

# GET HEALTHY NEWS

**BUILDING HEALTHY, EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES**

## TOPICS:

- [Spotlight](#)
- [HPP Updates](#)
- [Community Announcements](#)
- [Community Collaboration Highlights](#)
- [Boards & Commissions Vacancies](#)
- [Learning Opportunities & Highlights](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

### Welcome Dr. Kismet Baldwin-Santana

Dr. Kismet Baldwin-Santana has officially started her role as San Mateo County’s Health Officer. Dr. Baldwin-Santana started her career as a neonatologist after receiving her Doctor of Medicine from Ohio State University and completing a fellowship and post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles. She also has a Master of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health. Dr. Baldwin-Santana brings extensive experience guiding public health emergency preparedness, communicable disease prevention, including COVID-19, epidemiology, and public health laboratory services. She is passionate about collaboration and looks forward to working in partnership with community to advance health priorities.



Photo credit: Dr. Kismet Baldwin-Santana

Please also take time to view the five-minute video “[Meet the New County Health Officer video](#)”; in the video she shares her thoughts about the role of health officers, the current challenges facing local health departments, building community ties, and what makes San Mateo County a great place to be a public health leader.

### You’re Input is Important - Attend a CHA Forum!

San Mateo County Health’s Public Health, Policy & Planning (PHPP) division is inviting community members and partners to one of six Community Health Assessment (CHA) Community Forums where a summary of data, including Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression data, that highlights San Mateo County’s health status and needs will be presented. This is an opportunity to share your experience related to health needs that have been identified in the CHA data. [Register for an event today or learn more.](#)

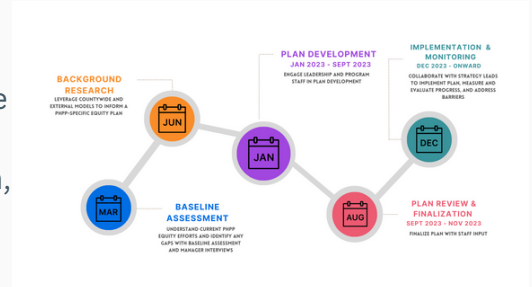




# HPP UPDATES

## Development of PHPP's Equity Action Plan Underway

The Public Health, Policy & Planning (PHPP) Division is developing a division-wide Equity Action Plan for 2024. The process will include a baseline survey on current equity practices, background research from across County Health, and input from 134 staff members. Implementation is projected for January 2024.



## SMC Residents Weigh in on Measure K Priorities

San Mateo County held six [Measure K](#) listening sessions in August to get input from residents on how to invest local tax dollars. The four priority areas are: Mental Health, Emergency Preparedness, Housing & Homelessness, and Children & Families. Residents shared funding priorities, including rent protection and affordable childcare. [Find out more about how these funds are used.](#)

## Passion for Change: Highlights from the 2023 Silicon Valley Bike Summit

On August 24, the Silicon Valley Bike Summit brought together professionals and community members who are passionate about active transportation. Attendees learned about new technologies that are making our streets safer, heard about bike sharing services, and found out why it's important for everyone to have access to safe streets. The summit also talked about how communities can get more involved and how young leaders are making a difference. Notably, the San Mateo Office of Education presented on a Safe Routes to School panel, describing their partnership with San Mateo County Health to bring cities and schools together for the School Travel Fellowship Program. For more information on Safe Routes to School initiatives and events happening in San Mateo County visit: <https://www.smcoe.org/for-schools/safe-and-supportive-schools/safe-routes-to-school/>



Photo credit: Liz Sanchez



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### September 30 is Community Nature Day

Spend family time in nature for improved health and wellbeing. [San Mateo County Park Prescription \(Rx\) Program](#) is hosting [Community Nature Day!](#) This free event helps increase awareness of our County’s public green spaces and answers questions about how to use these outdoor spaces. Our County’s Park Rx team strives to foster a sense of belonging and welcomes all, while clinic providers “prescribe” an hour in nature twice per week that is fulfilled through events like this. Join us for this nature-filled event with nature games, healthy snacks, guided meditation, and more on Saturday, September 30 from 1-3 p.m. at Huddart County Park. Parking is free. Come get your dose of nature!



Photo credit: Gloria Cahuich-Gonzalez

### Latinx Community Assessment Report Coming Soon

On August 10, Ayudando Latinos a Soñar (ALAS), in partnership with many other agencies, hosted a community listening session on a Latinx Community Assessment Report. The goal of the Community Assessment was to learn more about the factors that may influence substance use, sadness, depression, and wellbeing in the Latinx community, and make recommendations to the County on how to better prevent future substance use and improve mental health in our Latinx community. The event speakers included Supervisor Ray Mueller, ALAS leadership, Nuestra Casa, Star Vista, Redwood City Together youth, and so many more. The topics covered the needs and priorities of San Mateo County residents. Recommendations were shared around improving mental health and recovery resources to families and youth. Stay tuned for the full report in a future newsletter.



