



NEW: PATHS For You

California NEW: PATHS

Professionals Associated Through Human Services

Volume 8 Issue 1 Spring 2008

Conference Recap

Did You Discover Gold?

by Diane Krebs

Did you discover gold in Sacramento? If not, you weren't looking very hard – or you weren't here. We had many opportunities to explore and find our own gold through the various workshops, treasure hunt, and special speakers.



Wednesday started out with our opening welcome from Jimmy Yee, Sacramento Co. Board of Supervisors; Bruce Wagstaff, Director of Sacramento Co. Dept of Human Assistance; and Penny Clarke, Sacramento Co. Agency Administrator. Our morning keynote speaker was John Parker from UC Davis. The rest of the day was spent at workshops and a networking lunch, with Roger Dickenson



from the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors as the special speaker. We were treated to a nostalgic president's reception in the evening, which was followed by an eligibility expert game.

Thursday morning was full of various county, state and federal representatives sharing information about the various programs we administer. We had three more workshop sessions that day, and ended the evening with "Gold Rush Nights", sponsored by Sacramento County and the Sacramento Valley Chapter of NEW: PATHS.



Friday morning finished up the conference with some fun trainings and an encouraging message from Dixie Schneider: "You do what you gotta do!"



All that, plus on-time prizes, and a teaser for next year's conference in San Diego - who couldn't have left without some treasure?

We had a total of 339 attendees, including our presenters and sponsors. 27 counties and 26 partner agencies were represented. In fact, we had so many people that we had to close several workshops because they were full. We apologize for that.



One of our newer Sacramento County offices offered a tour of their facility. Comments were heard like: "Even though I wouldn't like to work in Sacramento, I'd love to work in an office like that!" Hey, working in Sacramento isn't so bad.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| President's Message | 2 |
| Thank You to National NEW: PATHS | 2 |
| Attention 2008 Sacramento Attendees | 2 |
| Gold Rush Nights | 3 |
| Five Counties Recognized | 3 |
| Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors | 4 |
| Heads Up on the San Diego Conference | 4 |
| Moderators Rock | 5 |
| Professional of the Year | 5 |
| The Eligibility Expert Game | 5 |
| Treasure Hunt Results | 5 |
| Your Conference Opinion Counts | 6 |
| President's Reception | 6 |
| The Conference as Seen by the 1st Timer | 6 |
| Election Time | 7 |
| Merced County | 7 |
| Membership Application | 7 |

Thank you to all the board members, presenters, sponsors, and hotel staff who worked so hard on making the conference a success, and to all of you who came and participated and took some "gold" home with you.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the California State Chapter of NEW: PATHS is to foster and promote integrity and professionalism in the field of human services.



President's Message:

by Debbie Simpkins

As many of you know, we have just returned from Sacramento where we all Discover(ed) Our Own Gold at the 19th annual California NEW: PATHS training conference. All the

hard work of our Conference and Program chairs (as well as the rest of the board) paid off with what looks to be our biggest and most successful conference to date. Although I have been associated with this incredibly talented group of individuals for nine years, I continue to be amazed at what they can do with only 3 meetings a year (plus conference). We were fortunate to bring on board a new sponsor, provide you with new, creative ways to relax and/or be motivated as well as provide you with valuable program updates. As you read your newsletter, you will see all the other wonderful and fun events that were in store this year for our attendees.

This will be my final message as your President and as I look back over the last two years, it has been a privilege and joy to be your president and to represent you at State and National functions. In addition, it has been another opportunity for this seasoned 'welfare' employee to grow and develop new skills, something that I have always encouraged our members to do, especially through NEW: PATHS. Without growth and learning, we are standing still and therefore being left behind.

