages of 13-21 who reside in San Mateo County as an advisory board to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. [Deadline to apply: May 31 before 12:00 a.m.](#)



Meals and EBT Available for Students This Summer!

Starting in Summer 2024, If your child is eligible for free and reduced-price school meals, Summer EBT can provide you with money for groceries. You will receive a debit-type card so that they can still have enough to eat, even when school is out.

Learn more about this here about [Summer EBT](#).



Photo credit: Canva

Some School Sites will be offering meals on sight for breakfast and lunch to students. Find the most [updated site list here](#).



Photo credit: Lz Sanchez

Every Kid Deserves a Bike: Supporting Youth in South San Francisco

For the third year, the City of South San Francisco kicked off the [Every Kid Deserves a Bike](#) program. This program gives kids from low-income families in some South San Francisco schools a chance to get outside and grow by giving them free bikes and support. Students not only get a new bike, but they also receive bike adjustments from BikeMobile, a local nonprofit. They also get a helmet properly fitted to their head by volunteers. Additionally, students can register their bikes on-site with the South San Francisco Police Department. Students also participate in a bike safety course, and volunteers teach and help those who don't know how to ride.

Join the Measure W Citizens Oversight Committee: Youth Members Wanted

The San Mateo County Transit District is recruiting applicants under 21 years old to join the Measure W Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) for the Youth and Youth Transit Riders position. The COC meetings are scheduled based on member availability, offering flexibility for youth members. Measure W, passed by San Mateo County voters in 2018, aims to improve transit and reduce traffic congestion through a ½ cent sales tax. The COC reviews the administration of the Congestion Relief Plan to ensure appropriate investment of the funds. Interested applicants can apply here: [Measure W Citizens Oversight Committee Application](#).



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

Black Family Hangout

Join Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council and Black Youth Advisory Board (BlackYAB) for the Black Family Hangout! Happening on June 23, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the College of San Mateo, building 10 on the lawn, this family affair is a celebration of community and support for Black students in grades 6-12, their families, and the wider community of San Mateo County. In the spirit of Juneteenth, the event promises a joyful space filled with acceptance, fun, and freedom. Enjoy soulful games, delicious food, friendly family competitions, and a live DJ! Best of all, it's free! Don't miss this opportunity to connect and celebrate resilience and excellence. [Register now.](#)

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SUPPORT YOUTH"

BLACK FAMILY HANGOUT

HOSTED BY BAY AREA COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE BLACK YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Free Event

The Black Family Hangout is an informal joyful space where Black Youth and their families to have freedom, fun, community, and kickback in honor of Juneteenth. Graduates will receive a Hangout Graduation Kit to kick off their new journey (must be in attendance to receive it). 6th grade - 12th grade students of African descent and their family and community in San Mateo County are invited.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23 | 3:00 PM-6:00 PM
College of San Mateo | 1700 W Hillsdale Blvd,
San Mateo | in front of Building 10
QR CODE REGISTRATION

REGISTER:
<https://tinyurl.com/BlackFamilyHangout>

Co-Sponsored by:
College of San Mateo

FOR MORE INFORMATION: E: info@bachac.org | T: (650) 204-1611

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