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Ask SSG

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January - February 2007

WELCOME A NEW SSG BOARD MEMBER



Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey

SSG welcomes new Board Member Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey, who holds the John Milner Professorship in Child Welfare at the USC School of Social Work. She was named California Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers in 2003 and is an active advocate for children and families in LA County, advising policy makers, administrators and philanthropists on using data to improve program

planning and track results. She was one of the founders of the Children's Planning Council, which has been called the "strongest and most influential cross-system vehicle advocating for reform of children's services system in a major U.S. metropolitan area." She is a commissioner of the First 5 LA Commission, which has allocated almost \$1 billion for services and research for young children and their families since its inception in 1999. She also serves on the County's Child Care Policy Roundtable. Dr. McCroskey has led all of these entities using data to inform planning, analyze the distribution of resources and assess the impact on the lives of children and families.

Her research focuses on the financing and organization of services for children and families, utilization of results and performance measurement in the social services, the effectiveness of child welfare services and impact of inter-professional training on professional development.

Recent publications include a summary of the evidence-based family and community-centered supports and services in a book edited by McAuley, Pecora & Rose, entitled *Enhancing the Well-Being of Children and Families Through Effective Interventions: UK and USA Evidence for Practice* (2006); an article in *Social Indicators Research Journal* on using child and family indicators to influence communities and policy-making in Los Angeles County (2006); and an article in *Children and Schools* estimating public expenditures on education and social services in the USC neighborhood (2004).

WELCOME TO THE NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT PALS FOR HEALTH!



Veronika Geronimo, MSW

A warm welcome to **Veronika Geronimo**, the new Program Director of PALS for Health. Veronika comes to us from the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, where she worked to improve health and welfare policy for immigrants. While at APALC, Veronika collaborated with PALS on numerous projects, so she is no stranger to the good work of PALS. She has her Master's in Social Work from UCLA. We are pleased

to welcome her to the SSG family and are sure that she will be a huge success at PALS.

A NEW AND INNOVATIVE COLLABORATIVE AT SSG

For the past year, SSG has been part of a unique collaborative involving Augustus F. Hawkins Community Mental Health Center, Tessie Cleveland Community Services Corporation, and SSG, known as "ATS." ATS includes multiple SSG programs, including HOP/ICS and OTTP. This collaborative formed to address the current critical need for immediate and intensive integrated services in Service Area 6 (South Los Angeles) for children & adolescents. The project provides a multidisciplinary, intensive community-based intervention approach that is grounded in the principles of effective evidence-based practice. These services are provided in a flexible manner reflective of a child's needs and strengths, delivered in the home and other appropriate community settings, and available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The goals of the services are to increase functioning and stability in the home, community & school and to reduce out-of-home placement and costly inpatient services. This collaborative represents a new way to make a meaningful difference in the lives of some of the most at-risk children and families in South Los Angeles.

Please Complete SSG's
Health Plan Survey

Return to HR by March 2

Open Enrollment
begins in April details coming soon

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

CHILDREN'S DENTAL AND OUTREACH PROJECT

Congratulations to SSG's Children's Dental and Outreach Clinic on celebrating 25 years of service to the community! The celebration took place at the clinic located at Northam Elementary School in La Puente. The program received commendations from the office of the Honorable Supervisor Gloria Molina, the office of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, and the office of California State Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero. Past and present staff were recognized for their service and dedication to the program.



Back l-r: Lucy Almos, Rep. for Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Danielle Cendejas, Rep. for State Senator Gloria Romero, Heidi Gallegos, Governing Board Rowland Unified School Dist., John Eckman, SSG Board President, Herbert Hatanaka, SSG Executive Director. Front l-r: Lillian Swerdlow, Clinic founder, Jane Rosser, Dental Clinic Director



Jane Rosser, (left) Children's Dental Clinic Director, receives a commendation from the office of the Honorable Supervisor Gloria Molina on behalf of the Dental Clinic.



Herbert Hatanaka (left) presents Children's Dental Clinic Resident Dentist, Lester Lim, DDS (right) with the "Shining Star" award for years of dedicated service to the program.

CENSUS DATA AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES

SSG is co-sponsoring the *2007 Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable* conference, to be held at USC Davidson Conference Center on Friday, March 2, 2007. The theme of the conference is *"Building Community Capacity for Program Evaluation."* The all-day conference will feature a plenary session, followed by beginner and advanced technical assistance workshops on program evaluation, as well as a community resource fair, research dialogues and presentations on topics and issues relevant to the APA community today, including health, education, mental health, immigrant welfare, older adults, pathological gambling, gentrification, and HIV/AIDS. Registration fee is \$30, which includes conference materials and lunch. For more information, call Eric/CD&GIS at 213-553-1820. Please visit www.usc.edu/apass for updated agenda and to download a conference registration form.

SSG PROGRAMS PARTICIPATE IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TRAINING

The Corporation for Supportive Housing has accepted two SSG projects into their latest training program, *"Opening New Doors: Supportive Housing Development Institute."* SSG's Community Development Department (C. Branch is newly appointed Director of Community Development) was accepted for housing development in South Los Angeles and APCTC was also selected to participate in the new program. Development Team Representatives include: **Elvie Soldevilla** (APCTC) and **Eric Lee** (APCTC); South LA's Team will include **Greg Senegal** (HOP-ICS), **Cheryl Branch** (SSG Core), **Judy Lawyer** (SSG Core), and **Veronica Kelley** (FIC). Special community partners will include A Community of Friends. This Institute provides comprehensive training in areas such as team development (service providers, developers and property managers), operating budgets, financing, building community support, property management, tenant selection and working with people in housing. At the end of the training the teams will make presentations to potential housing project funders.

