

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #14

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Community Services

Child Support Services honored this month

August is National Child Support Awareness Month which is the perfect opportunity to highlight the great work of our County department and its employees. The department strives to help both parents responsibly share in providing for their children and raising them to be healthy and successful. More than \$31.6 million dollars has been collected and sent to families and children this fiscal year. Seventy-one percent of families receive consistent child support payments each month. To help parents who owe, the County department offers flexible payment options such as PayNearMe at 7-Eleven, MoneyGram, online and in the lobby.

On the following two Thursdays, some department staff will be at the Farmer's Market in the County courtyard giving away books and holding a raffle for backpacks as part of its outreach.

Health and Human Services

HSA launches GetCalFresh.org

The Human Services Agency went live with GetCalFresh.org, a client-friendly enrollment portal that was created by Code for America and the California Department of Social Services to simplify the process of signing up for this critical food assistance resource. The new portal has many advantages such as being able to complete an application in about 10 minutes through any mobile phone or computer, the ability for residents to take photos of their required documents and submit them right from their phone, and an overall more transparent enrollment experience. Since going live, the first three weeks' data showed that 96 applications were started with 68 submitted for a 70 percent conversion rate.

Foster youth graduate into independent living

Maria Ceron was the guest speaker at the recent Independent Living Program (ILP) graduation. She graduated this year from Selma High School with a 3.9 GPA and will be attending Skyline College this summer. Although Maria faced many adversities, she graduated with an exceptional GPA. During her placement in Fresno, Maria started Mari's Sweet Cases, program that provides foster youth with duffle bags providing a sense of belonging. These bags are provided to foster youth in Fresno County. Since Maria has come back to San Mateo for college, she hopes to recreate Mari's Sweet Cases here locally as well. We at the County are proud of Maria and all ILP participants.

ILP offers support to youth ages 14 to 21 in foster care and extended foster care as they encounter life's challenges and work towards becoming self-sufficient, successful adults. Youth are served both in county and out of county placements. In the 2016-2017 school year, 73 percent of participants graduated from high school programs and continued onto various paths — a four-year college, community college or vocational schools, according to HSA's calculations.

Performance

County sixth nationwide by size for digital prowess

The County of San Mateo ranked high among nine California counties honored in this year's Digital Counties Survey Winners. The Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) rank counties annually on the way they use digital innovation to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency. The County of San Mateo made the top 10 nationwide — sixth place to be exact — in the 500,000-999,999 population category. The kudos are especially exceptional for that population category across the United States. The other California winners in that category are Ventura, Sonoma and San Joaquin Counties.

The winners shared several characteristics, according to CDG and NACo, including being open, mobile, engaged, collaborative, secure, staffed, connected, efficient, resilient and innovative.

Measure K

Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks

More than 100 children from the LifeMoves summer camp were the first to touch new pelts, enjoy puppet animals and see replica native birds up close while exploring the redwoods thanks to Measure K contributions to the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. The items, including a deer pelt, jackrabbit skull and hummingbird replicas were purchased by the Friends following an \$8,500 grant for educational materials approved by your Board in May. The items will be used throughout the year to introduce children to the wonders of local wildlife. (The Friends, with the assistance of Measure K funds, are also in the process of creating an exhibit that highlights the region's rich logging history. Look for future updates on this.) As an aside, this is the second year the Friends have hosted children from LifeMoves, which runs a summer camp for children from homeless families. Weekly camp themes allow children to gain new experiences, from STEM topics to cooking, sports and the outdoors.

News, Events and Updates

Civics 101 recruiting for Class of 2017

Civics 101, the County's nine-week citizens academy, is currently recruiting for its upcoming Class of 2017. The free academy, which meets weekly starting Sept. 13, 2017, gives participants a peek into the inner workings of County government and features presentations by department heads, a hike at Edgewood Park and a tour of San Mateo Medical Center. It is an opportunity to better understand how the County provides programs and services. The academy is also an opportunity for the County to hear from the public about its priorities and suggestions. Several past graduates have gone on to serve on one of the County's many boards and commissions.

Participants must live or work in San Mateo County, be at least 18 years of age by Sept. 1, 2017, and be able to attend one night session per week and one Saturday for the duration of the academy.

More information and the application is available at <http://cmo.smcgov.org/civics-101-academy>. The deadline to apply is Aug. 22.