In reflecting back to my nine years on the board, we have come a long way in providing you with bigger and better conferences. In 1999 we had a small President's Reception for dignitaries/chapter officers, a Night out with the Board (or County function) and some vendors. These conferences were wonderful and informative but things are always evolving. Now, years later, we have expanded our outreach to bring in at least one paid keynote speaker; vendors that are partners with our organization or related to our jobs; recruitment of sponsors that allow us to provide more services to you, our members; providing you with opportunities to talk with not only State but Federal Representatives; a President's Reception open to all attendees; getting-to-know you games / competitions; more support from our Directors and UC Davis and thanks to local chapters, fabulous evening events. I cannot take credit for these advances; they were the result of your hard working and creative board(s) who worked like a well-oiled machine to ensure that we provided you with the best possible conference that we could arrange. With this said, it was an honor to be a part of this team.

As I turn the reigns over to a new President, I have full confidence that your board will be in good hands because the members of the board are great people.

Although I am stepping down from President and taking the role as Past President / consultant for one year, I will not go far. I hope to see each and every one of you at our 20th Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego January 28-30, 2009. You do not want to miss this grand celebration – it will be 'ball'.



Thank you to National NEW: PATHS

by Debbie Simpkins

The California NEW: PATHS Board of Directors and general membership would like to thank our National NEW: PATHS President, Susie Cummins, for making a fast trip from Idaho to be with us during conference. Until

approximately a week or two before our conference, Susie was meeting with the Idaho legislature over Medicaid regulations (if not more) and was unsure if she would be able to join us. We would also like to thank JoLynn Cagle from Alaska who was so graciously willing to fill in for Susie had she not yet completed her work with the legislature.

During our General Membership Meeting Susie gave us an update on what the National NEW: PATHS Board is working on: the Best Practice Handbook AND the 2008 annual training conference that will be held here in California in Anaheim. I can only hope that our membership will support this conference and represent California well as the Host State. In addition to that, Susie introduced the National Board members who were also in attendance at our conference: JoLynn Cagle, Jennifer Sipe, and Bill Knight. Past National Board members also in attendance included Marshall Wilmot (a sponsor) and Christeen Hanson (retired).



I hope that during your networking time that you had an opportunity to talk with Susie or one of the National Board members and had the time to stop by their vendor table to see what they had to offer for our members. Don't forget – Anaheim in August. Check their website for more details.

Attention 2008 Sacramento Conference Attendees!

On Friday morning one of the bags given away as an on time prize accidentally had my personal memory device in it – also in the bag was a flexible BBQ lighter which was intended to be part of the prize package.

You are welcome to keep the device but my Lions Club information is on it and I don't have the information anywhere else. If you received a bag as an on time gift, please check to see if you have it; and if you do, I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible to discuss transferring some of the information by email. My home phone number is (909) 891-9184 or you can email me at pluckner@hss.sbcounty.gov.

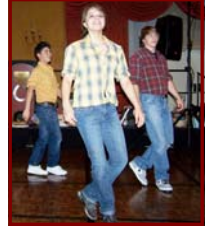
Newsletter Staff

Editor Jennifer Sipe Proof Reading Kathy Watkins
Diane Krebs

Gold Rush Nights

by Diane Krebs

We found gold all over the place on Thursday night during our 2008 Conference. First, everyone who entered the Grand Ballroom, was given \$1000 in scrip to be used at the gaming tables. Then we were all treated to a delicious Bar-B-Que dinner buffet. During dinner, Roseville High School Dance students entertained us with two clogging dances. They displayed more energy than kids should be allowed to have. After being inspired to dance by the student dancers, we were given western line dance and 2-step lessons, and then more dancing after that. The dance floor was full the entire evening. While all that was going on, the gaming tables were busy, with party-goers trying to increase their "stash". At the end of the evening, they got to spend their winnings on prizes that they bid for. Raffle prizes were also awarded throughout the night. The unique table decorations, each with a gold pan and a variety of "old west" memorabilia, were also given away.



Also during the evening, the Sheriff and his posse were arresting suspicious characters, and board members who were wanted for various crimes, such as bank robbery, cattle rustling, and embezzlement (our own treasurer!).

