

# GET HEALTHY NEWS

**BUILDING HEALTHY, EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES**

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## SPOTLIGHT

### Institutionalizing Equity at the Community Level

In the summer of 2022, Public Health, Policy & Planning (PHPP) co-led a community-engaged research approach. This Community Collaborative Process had two main aims. The first was to establish a formal structure for community collaboration, power sharing, and trust building with PHPP. The second was to develop and pilot a free equity resource for the community.



Since then, PHPP has contracted with El Concilio of San Mateo to convene a collaborative of CBO representatives and community residents. Today, the newly formed structure El Concilio leads is called the Community Collaborative Model (CCM). The CCM currently comprises more than ten CBO partners from across all regions of the county. The collaborative expects to grow as it identifies priorities and actions. The collaborative meets on a monthly basis on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Some activities they have worked on include:



- The development of CCM's governance structure
- Participation in the development of the San Mateo County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

In February 2024, PHPP also launched the pilot workshops on “Public Health 101”. These workshops, requested by the community, aimed to build public health capacity within our community. They provided education and tools to advocate for public health needs in the community. [Learn more about how participants felt about the workshops here: link March newsletter post.](#) If your organization wants to host a Public Health 101 workshop, please reach out to [Deandra Lee](#).

Huge thank you to all the community organizations that partnered with PHPP to make this work possible!

### Join PHPP and El Concilio at Stanford’s 22nd Annual Community Health Symposium!

The 22nd Annual Community Health Symposium is hosted by Stanford University. It showcases the work of Stanford representatives and community partners in underserved communities. This symposium is an opportunity to celebrate and elevate the incredible work of our community partners. It is also an opportunity to foster collaboration, conversation, and idea sharing. *(continued on next page)*



El Concilio staff, Scarleth Contreras, and PHPP staff, Deandra Lee, will be co-presenting their Health Equity Ambassador project poster on the Community Collaborative Model.

Join us on April 17, from 3 -7 p.m. at Stanford University, Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center. The event is free, and you can [register here](#).



### Meet Jiana, Our New Office Specialist!

Jiana brings talent and enthusiasm to support our Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Planning initiatives. As a recent graduate of Santa Clara University, Jiana holds a background in Marketing and Business Administration, complemented by robust administrative skills and a flair for creativity. With expertise in social media management and content creation, she's sure to make a significant impact in our work. Jiana is thrilled to contribute to our mission of enhancing community health outcomes. Let's give her a warm welcome as we embark on this journey together! [Read Jiana's bio](#).

Photo credit: Jiana Riguera

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Food Program Coming this Summer

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT (S-EBT), is a new program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer.

Children participating in free or reduce price school meals, temporary assistance for needy families and some additional government programs will automatically qualify. Some families may need to apply to determine eligibility. Qualified families will get \$120 for each eligible child to buy groceries during the summer. Families must use SUN Bucks within 122 days of funds being loaded to their card. Children who get SUN Bucks can still participate in other summer meal programs. SUN Bucks will not affect immigration status. [Learn more about SUN Bucks here](#).



## HPP UPDATES



### Equity in Action—Launching the PHPP Equity Plan

In our [January](#) issue, we shared how Public Health, Policy & Planning (PHPP) is developing a division-wide equity plan. Now, we are excited to announce the launch of our very first Equity Plan! This plan includes at least two equity objectives for each of our nine PHPP programs. The first objective is focused on internal equity needs; such as trainings for staff. The second objective aims to strengthen equity efforts in programs' community-facing work; such as using data to inform health education. Our programs and their Work Group representatives will be implementing their objectives through March 2025. During this time, they will also have opportunities to share progress, challenges and learnings. Stay tuned for regular updates on our process!



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Be Part of the Movement for Tribal Health Equity!

Shape the future of health equity for California Tribes with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)! CDPH is assembling a Tribal Health Equity Advisory Group (THEAG) and seeking passionate representatives from Tribes, AIAN organizations, and community-based groups.

As part of THEAG, you'll influence policy, practices, and programs to ensure meaningful inclusion of Tribes and AIAN communities. Serve as a vital bridge between CDPH and the community, advocating for multigenerational health.

Apply now to be one of the 10-15 members driving change and building a healthier California for all!

[Deadline to apply is March 29, 11:59 p.m. PST.](#)



### Join the California Pathways into Public Health Fellowship Program!

Are you passionate about public health? Gain valuable experience at local health departments while supporting essential public health activities. As a paid Pathways Fellow, you'll engage in a variety of entry-level tasks including communicable disease intervention, emergency preparedness, health education, community outreach, and program planning. [Apply before April 5](#) to kickstart your career in public health!



