



# NEW: PATHS For You

## California NEW: PATHS

Professionals Associated Through Human Services

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Summer 2009

### How Are Our Counties Doing?

From the Sacramento Bee, June 4, 2009: "Could California become the first state in the nation to do away with welfare?"

And from the Bee, June 8: "Like many programs, public and private, Job Club offers training, career counseling and other services. But the Job Club – part of the state welfare-to-work program CalWORKs – may face elimination as California tries to solve its budget crisis.

Is this a message of gloom and doom? We Professionals Associated Through Human Services don't think so! Read how some of our counties replied when asked what they are doing during this financial crisis:

**Santa Cruz County**—The Santa Cruz County Employment and Benefit Services Division (EBSD) has experienced a 40% increase in the number of applications received between March 2008 and March 2009. The largest increase has been in the Food Stamp program. With every challenge comes opportunity and the EBSD has embraced the opportunity to look at our business practices to ensure access to our programs to the growing number of applicants. To that end, we have completed or are working on the following initiatives:

- Committed to keeping intake eligibility positions filled.
- Revised appointment scheduling and screening processes that have increased our timely approval of expedited Food Stamp percentage to 86%.
- Convened an Intake Project Workgroup to look at ways to streamline reception, application submission access and screening.
- Convened a Web Redesign Workgroup to improve web information and self help program options. New links and information have been added to the existing website with a total redesign to be completed in late summer.
- Moved CalWORKs Child Only cases to our Benefits Call Center. As a result, two ongoing staff were reassigned to intake to help with increasing applicants.
- Increased the use of reports to help staff prioritize their work.

For more information on these initiatives, please contact the EBSD Director Claudine Wildman at [Claudine.Wildman@hds.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:Claudine.Wildman@hds.co.santa-cruz.ca.us) or 831.454.4236.

**Mono County**—Mono County is a county that is fiscally conservative and as such is financial strong with a healthy reserve. Additionally, our Social Services Department has steadily reduced its county program share to where our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter CEC report showed a county sharing ratio of only 7.34%. Even with the extremely bad news coming out of Sacramento, Director Ed Zylman expects service delivery to remain the same with no anticipated staff reduction, cuts in hours or furloughs this year or in the future. Submitted by Ed Zylman, Director Mono County Social Services

**Contra Costa County**—I began my recent round of staff meetings with a "Message of Hope". This may have made as much sense to you as breaking out the sun screen while the storm clouds are gathering. But even though our fiscal situation continues in its "free-fall" decline, I still retain my optimism that over the long term increased funding and political support will help shore up the umbrella of safety net programs that are now in danger of shredding under the pelting rain of the recession. From Joe Valentine, Contra Costa County Director.

So, how is your county doing? More importantly, HOW ARE **YOU** DOING? We are here to support you and help 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.

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## ***President's Message:***

by Debbie Spears



Your State Board is once again working on the next January conference. We just concluded our Spring Meeting where we elected Sydney Crable as our Vice-President and Sarah Ross as our Secretary. Phil Fincher, Connie Villalobos, and Donna Cobb have also been elected to serve on the Executive Committee. We have selected our goals for this year during the meeting as well.

I would like to also welcome back Trena Cambron who was acclimated to the board in January as well as welcoming our newest members, Kim Delaney, Betty Brown and Ginah Monroy. Unfortunately, we bade a sad farewell to Dee Blankenship and Daniel Cerna and rejoiced when Diane Krebs accepted our request to remain on board

This year has seen its share of challenges. The economy slump has caused us all to "tighten" our belts and has impacted our clients. All of us in the Public Assistance arena are seeing shrinking budgets and cuts those necessary programs serving our communities. In speaking for the State Board I would like to assure all of you that we are still committed to providing our annual Training Conference, assisting the county chapters as needed, and assisting you. Do not hesitate to contact any of the board members with your questions and concerns. The contact information is located on the back page of this and every newsletter. You can also contact us at the website, [www.calnew](http://www.calnew). Check out our newly revised website for conference information, legislative updates, etc. I look forward to seeing or hearing from you in the future.