There was some counterfeit money floating around, too, and our own Sheriff (Cesar Vera) was caught red-handed with some, so he spent some time in the jail that was erected for the event.

Thank you to Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance and the local chapter of NEW: PATHS for hosting the event, and all the hard work that went in to making it such a huge success.

Five Counties Recognized for Contributions

by Debbie Simpkins

As my term as both President and an elected board member comes to an end, I felt it was important to acknowledge those counties that have made a tremendous contribution to the successes of our State conferences during my time on the board. The following are the counties that I recognized with their current chapter President accepting the award on the chapter's behalf.

Thank you for all you have done to help us!

Note: Although 4 of the 5 presidents accepting these awards were also State Board members, please remember these awards were for the individual County Chapter members and the presidents were only representing you!

San Bernardino – April Klump

Held/hosted the 1996 conference

- Played host to two conferences held outside of their county:
 - 1993 Palm Springs (Karaoke Night)
 - 2005 Queen Mary (behind the scenes work)



• Kern – Debbie Spears

- Site of conferences in 1999 and 2007; hosting a Masquerade Ball in 1999 and Havana Nights in 2007



San Joaquin – Donna Cobb

- 2007 was their 20th anniversary; 2nd oldest charter county in California, behind San Francisco, and even chartered one year before the State chapter
- Site of 2004 conference; hosted "A Door to NEW Stardom" evening

event where we all got to play act as famous movie / TV stars

- Chapter has several members that were also founding members of our State Chapter, including Robin Duclos (County and State's Past President)

Contra Costa – Bill Knight

- Site of the 2006 conference; hosted Islands of Paradise evening event
- 1st county to obtain Director financial sponsorship (other than sending members to conference) setting the mark for all conferences to follow; creating a challenge for all counties / directors who followed



Sacramento – Jennifer Sipe

- Site of four State conferences, including our inaugural conference:
 - 1990...our 1st conference
 - 1993
 - 2000 ...hosted Sock Hop for Night out event
 - 2008 – hosting our "Gold Rush Nights"
- Huge support from their local chapter
- Obtained financial support from their Director, Mr. Bruce Wagstaff

Thank you to Our 2008 State Conference Sponsors

by: Debbie Simpkins

As many of you may know, a conference takes a lot of work from many entities to be successful. We are no different. For those of you that attended your first or second conference, this conference is something that you may use as a benchmark for all future conferences. For those of you that have attended many conferences, you have probably noticed how each conference continues to provide more for our members.

Why, one simple, wonderful word....S – P – O – N – S – O – R – S!!!!

On behalf of the State Board of Directors and our membership, we would like to **THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS** for what they have done to contribute to our success:



Northwoods Consulting Partners: They sponsored our President's Reception, jointly sponsored one of our breaks and provided a vendor table for you to learn more about them and the products they offer i.e. imaging documents in relationship to our automation



UC Davis: They not only provided the two scholarships to their summer institute but they are also provide us with some of our keynote speakers and workshop presenters

HealthNet: Along with sponsoring a Continental Breakfast, HealthNet also provided us with several workshops and manned a vendor table, providing valuable information that we can use to help our customers



Social Service Coordinators: Once again, SSC, Marshall Wilmot and Linda Bylow were with us to provide workshops and a vendor table to explain how they can help our customers when it comes to Medicare Advantage Plans and more. In addition, they were our sponsors for those gorgeous **tote bags** AND **pad folios** that were provided to all registered members – weren't they the best thing we have ever given out!?!?

California HealthCare Foundation: CHCF once again returned as a sponsor, providing us with a continental breakfast, break items, great workshops and manning a vendor table to help you with additional information.



