



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: August 28, 2014
Board Meeting Date: September 9, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: Employee of the Month for September 2014

RECOMMENDATION:

Honor Yahaira Ortega as Employee of the Month for September 2014 and authorize the President of the Board to sign the commendation

BACKGROUND:

The Employee of the Month program was established in December 1984 to recognize and honor County employees who consistently demonstrate an outstanding level of performance.

Our Employee of the Month for September 2014 is Yahaira Ortega, a Peer Support Worker II, in the Health System.

DISCUSSION:

Yahaira has been with the County since 2010. Yahaira is a valued member to the Pathways Team. She is a great team player, she communicates well and she is a wonderful person to work with. As a family partner for the mental health court these qualities have made her very valuable and successful in her work. She engages well with clients and their families, she helps them to navigate through the criminal justice system.

Yahaira provides family resources and offers a level of compassion that this population rarely sees. She adds an important perspective to the team and program as a family partner. This perspective and experience has been very beneficial to the clients in the development and execution of their treatment plans.

A family partner whose son entered the criminal justice system wrote: "Our family partner (Yahaira), became a member of our family, sharing the same goals and

personal interest in our son. She had personal experience, as well as incredible knowledge base with mental illness, which was key to understanding the pain and anguish our son was experiencing. She was also personable, compassionate, and empathetic for both client and parent/family. We needed all the help, education, and support we could get during this very difficult time and we could always count on her to be there for us”.

Our County is fortunate to have Yahaira Ortega as one of its outstanding employees.