## ***California* NEW: PATHS 2009-2010 Committee Chairs**

Legislative: Sydney Crable

By-Laws: Laura Shultz

Professional Development: Sydney Crable

Fundraising: Philip Fincher

Newsletter: Diane Krebs

Membership: Connie Villalobos

Publicity: Donna Cobb

Finance: Alicia Correll

Conference Chairs: Debbie Spears and Bill Knight

Site Chairs: Sarah Ross and Donna Cobb

Program Chairs: Patsy Meraz and Alicia Correll

## ***California* NEW: PATHS**

### **Adopted Goals 2009/2010**

Board Goal #1 – Create and conduct survey for membership to provide feedback by 01/2010

Board Goal #2 – Add NEW application to website and update website.

Board Goal #3 – Create Multi-County Chapter

## **Important Reminder!**

Please contact your local Board when you have moved to another location or you have any kind of change or correction so you don't miss out on your next issue of the newsletter.



There was some talk of cancelling or shortening our upcoming training conference in Sonoma County, but we want you to be assured that we are keeping our commitment to put on a quality conference for you. For ways to save for the conference, please see our website.

## **Newsletter Staff**

Editor: Diane Krebs

Proof Reading: Kathy Watkins, Kim Delaney, Phil Luckner, Debbie Spears

## *Meet Our Newest Board Members*



**Kim Delaney** is a Health Client Benefit Representative for the Public Guardian, County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency. She has stepped right in and is helping with the newsletter and the website.

Kim's vision for NEW: PATHS is "that our organization will continue to support service workers who make a difference and that when they feel the support, they in turn spread the word about NEW: PATHS. I would like to see us grow in membership and have more to offer. I would hope that we can attract more active members and get members connected to each other so they can serve as

a resource to each other."

She has been married 9 years to her high school sweetheart. She has three children, mostly grown. Her oldest is 25; her "baby" is nearly 16. Her husband and she are complete nerds, geeks, etc. They enjoy Dr. Who, Torchwood, and other sci-fi stuff. She is a Scrabble-o-holic and currently plays it on her Facebook, her Nintendo DS and her cell phone when not playing a traditional game on her deluxe turntable set. She loves technology and is a "Google Goddess" when it comes to research. (She always try to use her powers for good.)



**Trena Cambron** has been with the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency for 15 years. Her current assignment is in Program Training & Staff Services as the CalWORKs Handbook writer. She was on special assignment to the C-IV Project from June 2002 to November 2004. Trena has been married to her husband Roger for 36 years. They have no children but 6 cats and a dog.

Trena joined NEW in 1995. She was appointed to the California State Chapter in 1998 to fill a vacant one year term and served 5 years. She served as Conference Chair for the State Training Conference in January 2000, and Program Chair for the 2001 Training Conference. She and her husband Roger presented "Lessons

Learned From Geese" a workshop they developed at the 2002 National Training Conference. She is currently the Stanislaus County NEW: PATHS Chapter President.

Her vision for N.E.W. PATHS in Stanislaus County is continue to grow as a professional organization. An organization where workers can learn from each other, network with others, and support each other in this profession of helping people. Her motto is Enthuse, Educate and Empower!



**Betty Brown:** I am new to the board, I am a Eligibility Specialist III for Modoc County Department of Social Services

My vision for NEW:PATHS is encouraging current and new members to actively participate in all aspects of the organization. Promoting continued education of all Human Service professionals in our challenging and ever changing profession.

A bit about myself; I have worked in the field of Human Services for Modoc County since 1997. I own and operate a small ranch in Northeastern California

(OK, it's more like a petting zoo for large animals), I enjoy the outdoors, and I am currently on the membership and fund raising committees.



**Ginah Monroy** is a Program Supervisor/Analyst for the Center for Human Services at UC Davis Extension where she and her team implements UC Davis's annual Summer Institutes, the Leadership Development Program, Supervisory Effectiveness Program, Fiscal Academy, fiscal training, the Human Services Case Management Certificate Program, various county training contracts in California and she also teaches Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Ginah is a Liaison to the board, a non voting position. She loves her dog (wants more dogs), traveling and enjoys reality TV.