CHIIP (California Health Incentives Improvement Project): This is our newest sponsor based through Sonoma University. They provided us with outstanding information through their workshops and vendor table as well as sponsoring a continental breakfast

Sacramento County **DHA and Sacramento Valley Chapter of NEW: PATHS:** There is no way we can put on a conference such as we did without the valuable support of the local County Director, their management and the local Chapter. We cannot thank **Bruce Wagstaff**, Sacramento County Director enough for the financial support he gave this conference as well as the **local NEW: PATHS** chapter for their Thursday evening function – if you missed that event, you missed a great night of fun (see separate article).



Heads Up on the San Diego Conference

by Debbie Spears

While the Sacramento 2008 Conference was still in the planning stage your board was busy checking out the San Diego Crowne Plaza and planning the 2009 Conference. Recently re-elected board member, Sydney Crable will be the site chair. Sydney will be busy making sure your stay will be the best possible. Donna Cobb and Angie Gonzalez will be Program Chair. Both will be working on soliciting and securing the presenters and speakers. So if you know of anyone who wants to present a workshop or a good motivational speaker just email or call them. Their numbers and email addresses are on the back of this newsletter. Sarah Ross is Conference Chair and her job is to make sure we are all doing our

best to create the greatest conference to kick off our 20th anniversary. Now that you know we are all working hard just wanted to share a little more information about San Diego.

Did you know San Diego is the 2nd largest city in California and the seventh largest city in the United States? Have you ever heard of Lobster tours or that San Diego has 92 golf courses? We will be sharing more information in future newsletter about the conference as well as activities available to you after hours.

Hope to see you there!!

I Am Speechless—Moderators Rock

by Angie Gonzalez

I am actually speechless, which is rare for me. For being my first time as the Conference Moderator Chair, the opportunity was awesome. I am so impressed with the number of first-time attendees who were willing to be moderators. I had many compliments from the presenters on how helpful and professional their moderator was during their presentations. I also was able to experience first-hand this phenomena. If these conference attendees are any indication of the quality of professional Eligibility professionals we attract, then we, as a State Chapter of NEW: PATHS, are on the right path. Once again, I am so very thankful for all your help. I want to welcome you aboard and hope to see you again next year in San Diego.



The Eligibility Expert Game

by Cesar Vera

Congratulations Kern County! The Eligibility Expert game is a competitive but friendly game that tested the eligibility knowledge of

game participants. The game was played in a game format with five rounds. Each round had a combination of five CalWORKs, Food Stamps and Medi-Cal questions. After each round one team was eliminated, the team with the least amount of correct answers. After five rounds of heavy competition from Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Modoc and Alameda Counties, the final round was between Santa Clara and Kern County. This round turned into a duel, going into triple overtime. At the end, Kern County came out on top and was crowned the 2008 Eligibility Expert.

Once again, congratulations to Willie Nelson, Amy Wallace, Sue Anne Lopez, Angela Hail, and Tiffaney Frodin.

Get ready! Start planning! Join us at the 2009 State conference of the California Chapter of NEW: PATHS and participate in the next Eligibility Expert Game. Become the Eligibility Expert for 2009 and take the crown to your county.



Professional of the Year Award

by Debbie Simpkins

During the Conference General Membership Business Meeting, we introduced a new award to be given out each year recognizing the **Professional of**

the Year. Our members will have the opportunity to nominate someone to be recognized for the professionalism in servicing our customers. Although in the future nominations will come from you, our members, to 'kick off' this award, the first recipient was selected by the State Board.

We looked at possible candidates, were they a current member, what they have done for the organization and their overall involvement. In our final selection, we chose someone who has:

- Been a member of NEW: PATHS since 2000
- Held a position on the National Board of Directors for NEW: PATHS
- Been a huge supporter of both National and the California State conferences, even after stepping down from the National Board

This individual and their organization became our first outside sponsor in 2005 and has been a sponsor and presenter ever since.

2008 Recipient: Marshall Wilmot & Social Service Coordinators, Inc.

Note: Watch future newsletters for detailed criteria and how to nominate someone for the 2009 Professional of the Year Award to be given out at the 2009 San Diego Conference.