### Wunderlich County Park Celebrates 50 Years

Join San Mateo County Parks in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Wunderlich County Park on Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m. Parks staff will lead guided nature hikes and historic demonstrations. Parking is available at Woodside Elementary, and shuttles will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. [Reserve your spot today.](#)

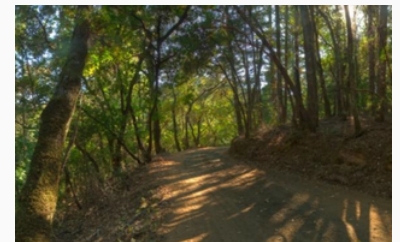


Photo credit: County of San Mateo

### Join Our Walk Audit to Improve Safety Around Costaño Elementary School

Do you want to help make the area near Costaño Elementary School safer? You can by joining our walk audit!

A walk audit is when people from the community come together to look at what needs to change in the neighborhood to make it safer and easier for kids and families to walk or bike to school. We want to hear from you about ideas for improvement in the areas around the school.

Costaño Elementary School  
2695 Fordham St, East Palo Alto  
April 18, 2024  
8 to 10 a.m.



Photo credit: Costaño Elementary School

If you have any questions, contact Liz Sanchez: [LSanchez@smcgov.org](mailto:LSanchez@smcgov.org)



## Dive into Community Engagement with Half Moon Bay NET!

Applications are now open for the Spring 2024 session of Half Moon Bay’s annual community engagement program, Half Moon Bay NET (Network – Engage - Transform). Don't miss out! The [deadline to submit your application is April 19](#).

Enrollment is limited to 25 participants, randomly selected from all applicants. The program is free and offers a unique opportunity to gain insight into the management and governance of Half Moon Bay, while building strong community relationships.

NET sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings: April 24, May 1, May 8, and May 15, from 6 – 9 p.m. Engage in interactive group activities, connect with City staff and Councilmembers, and meet fellow community members eager to enhance their involvement with the City. Don't miss this chance to deepen your understanding of Half Moon Bay and contribute to our vibrant community!

## Advancing Equitable Community-based Transportation Planning

The California Air Resources Board has started two new grant programs to reduce greenhouse gases and make transportation fairer. A report by the Othering and Belonging Institute looks at how well these programs are working. The programs have demonstrated progress in equitable transportation planning. The report also identifies challenges, such as building trust between government and communities. The report gives suggested solutions to transportation better for everyone. [Read the full report](#) to learn more about what was found and what can be done.



## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

There are two vacant seats on the Planning Commission and one vacant seat on the Recreation Commission for the City of Daly City, one Library Commission seat for the City of Menlo Park, one vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission for the City of San Bruno, and multiple vacant seats for the City of Redwood City:

**City of Daly City:** There are two vacancies on the Planning Commission and one vacancy on the Recreation Commission. The Planning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding discretionary development proposals, the general plan, specific plans, the zoning ordinance, and environmental studies. The Recreation Commission is a five-member citizen’s advisory board appointed by the City Council. Interest Open until filled. [Apply now!](#)

**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 Redwood City:** Three full-term positions expiring 5/31/28, on the Housing and Human Concerns Committee, this committee promotes affordable housing, monitor changing social needs in the community. There are three full-term positions expiring 5/31/28, on the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission, these positions will actively promote recreation and park activities within the City and make recommendations to the City Council. There are two full-term positions expiring 6/30/28, on the Planning Commission, these positions will recommend to the City Council, for adoption, a comprehensive long-term general plan for the physical development of the City along with other duties. Open until filled. [Start your application!](#)



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTS

### National Nutrition Month

Every March National Nutrition Month is celebrated in schools, hospitals, food pantries and several other places. It focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing healthy eating and physical activity habits. This year's theme addressed the farm-to-fork aspect of nutrition, from food production and distribution to navigating grocery stores, farmers markets and even home food safety and storage practices. Learn more about [National Nutrition Month](#).



## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

### Health Policy & Planning Program Efforts Featured in NEW Statewide Resource

The Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Institute (BARHII) recently released a new resource to guide equity practitioners. [Practice Shift: A Playbook for Driving Innovation in Local Health Departments](#) outlines five ways equity practitioners can advance local health equity efforts.



Below are a few highlights from the resource:

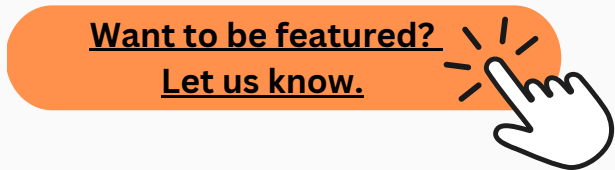
- Support community-led collaboration
- Update programs, policies, and practices
- Build partnerships across the government
- And more...

The report compiles key insights from the 2023 BARHII California Equity All-Stars Series. The year-long training series was developed for health equity leads and their colleagues across the state. The kick-off event for the series featured a presentation by HPP's Deandra Lee on the Community Collaboration Process. Check out [the report](#) to learn about exciting new ideas and best practices equity leaders are sharing.



### Join the First Annual Afrofuturism Student Conference

The San Mateo County Office of Education is hosting the 1st annual Afrofuturism Student Conference on April 27 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. It will be held at the San Mateo County Office of Education office in Redwood City. The purpose of this arts-based student conference is to inspire students to envision their future. [Register before March 31](#).



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