



Ask SSG

Next Issue:
June 22

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March - April 2009

SSG Represented at Office of Minority Health Conference

On February 25th-27th, three SSG program divisions attended the *Office of Minority Health's Third National Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health 2009* in beautiful National Harbor, MD. The conference, held in D.C.'s newest convention center brought together Federal health officials, academic institutions and community-based organizations to discuss their progress and set-backs in eliminating health disparities and to develop strategies for how best to move forward. **Brian Hui**, Project Coordinator of the Tongan Community Service Center joined collaborative partners in presenting the WINCART colon-rectal cancer training program. **Alicia Eccles**, Project Coordinator of the Older Adults Program presented on the REACH HAPAS program. APAIT Health Educator **Fiona Ao** presented on the Chieh Mei Ching Yi Sisterhood Program which educates and raises awareness about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases to at-risk monolingual Chinese women working in San Gabriel Valley massage parlors. Job well done to our programs!

Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka, Panelist at Long Beach Co-Occurring Disorders Conference

The *7th Annual Conference on Co-Occurring Disorders (Transforming Challenges into Opportunities)* was held on March 31 - April 1, 2009 at the Long Beach Convention Center. This statewide conference attracted over 500 participants and provided a forum for key stakeholders (policymakers, service providers, administrators, direct service staff, educators, researchers, consumers and others) to explore emerging best practices for co-occurring disorders (COD). A main highlight and objective of the conference was to increase collaboration between Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADPA) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) with the multiple systems of care serving COD clients at the state and local level.

SSG's Executive Director **Dr. Herbert Hatanaka** was invited to participate as a panelist for the workshop titled 'No Treatment, No Justice: Co-Occurring Disorders in the Courtroom'. Other prestigious panel members included Judge Michael Tynan, Nancy Chand JD, Mark De Wit JD, Arlene Veliz MSW and Judith Curry JD.

The conference coincided with Cesar Chavez Day (March 31) whose contributions were duly noted and recognized. Co-Sponsors of the conference included LA County Dept. of Public Health, ADPA, DMH, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), US DHHS, PROTOTYPES, The Pacific SW Addiction Technology Transfer Center, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, The California Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Programs, CIMH/Women's Mental Health Policy Committee, and the Staff Development Committee, DMH CalWORKS/DPSS.



l-r: Jury Candelario, APAIT, David Yim, OAP, Brian Hui, TCSC



Alicia Eccles, OAP, leading workshop entitled: "Knowledge to the People: Research Translation and Dissemination to Improve Local Health"



l-r: Judge Michael Tynan, Judith Curry, Herbert Hatanaka, Arlene Veliz, Nancy Chand, Mark De Wit

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

On March 10th in Long Beach, APAIT presented the National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day at the Unitarian Universalist Church along with the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce, GCN, and Khmer Girls in Action. The symposium was held in efforts to empower API women in LA County about HIV/AIDS. In the U.S. as of 2005, women represented 26 percent of new AIDS diagnoses and there are significant increases yearly. Women of color are especially vulnerable to the disease due to silence and invisibility compounded with hepatitis which infects many Asians. **Judy Chu, Ph.D.**, and vice chair of the CA Board of Equalization spoke at the symposium and stated that she believes that there should be more education programs among the API communities to take preventable measures. As a candidate for a seat in the U.S. 22nd congressional district of CA, Dr. Chu declared, "I hope that if I do indeed make it to Congress, that we will have more funds for preventable diseases like these that affect our communities. I am making that pledge to you that I will indeed do a lot to make that happen." For more information



I-r: Lillian Chu, Jury Candelario (APAIT), with Dr. Judy Chu and Fiona Ao (APAIT)

courtesy of the Asian Journal and the FACC and to view APAIT's PSA on API women, visit: <http://facc-sfv.org/component/content/article/3-newsflash/73-more-educat>

Compassion in Action

APAIT held an Open House on April 14, 2009 and invited members of the community to learn about the new and inspiring programs currently being offered. Tours took place continuously throughout the day which gave attendees an opportunity to meet APAIT staff and learn about programs from each of APAIT's program units (CARE; Prevention, Education and Research Services; Community Development and Training; Orange County; and the new Substance Use Services Unit).

At the completion of the tour, guests were invited to the James Sakakura Family Room for refreshments and a meet and greet with APAIT's Administrative Team and members of APAIT's Board of Advisors.