Treasure Hunt Results.

by Laura Shultz

This year conference attendees had a chance to play something NEW, they had the opportunity to go on a Treasure Hunt. Five State Board Members were the

treasure. Each person was provided with a map, a compass and a flashlight/whistle. Clues were read at various times, throughout the Conference. With map in hand and the clues read, the hunt for treasure began.

"No delegates, or hanging chads, brought the seekers to Debbie Simpkins (President). "Who could be the traveling show" led them to Phil Fincher. Kathy Watkins is our "own 49er". "Sheriff" Cesar Vera "Would come after you and your ill gotten gains". Since "At times our memories fade fast"; Debbie Spears (Secretary), "keeps the notes of the past".

For next year, we will be looking for the "Lost Landlubbers". (Hint: where is your county located)?



Your Conference Opinion Counts

by Sarah Ross

Wow, when I took over the Evaluation Committee this year I was hoping to at least get 25 more evaluations than last year. But I was not prepared for 100 more! So, I want to first off start with a "Thank You" for all of your input; you should know your opinion counts. We have heard your cries for us to take the conference to Ventura County, and we are now working on that. In January, 2009, we will be in San Diego then Sonoma County for 2010, so hopefully we will be in Ventura in 2011. Of all the good things you liked best about the conference, the Thursday Night event was the best ever. You liked being able to network. Most of you really liked the Belly Dancing class and many of you want to see DIXIE return (She was great). Many of you want to see some new topics, like: How to be a Good Supervisor, Working with Challenging Clients, and a roundtable workshop of workers speaking about what goes on in their counties. We will be discussing these new requests in April.

We heard your comments about the size of the rooms and limited space for this year's conference. Unfortunately we could not have anticipated this problem, and we will keep this in mind for San Diego.

Again, Thanks to all of you who took the time to give us your opinion. It does count and we do read every one of them.

President's Reception

by: Debbie Simpkins

On Wednesday evening, each attendee stepped into a time machine and ventured back to the early 1900's. Thanks to our sponsor, **Northwoods Consulting Partners**, we were able to provide you with plenty of food, wine, sodas, water, a coffee bar where you could flavor your coffee as you desired AND a no-host bar. The décor included black and white photos, all relatives of your State board members, along with additional items representing the early 1900s. As in the past few years, this reception was open to all our members and dignitaries so that you would have an opportunity to network with members with a broad spectrum of experience. At the end of the reception, the Professional Development Committee held the "Eligibility Expert Game"; see separate article.

My greatest wish is that for those of you that stopped by, I hope you enjoyed your visit to the early 1900s; for those of you that missed this venture, we hope to see you at the President's Reception next year when we celebrate our 20th anniversary in San Diego!



NEW: PATHS Annual Conference as Seen by the 1st Timer

Although we all know the value of attending these annual training conferences sometimes it is good to hear what the 1st timers have to say. Kern County Department of Human Services sent five 1st timers this year and I asked them to share their observations. Here is what some of them had to say:

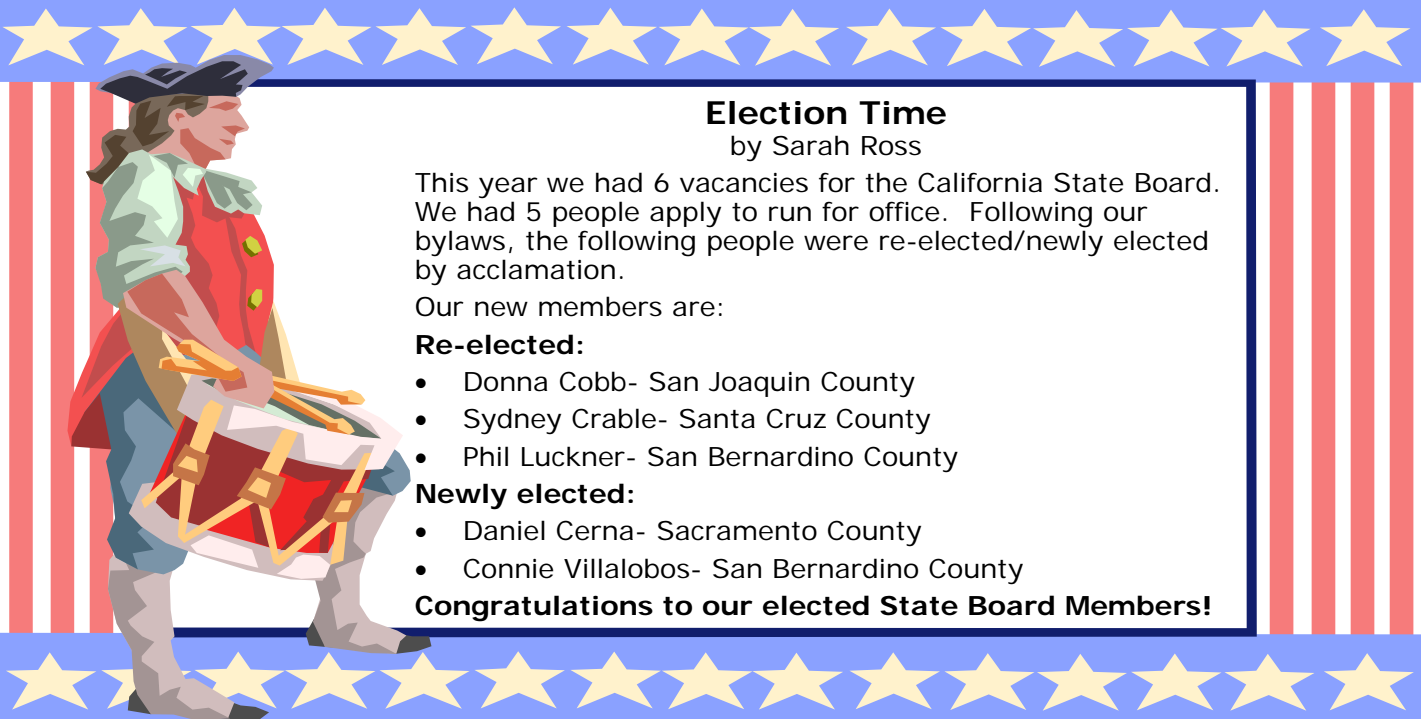
Sue Ann Lopez who works in the Mojave Office for the Kern County Department of Human Services says the best part about attending the conference was the Medi-Cal workshops where she learned how things are done elsewhere and the networking with other eligibility professionals from other counties. Sue Ann highly recommends everyone should attend and see how other offices have come up with different solutions to the same issues we all deal with.

Tiffany Frodin who works in the Ridgecrest Office for the Kern County Department of Human Services also says "This was the first time I have been invited to attend this event. The event was educational as well as fun. Not only did I get to meet new people, but I was able to get better acquainted with my fellow co-workers. I attended several training sessions during the time that I was there. The two that I felt were the most educational were the "250% Working Disabled Program" and the "Northwood's Solutions" (imaging systems). The working disabled program is something that can be used in my job as a Human Service Technician and the imaging system seems like such a great investment for the future of our departments."

Angela Hail who works in the Bakersfield office for the Kern County Department of Human Services says "This was my first experience at a conference. We were very busy from early in the morning until late in the evening. I attended all events. I met so many wonderful new friends from other counties. This experience was fun and will last a life time. I do have a better understanding of how to relieve stress, food stamps quality control and the Medi-Cal program."



For those who attended the conference for the first time and want to share your experience in future newsletters just email me, Debbie Spears, at: spearsd@co.kern.ca.us



Election Time

by Sarah Ross

This year we had 6 vacancies for the California State Board. We had 5 people apply to run for office. Following our bylaws, the following people were re-elected/newly elected by acclamation.