APCTC currently owns 4 apartment buildings (4 - 12 units) and has developed supportive housing for their homeless special needs clients through HACLA's Shelter Plus Care Program. SSG, in partnership with A Community of Friends, has a goal to construct 500 units over the next 5 years in South Los Angeles. The target population for these new developments are the formerly incarcerated with mental health and substance abuse issues and homeless.

SSG CONGRATULATES CONCERNED CITIZENS OF SOUTH CENTRAL LA

Congratulations to CCSCLA and Executive Director Noreen McClendon for the dedication ceremony on Jan. 11th, 2007 renaming their Mt. Zion Towers older adult housing program to the Juanita Tate Legacy Towers in honor of the late original founder & Executive Director Juanita Tate.



Save the Date

Annual Staff & Board Appreciation Luncheon
July 27, 2007

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR MARCH-APRIL

- 3/11 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/21 Spring begins
- 4/3 Passover
- 4/8 Easter
- 4/25 Administrative Professionals Day

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable Conference is going to take place at USC on Friday, 3/2/07. This year's conference theme is *"Building Community Capacity for Program Evaluation."* It will feature technical assistance workshops on program evaluation, a community resource fair, research dialogues and presentations on topics and issues relevant to the APA community today, including health, education, mental health, immigrant welfare, older adults, pathological gambling, gentrification, and HIV/AIDS. Registration forms are available at www.usc.edu/apas or contact Noel Alunit or Tim Young at APAIT 213-553-1830.

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/ICS

HOP/ICS is expanding!

Homeless Outreach Project/Integrated Care System (HOP/ICS) is adding a new site, effective March 2007. The Youth department of HOP/ICS will be moving to 5807 Avalon Blvd, LA 90011 at the corner of Slauson and Avalon near the current site on Broadway.



Employee Safety

City Driving

SSG Human Resources Dept.

Why do we single out city driving? What makes traffic and highway safety consultants regard it as "a different breed of cat?" They treat it that way because it is different. City driving presents a rapidly changing variety of traffic situations and requires a number of quick decisions. A well-designed expressway limits the problems encountered by a driver and encourages anticipation of possible hazards. City streets do not foster a consistent progression of events, which allow sufficient lead-time for driver adjustments.

What can a driver do to make city driving easier and safer? We're all familiar with several systems that are designed to cope with this problem. Words and names have been changed to confuse the situation but the principles are common. Therefore, call it what you will, but here's what you can do.

1. First of all recognize the hazard. This means staying alert to what's happening around you. Is one of the traffic lanes ahead slowed or stopped because of an accident or disabled vehicle? Is a parked car about to pull out in your lane?
2. Understand the defense. What should you do to keep your vehicle moving and/or prevent an accident? Do you have the time and space to change lanes before there is a possible collision? Should you slow down or gradually stop your vehicle to prevent abrupt deceleration?
3. Act quickly. This doesn't suggest that you make snap judgements without consideration of the traffic environment. However, you should act as soon as it is safe to proceed.

Practical use of defensive driving techniques in city traffic will make driving more pleasant and safer for you and those with whom you share city streets.

City driving is different.

Personal Accomplishment



Noel Alunit

Actor, performer and author Noel Alunit, a long-time staff member of the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team launches his second novel, *"Talking To The Moon"*, A racially motivated shooting triggers the memories, hopes, and dreams of a Filipino American family.

"A stunner. Talking to the Moon: birth, death, crime, loss, great echoes of the best crime fiction and mystical realism. A terrific second novel that beats the sophomore curse hands down." James Ellroy, Author LA Confidential, Black Dahlia, The Cold Six Thousand

"What a large-hearted, full-souled and redemptive view of Los Angeles, of love and death, and of this family which represents all the best we have in this not-always brave new world. I was truly impressed by Noel Alunit's skill in braiding together seemingly disparate strands of story, and always amazed by the tenderness he gave his characters." Susan Straight, National Book Award Finalist for Highwire Moon

Readings: Saturday, February 24, 7:30 pm at Skylight Books, 1818 N. Vermont Ave., LA 90029

Friday, March 2, 7:00 pm at Vromans, 695 E. Colorado, Pasadena, 91101

Saturday, March 3, 5:00 pm at Booksoup, 8818 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, 90069

Noel's first novel "Letters To Montgomery Clift" was released in 2002.

Employment Opportunities

Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Center

Program Manager, Van Nuys office. Duties - program operation, development, expansion, clinical supervision. LCSW, LMFT or Licensed Psychologist with supervisory experience required. Knowledge of DMH documentation. Bi-lingual in an Asian/Spanish language preferred.

Parent Partner, part-time (30 hours per week) for Wraparound program. Bilingual Spanish. Team member provides assistance and support to parents/caregivers of children involved in the LA County foster care system.

PSWI and/or MFT Intern for MHSA FSP Child/TAY program. Bi-lingual Thai or Vietnamese. Duties - provide intensive case management services and coordinate mental health care for chronically and severely mentally ill clients identified by the LA County DMH.

APCTC openings, fax or email resume to (213) 252-2199, csantos@apctc.org.

Lunar New Year, February 17th

The year of the Boar: is one of benevolence, one with a lot of 'feel good factor', one of "abundance" and a good year for business. Life in this year will be lived to the full and although there will be uncertainty it will be minimal. It is a rich year with impetuous acts, but care is recommended with any matters concerning money. The Boar is the symbol for great courage and integrity.