Photo credit: Deandra Lee

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

There is one vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission for the City of San Bruno, two youth vacancies on the Parks & Recreation Commission for the City of San Mateo, and multiple vacant seats for the County of San Mateo:

**City of San Bruno:** There is One Vacancy, Partial Term Expires on 10/31/24, on the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission shall make recommendations to the City Council regarding community recreation needs on or in any public grounds and buildings. Open until filled. [Apply today!](#)

**City of San Mateo:** There are two vacant youth seats on the Parks & Recreation Commission. This Commission makes recommendations to the City Council on acquisition, development, beautification and maintenance of public parks, landscape resources, public recreation facilities, budget, and programs of Park & Recreation activities. Youth Commissioners are non-voting advisory members of the Park and Recreation Commission. To qualify, Youth Commissioners must be between the ages of 13 and 17 years old and must live or study in the City of San Mateo. [Deadline to apply: September 13, 5:00 p.m.](#)





### Don't Skip the Form! All California Students Can Get A Free Lunch!

The free and reduced-price meal program benefits your family, school, and community. By completing the free and reduced-price meal program form, your family will help your school receive more funding to support your child's learning environment, but there could be benefits to you as well. Income-eligible families could receive discounts, bus passes, home internet, summer camps, and more. Ask your school for specific benefits available to you. Even if your child doesn't eat meals at school, the forms help strengthen your school meal program. [Learn more here](#) [about possible benefits here.](#)



### The Farm 2 School Revolution

Check out this quick and easy resource for any farmer looking to get into the marketplace. "The Farm 2 School Revolution" showcases best practices for a farmer looking to sell products to any school. To help educate farmers on institutional sales, we interviewed a farmer at Frog Hollow Farm, a food hub Spork Food Hub, and a school Director of Food Services at Western Placer Unified School District. [Watch the interview](#) and let us know what you think! Check out the [Community Alliance with Family Farmers Blog](#).



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTS

### Building a New Structure for Collaboration with Community!

We are excited to announce a new partnership with El Concilio de San Mateo. El Concilio will be creating and leading a space for the community to formally collaborate with PHPP. This project is called the Community Collaborative Model. The intention of this project is to bring the public health department closer to the community by creating an intentional structure for feedback, input, and shared decision making. If your organization is interested in joining the collaborative, please reach out to [Scarleth Contreras](#).



Photo credit: Sylvia Petersen

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

**County of San Mateo:** The North Fair Oaks Community Council has three vacant seats: one member, one youth, and one youth alternate. Councilmembers address the needs of the community and serves as an advisory council to the Board of Supervisors on those matters which relate to the North Fair Oaks community, including, but not limited to, advice on matters of public health, safety, welfare, public works, policy, planning, community development, program development, and services pertaining to North Fair Oaks. [Deadline to apply is at 5 p.m. on October 6.](#)

There are two vacant seats on the Housing and Community Development Committee: one seat representing Unincorporated North Fair Oaks and one seat representing Low Income member representative. This committee makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, through the Director of the Department of Housing, related to the expenditure of all housing and community development funds to review and provide a forum for public comment on affordable housing and community development needs. [Deadline to apply is at 5 p.m. on October 6.](#)



## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

### Field Trip Opportunity: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Embark on an adventure to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve! This field trip is for title-one schools and organizations serving low-income black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) youth in grades 3-12. Financial assistance is available to help with transportation costs and tour of the tidepools. Spanish translation is available! Applications are due by September 15. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

### San Mateo County Rising: Ending Child Poverty Summit

On August 18, an all-day summit was held in South San Francisco to address child poverty in the County. The summit was hosted by The Jackie Speier Foundation. The goal of the summit was to raise awareness of the work that different organizations are doing and foster cross-sector collaboration to address the poverty gap for women and children in San Mateo County. San Mateo County is one of the wealthiest counties in the country yet it has one of the highest rates of child poverty.

The summit featured a keynote address by Dr. Matthew Desmond, Pulitzer award-winning author of "Evicted" and "Poverty, by America." US Representatives Kevin Mullin and Anna Eshoo, and San Mateo County Health Chief Louise Rogers also spoke at the event. Supervisors Noelia Corzo and Ray Mueller in partnership with Jackie Speier Foundation announced the Baby Bonus Program to provide financial assistance to mothers in need. [Find out more and read the child poverty report here.](#)



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