Our new members are:

Re-elected:

- Donna Cobb- San Joaquin County
- Sydney Crable- Santa Cruz County
- Phil Luckner- San Bernardino County

Newly elected:

- Daniel Cerna- Sacramento County
- Connie Villalobos- San Bernardino County

Congratulations to our elected State Board Members!

Merced County

by Cesar Vera

Merced County Human Services Agency showcased some of its exciting and innovative programs at the conference. The programs and events highlighted were Fatherhood, Foster Youth, Nutrition, Evaluation, Food and Children's Summit, Judges Dinner, Video Productions, One Vision One Voice, Project Lifesaver, Network of Care, C 4 Yourself and Structure Decision Making. For more information on any of these programs and events e-mail Cesar Vera at cvera@hsa.co.merced.ca.us.



To view additional 2008 Discover Your Own Gold in Sacramento pictures visit our website at: www.calnew.com



National NEW: PATHS Membership Application

email address: new@nationalnew.org

Website: <http://www.nationalnew.org>

Your Name _____

Your Email Address _____

Billing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Agency Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Work Phone _____

Job Title _____

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Membership Type | Circle one | Individual | Associate |
| Rate | Circle one | 1 yr - \$35 | 3 yrs - \$90 5 yrs - \$140 |

Please make check payable to:
 NEW
 PO BOX 371
 PAW CREEK, NC 28130-0371

California NEW: PATHS

DEBBIE J SIMPKINS '08
President
Retired from San Bernardino
County
(909) 862-2296 (H)
ddsimpkins@earthlink.net

DONNA COBB '08
Vice President
(209) 468-1440 W
San Joaquin Co HSA
dcobb@co.san-joaquin.ca.us

BILL KNIGHT '09
**Treasurer/
National Board Member**
(925) 313-7819 W
Contra Costa Co DSS
bknight1@ehsd.co.contra-costa.us

DEBBIE SPEARS '09
Secretary
(661) 631-6467 W
Kern Co DHS
spearsd@co.kern.ca.us

DEE BLANKENSHIP '09
(916) 876-7550 W
Sacramento Co DHA
blankenshipd@saccounty.net

ALICIA CORRELL '10
(209) 468-1486 W
San Joaquin Co. HSA
acorrell@co.san-joaquin.ca.us

SYDNEY CRABLE '08
Executive Committee
(831) 454-4105 W
Santa Cruz Co HRA
Sydney.Crable@hra.co.santa-cruz.ca.us

PHILLIP FINCHER '09
(209) 558-2339 W
Stanislaus Co CSA
fincherp@mail.co.Stanislaus.ca.us

ANGELICA GONZALEZ '10
(661) 631-6864 W
Kern Co. DHS
gonzalan@co.kern.ca.us
3710stokes@yahoo.com

DIANE KREBS '09
(916) 875-3748 W
Sacramento Co DHA
[krebds@saccounty.net](mailto:krebsd@saccounty.net)

PHIL LUCKNER '08
(909) 891-3750 W
San Bernardino Co. HSS
pluckner@hss.sbcounty.gov

PATSY MERAZ '10
(209) 468-1357 W
San Joaquin HSA
pmeraz@co.san-joaquin.ca.us

SARAH ROSS '09
Executive Committee
(661) 868-8867 W
Kern Co DHS
rosss@co.kern.ca.us

LAURA SHULTZ '10
(909) 881-6146 W
San Bernardino Co. HS
lshultz@hss.sbcounty.gov

JENNIFER SIPE '08
**Executive Committee
National Board Member**
(916) 875-3731 W
Sacramento Co DHA
sipej@saccounty.net

CESAR VERA '10
(209) 385-3000 ext. 5324 W
Merced County HSA
cvera@hsa.co.merced.us

KATHY WATKINS '08
(760) 924-1794 W
Mono County DSS
gkwatkins@aol.com

Visit us on the web:
www.calnew.com



California - NEW: PATHS
P O Box 704
Highland, CA 92346

Have a Whale of a Time
in San Diego
January 28-30 2009

