



# Ask SSG

Next Issue:  
October 20

Since 1952 Service, Diversity, & Vision

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July - August 2006

## Congratulations to our *"Employees of the Year"*

### Mitzi Ayala, Homeless Outreach Project/ Integrated Care Systems



Mitzi Ayala

Mitzi Ayala came to HOP 7 years ago, just out of high school to work as the Front Desk Clerk in the skid row office. This was her first experience in the world of work and with busy phones and meeting the needs of the homeless it was overwhelming, to say the least, in the beginning. But with training, supportive leadership and her personal commitment and perseverance she has completed the Counseling Certificate Program at Cal State and is currently

working as an Assessor with the CASC at the Broadway site. Mitzi provides a cheerful and friendly face to clients and co-workers alike and she never hesitates to do what it takes to get the job done. She spends some of her off-time volunteering and bringing her special skills to the special events in our youth department.

### Chris Minnick, MSW, AB2034



Chris Minnick

Chris Minnick came to AB2034 as an intern from CSU Long Beach and then volunteered during his 2nd year. Starting full-time in 2004 he works consistently and effectively with individuals who have the most severe life problems. He maintains a full clinical caseload; manages program data outcomes and "client-support service" funds. He trains and monitors staff on DMH documentation and is a member in the Quality Assurance Team.

As one of our staff noted, "he is our moral guidepost", maintaining rigorous ethical standards and seeking supervision when in doubt. As a colleague, he is generous of his time and is incredibly patient when training people on new tasks. As a therapist, he is committed regardless of barriers and difficulty. Despite the daily hazards of our work in the Skid Row area Chris maintains equanimity and cheerfulness.

### Al Choi, Asian Pacific Counseling & Treatment Centers-Wilshire



Al Choi

Al Choi has been with APCTC since 1999. A person of outstanding character, and "all around" employee who inspires the staff, the clients and their families. As the coordinator of the Day Rehab, Adult Targeted Casemanagement and Housing programs, he bring to his work boundless energy, commitment and fun. Al is also one of the first Certified Psychosocial Rehabilitation Practitioners in the agency.

Al brings hope to staff and clients as he shows them that it is possible to recover from mental illness; he is bold and creative in finding different ways to engage clients and their families. He organized the first fundraising carwash for clients and he rolled up his sleeves to teach them to cook, play badminton, fish in the ocean, repair and use computers, and much more. He helped parents organized their own support group.

### Thi Trang, PALS for Health



Thi Trang

Thi Trang has been the heart of PALS for Health since 2000. She is often the first voice callers hear and these callers can be patients, interpreters, health care providers and community based organizations. Patients who call are often tentative, sometimes angry, scared, speak little English, and are seriously ill, or care giving a loved one. A testimony to Thi's comfortable manner, dedication and care, is the trust patients have for her, even though

they do not share a common language. She is also successful in marketing our interpretation services to the hospitals or CBO's and has brought on board new fee-for-service clients.

Thi gives 100% of her friendship to everyone and we all know it. If there were more Thi's among us, the world would be a friendlier and warmer place for all.



PLEASE RECYCLE

## SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### SSG RECEIVES AWARD

On July 24, 2006 an Award of Appreciation was received from Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF) for SSG's seven years of generous and visionary assistance to CALIF, then known as IHSS Recipients and Providers Sharing (IRAPS), by providing space, program assistance and creative solutions to the enormous obstacles confronting people with disabilities. IRAPS was an SSG Project from 1994 to 2001. Naomi Kageyama accepted the award on behalf of SSG.

### CENSUS DATA & GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES

#### Building a Logic Model

#### A workshop on Program Planning and Evaluation

Free to SSG Programs and Affiliates

Friday, August 25, 2006

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

SSG Boardroom

Limit 15 participants

RSVP to Eric Wat @ 213-553-1820 or [ewat@ssgmain.org](mailto:ewat@ssgmain.org)

### PALS FOR HEALTH

#### 3 Great Training Opportunities!

On Saturday, September 9, *PALS for Health* in collaboration with *Alice Chen MD* will offer a half-day training for health promoters, patient navigators and case managers to help these professionals to *educate their clients about the impact of language barriers on health care access*. The training will offer an overview of the U.S. health care system, the importance of accurate patient/provider communication, and how to effectively use interpreters. The "I Speak" language identification cards will also be distributed. Call Mireya Muñoz at (213) 627-4850 or Heng L. Foong at (213) 553-1876 to register.

On Friday, September 22, *PALS for Health* will facilitate a half day *continuing education seminar for health care interpreters* at The California Endowment's Center for Healthy Communities. Seminar topics include an overview of common cardiovascular diseases, hepatitis, and conference or simultaneous interpreting. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. This training is free and open to all health care interpreters but interested participants must *RSVP* to Susan Choi at (213) 553-1827 or Mireya Muñoz at (213) 627-4850.

On Wednesday, September 27, the *Los Angeles County Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation* will host "Komen Connects: Community Outreach and Grant Making Workshop". The workshop which will provide an overview of the foundation's grantmaking process is open to all health care providers and community based organizations. Please call Heng L. Foong at (213) 553-1876 for more information.

### OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM

*Collaborative Retreat - Friday July 21, 2006*



Collaborative Partners: Cambodian Association of America (CAA), Federation of Filipino-American Associations (FFAA), Guam Communications Network (GCN), Samoan National Nurses Association (SNNA), South Asian Network (SAN), St. Mary's Medical Center/Families In Good Health (FIGH)

### SUPERVISOR BURKE APPLAUDS SPA 6 HOMELESS EFFORTS

The African American Alcohol & Other Drug Program (AAAOD) Collaborative hosted the 'LA County Second Supervisorial District - County Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative' on July 21, 2006 at HOP/ICS/Community Assessment Service Center (CASC). Cheryl Branch, Chair and Co-Founder of AAAOD facilitated the meeting. Special guest speakers included Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Miriam Long, Senior Deputy, Second District. Other speakers and guests included LA County CAO representatives Lari Sheehan, Michael Castillo and Kathy House. SSG Executive Director Dr. Herbert Hatanaka was also a featured speaker at this exciting and historic event. This event was part of the ongoing community strategic planning to address the issue of homelessness in Supervisorial District 2 and in particular SPA 6. Supervisor Burke praised the members of AAAOD, in particular the faith community for standing up for the less fortunate. The leadership of Reverend Eugene Williams and the ground breaking efforts of the LA Metropolitan Churches (LAM) network was highly praised. AAAOD presented a formal request for \$15 million to Supervisor Burke to address the needs of the homeless in SPA 6.



Cheryl Branch, AAAOD members, Greg Senegal (holding flowers), Supervisor Burke and Webber Dowells

**SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS**

*PACIFIC ASIAN ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAM*



2006 Lotus Festival Press Luncheon (l to r): Ambassador Willy Gaa of the Philippine Consulate in LA; Commissioner Zen Lopez; Sumi Haru Sevilla, SAG Past President; Anna Galbraite, Lotus Festival Producer; Dr. Leo Pandac (PAADP/SSG Director), 2006 Lotus Festival Chair.

**Also - We've Moved!**

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Los Angeles, CA 90057  
Phone: 213-413-1622  
Fax: 213-413-5456



*HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROJECT*

Thanks in part to a generous donation from Chapman & Associates, the SSG Women & Children Program implemented a special *Children's Summer Project in partnership with Knew Planet*, a nonprofit organization that targets at-risk youth. The 8-week daily program promotes positive and healthy decision-making, self-confidence, knowledge, love and respect for self, others and community. Lots of summertime fun including field trips and family activities is mandatory! The Children's Summer Project is a wonderful addition to the Women & Children Program which provides housing, employment training and intensive case management for eligible homeless single mothers. A big thank you to Chapman & Associates for their donation and to Jayme Swan, Program Manager and Nicolle Larkins, Program Specialist for making this happen!

**Employee Safety**

**Slips and Falls**

SSG Human Resources Dept.

Roughly 25% of all injuries are caused by falls, and most of these are falls on the same level. Obvious fall hazards are easy to avoid since there is a general inclination to be alert. On the other hand, when it appears there is no real threat, people are inclined to ignore the less obvious fall hazards. Most falls can be avoided. All it takes is learning how to recognize slip and fall hazards and how to prevent them.

1. Clean up all trash. Small blocks of wood or scrap debris can be tripped over or cause a misstep that could result in a fall.
2. Watch your footing on rough uneven ground. This is especially important if you are carrying a load that partially obstructs your vision.
3. Walk around trenches rather than walking or jumping over them.
4. Watch for slippery spots such as oil, grease, water, or mud. If the hazard is caused by a spill, clean it up. Never leave spills unattended. If the spill cannot be cleaned up immediately, set down a barrier that will alert others to the potential hazard.

**ALLSTATE  
OPTIONAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PLAN**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 8/25/06 Enrollment Form(s) are due at SSG HR Dept.
- 9/1/06 Plan(s) Effective Date
- 9/22/06 First Payroll Deduction 9/1 to 9/15 pay period

*OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - LA*

*Healthier Eating for a Healthier Lifestyle*

OTTP kicked off its new *Food Fitness Program* this July to help at-risk youth make positive changes to their eating habits and physical activity pattern. Food Fitness is an 8 week program where clients learn about food so they can make healthier choices about the food they eat. Clients take a trip to the grocery store to learn how to read product labels and how to make healthy food substitutions; they go into the kitchen and learn how to make nutritional meals; and they embark on sporting excursions for physical activity.

- This year's *AI-Impics* will be on Saturday, September 30, 2006 at Compton Community College. Call Veronica Kelley (FIC) at 213-236-9389 for information.



**QUEST 2006**

**Celebrating Transgender Uniqueness and Diversity**

**5th Annual Quest Pageant**

Benefiting: Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team  
Saturday, October 7, 2006

***Positions Available***

**Case Manager** - part-time, temporary (9-months) .  
Experience in mental health field, SSA benefits, bilingual preferred. Contact Andrew Posner, Director of BACUP @ 213-240-8604.

**Health Program Coordinator** - please send resume to Mary Anne Foo, Director OCAPICA @ mafoo@ocapica.org.

5. Wear proper footwear. Shoes should be constructed with steel insoles or reinforced metal insoles to protect against punctures. To provide additional protection against slipping on wet or oily surfaces, soles should be made of non-slip rubber or neoprene.
6. Report burned out lights. Poor lighting contributes to falls since obstacles and other hazards are hidden.
7. Walk rather than run.