"Team APAIT"



On April 25th, Team APAIT will be participating in the *League of African American Women 5k AIDS Walk for Minority Women and Children*. The event will be held at the James Anderson Jr. Memorial Park 19101 Wilmington Ave., Carson, CA.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., opening ceremonies start at 8:30 a.m., and the Walk begins at 9 a.m.

To join or support Team APAIT, contact Fiona Ao at (213) 553-1849.

GREATER WEST HOLLYWOOD FOOD COALITION

Beginning in late February, fifth grade students of the *Center for Early Education* (CEE) in West Hollywood have been volunteering with their parents every Wednesday at Sycamore and Romaine, helping to serve the nightly meal of The Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition, now in its 22nd year.

Penny Landreth, a co-founder of the GWHFC, has taught art at the Center for thirty years, and Center students have long made soup and sandwiches on a weekly basis for the Food Coalition. Now, however, on the inspiration of two fifth grade parents, Jehan Agrama and Cari Scherma, a weekly rotation of parents and student volunteers has been scheduled from through the end of June.

As far as the Food Coalition is concerned, nothing could be better than this instance of enthusiastic youthful support in the community for the homeless and hungry population it serves. Everybody getting to know everybody else, at least to the extent of talking and listening to each other, on common ground, is as much the name of the game as is the meal itself. It is that sense of community that defines the GWHFC.



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

HOP AVALON FAMILY CENTER



The "Spring into Fun" party held on April, 9, 2009 and was enjoyed by over 30 families and 50 youth, and included visitors from the Probation Dept. Program graduates made speeches and received their diplomas, other activities included an egg decorating contest and hunt. Alta Med provide HIV resource materials and Kenny Lange, our Parent Partner, solicited a generous donation of 10 holiday food baskets, he was able to pull more than a rabbit out of the Easter Bonnet. Thanks to all the staff who made the event special and to the Party Committee, Margarita Alvarez, Venora Stapleton and Terriyonna McMurray for creating a wonderful event.



FAITH IN COMMUNITIES

CENTRAL MENTAL HEALTH

In the News!

The vital work of SSG's Central Mental Health (CMH) was highlighted in the Los Angeles Times by columnist Steve Lopez March 15, 2009. The column covered several mental health or co-occurring disorder courts in the greater LA area. Lopez praised the courts for providing treatment for individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders instead of "churning [them] through the criminal justice system without addressing the problems that got them into trouble." He held the courts up as an example of "tax dollars put to good use." The column also highlights some of the excellent outcomes that SSG Central Mental Health (CMH) has achieved since their partnership with Judge Michael Tynan and his LA County Mental Health Court. States CMH Director Dr. Victoria Simon "The Co-Occurring Disorder Court program has been a labor of love for everyone involved. It is a true community partnership between SSG, the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the court system, DMH, ADPA, Recovery International and CCJCC. We are proud of our success thus far - but particularly proud to be working with such incredible clients. Recognition from Steve Lopez, NPR and others is icing on the cake!"

For more on Lopez's columns please log on to www.latimes.com. The movie version of his bestselling book 'The Soloist' will be coming out soon chronicling his real life friendship with Nathaniel Ayers, a musically gifted homeless man struggling with mental illness.

Also, National Public Radio (NPR) visited Judge Tynan's court. Listen to the story on NPR (April 20th) at www.npr.org for the story, including video footage.

SSG Meeting with LA County Alcohol and Drug Program Administration Director

Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka led a team of SSG Directors to meet with LA County's new ADPA Director John Viernes on March 2, 2009. SSG providers included Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, Central Mental Health, HOP Avalon Family Center, HOP Broadway, HOP San Pedro and Pacific Asian Alcohol and Drug Program. Discussion included a review of community needs and targeted strategic planning.



l to r: Jury Candelario, Carol Wright, John Viernes (ADPA), Victoria Simon, Hayley Levy, Cheryl Branch, Herbert Hatanaka and Leo Pandac.



The Los Angeles AL-IMPICS Saturday, May 16th, 2009

Participants and Volunteers Welcome

Volunteer orientations will be held on Saturday, April 11,
Friday, April 24 and May 8.

Call Renee Williams at 213-236-9399,
rwilliams@ssgmain.org or Veronica Kelley Lewis at 213-
236-9389 or vlewis@ssgmain.org

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

**ORANGE COUNTY ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**
(SSG Affiliate Organization)



Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director, OCAPICA was selected by the *Asian American Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART)* to receive the *2008 Christopher N. H. Jenkins Award*. Recipient of this award are individuals who have made significant accomplishments in community-oriented cancer prevention and control efforts, primarily in the arena where Chris worked. These arenas include tobacco

control, hepatitis B vaccinations, breast and cervical cancer screening, nutrition, and cancer outreach and education research affecting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Chris Jenkins was a leader in the cancer control and education and spearheaded many culturally and linguistically competent programs and efforts that reached across the globe. His work created a path for the work we do today. In 2001 AANCART began the Award in his honor, and this year, we are happy to congratulate Mary Anne as the esteemed 2008 recipient!



Team Fah Roong - which means "the sun at dawn" in Thai - at the *Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure* on March 15, 2009, at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. This is their third annual race, and members include 11 breast cancer survivors and **Nid Tiaprasith** and **Jackie Tran** of OCAPICA. Most of these women are part of a breast cancer survivor group that Nid co-facilitates. Thanks in large part to funding from Susan G. Komen for the Cure LA County, Nid has run this in-language support group and helped over 300 women get breast cancer screening and treatment. The annual Race for the Cure raises dollars for grants made by Susan G Komen for the Cure LA County, which supports several SSG programs.



Save the date!!

SSG Annual Board and Staff Luncheon
Friday, July 24, 2009
The Proud Bird Resturant
11022 Aviation Blvd., LA 90045

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT

In March, 12 participants of the LIFE CENTER met at Union Station in downtown LA for an overnight vacation in San Diego. They toured the city, had great meals; one of which was at The Kansas City BBQ, which everyone loved. They toured the Gas Lamp district of downtown San Diego taking in the wonderful architecture and then proceeded to Horton Plaza where they shopped and enjoyed each others company. Rain cancelled a planned harbor cruise, but this did not dampen the great time everyone had. Staff members **Alan Keogh** and **Bob Watson** accompanied the participants on their vacation. Thank you Alan for the great planning that made the trip successful.



Vacationers at Union Station

Reentry Health Data Presentation

Faith in Communities/RMO and HOPICS held a '*Reentry Health Data Presentation*' for staff and partner organizations on March 3, 2009 at HOP/Broadway. The presentation provided data about the healthcare needs of reentry populations as well as related topics of primary care, hospitalizations, and substance and mental health treatment. Watch for notices of upcoming presentations on this very important topic.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Employee Safety

Rear End Collisions - How to Keep From Being Hit

Know what's going on behind you. Adjust your outside mirror and your inside rearview mirror before moving your vehicle. Then, use them frequently to check traffic that is following. Keep your rear window clean.



Flash your brake lights when you are standing, moving slowly or preparing to stop. Check your brake lights frequently to be sure they are working. Keep the brake lights clean.

Signal well in advance for turns, stops, and lane changes.

Slow down gradually over a long distance to give vehicles following more time and space in which to react. Never try to beat a green light. Always anticipate a changing green light.

Keep pace with traffic when road and weather conditions and speed limits permit.

Get rid of tailgaters. First, try moving to the right and letting them pass. If this doesn't work, encourage them to pass by slowing down and waving them on. Exercise greater than usual caution when slowing down to discourage tailgaters. Use the proper arm signal and slow down gradually as traffic permits. If the tailgater still won't pass or drop back, pull off the road. Don't let him distract you into an accident.

Don't cruise in another driver's blind spot. If he suddenly swerves into your lane, you may have to brake hard and become a sitting duck for a rear ender.

Raise the hood if your vehicle stalls and can't be moved from the traffic lane. Do everything else you can to make your disabled vehicle visible to approaching drivers. A stalled vehicle is particularly dangerous at night. A professional driver usually has a flare or other signal device handy for driving emergencies.

Adding/Changing Your Beneficiary/ies

You may revoke your beneficiary designation/s at any time by completing and filing a new beneficiary designation form with SSG's HR Department. Please be reminded that for the Defined Benefit Pension Plan, the Spouse's Waiver must be completed and notarized if you are married and designating a primary beneficiary other than a spouse.



There are two beneficiary change forms that you need to complete:

- 1) Mutual of America's Beneficiary Designation form for the Defined Benefit Pension Plan and/or Group Life Insurance Plan,
- 2) CIGNA's Beneficiary Designation form for the Term Life Insurance Plan.

Both forms are available at www.reviewmybenefits.com (user name: sstaff1, password: 12345) or you may request a copy from the HR Department at (213) 553-1892.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR MAY - JUNE

5/5 *Cinco de Mayo*
 5/10 *Mother's Day*
 5/25 *Memorial Day Observed (SSG Holiday)*
 6/21 *Father's Day*
 6/21 *Summer Begins*