“Nous vous verrons à notre conférence d'entraînement annuel?”  
“Sehen wir Sie bei unserer Konferenz des jährlichen Trainings?”  
Will We See You at Our Annual Training Conference?  
-Sydney Crable

The 2010 annual California NEW: PATHS training conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park. The conference dates are January 27 – 29, 2010. Sonoma County is a spectacular place to visit during any season of the year. The hotel is surrounded by two certified PGA golf courses. The Sonoma airport is only 20 minutes from the hotel. You can take a scenic drive, one hour, to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. It is just minutes for the local Redwoods, beaches, and some of the best sightseeing in Northern California. As usual, we plan to offer many interesting and informative workshops. Look in our Fall newsletter for more information regarding them. Check out the hotel at [www.dtsonoma.com](http://www.dtsonoma.com).



The **Sherlock Holmes Dual Award** will be awarded at the Thursday night Murder Mystery dinner. The winner will be based on guessing "Who Done It". The prize will be a one-year membership renewal and a one-year membership that must be given away to someone NOT in your county. Be watching for more clues.

#### Directors Alert...

Have you ever sent your staff to the annual training conference presented by the National Eligibility Workers: Professionals Associated Through Human Services? If NOT, this may be your year. The membership committee is offering a \$500 reimbursement for that one county who has not sent staff but who will send staff to the January 2010 conference in beautiful Sonoma County. Letters will be sent in August to the Directors of the eligible counties. In these tight budget times this is a great way to get your staff involved.



### Guess What's Coming?

Multi-County Opportunities  
by Betty Brown

Smaller counties have a difficult time forming their own NEW:PATHS Chapter due to the small amount of staff members. All eligibility and Human Service professionals alike are entitled to partake in the benefits of the association. NEW Paths therefore is in the process of forming a Multi-County Chapter covering the northern portion of the state. If you're interested in becoming a part of this chapter, check out the web site for future updates, and membership applications. Or you can contact any of the board members also located on the website.



*National Eligibility Workers  
Association  
Professionals Associated Through Human  
Services  
34TH ANNUAL TRAINING  
CONFERENCE*

***NEW: PATHS 2 NEW ORLEANS AND  
ALL THAT JAZZ***

*IS COMING  
AUGUST 16TH- AUGUST 19TH, 2009*

*The 34th annual training conference for NEW: PATHS  
will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel in  
New Orleans, Louisiana.*

*Look forward to a welcoming reception Sunday evening,  
keynote presenters, workshops, Town Hall featuring  
representatives from Washington, D.C.*

*More information will be on the website and the  
newsletter as the planning progresses.*



**National Eligibility Workers Association**  
Professionals Associated Through Human Services  
[www.nationalnew.org](http://www.nationalnew.org)

## Things to Look For From the Professional Development Committee Sydney Crable

The Professional Development Committee is working on several events for our membership. We will be holding our annual game during the conference, you will hear more about it in the next newsletter. For the 2010 Annual Training Conference, "Take Scenic NEW: PATHS to Sonoma Valley" in Rohnert Park, we will be holding the Eligibility Expert Game again so start thinking about your teammates. Will your county take home the trophy this year? You will receive a little more information in our next newsletter.

Last but certainly not least, we will be holding the annual "What NEW: PATHS Means to Me" 100-word essay to participate in a summer institute held on the campus of UC Davis Extension in Davis CA. You must be a member of NEW: PATHS for one year to be eligible. The institutes are held every year during the months of July and August. UC Davis will be offering two scholarships this year. If your essay is selected, you can choose from several institutes such as: Eligibility Worker, Training for Trainers, Employment Services and Welfare to Work, Clerical and Office Assistant, Adult Services and IHSS to name a few. Once you have completed the week, you will be asked to write an article for the newsletter. **UC Davis Extension provides the training material, meals and housing only. You will be responsible for transportation and time away from work.** This contest will be for the summer of 2011. So start thinking of what you want to write. The deadline this year to submit your essay is December 4. If you have any questions you can contact anyone of us on the Professional Committee. You can find out who is on the committee by visiting our website at [www.calnew.com](http://www.calnew.com). See you in January!

Do you have a great product? Would you like to expand your customer base, and at bargain rates? We have space for you, in our newsletter reaching hundreds of NEW:PATHS members and their families throughout California. For more information, please contact any member of the Fundraising committee. Space is available for \$5.00 per column inch.



## What NEW: PATHS Means to Me

By Barbara Whittington, San Bernardino County

I have been an EW for 12 yrs and just joined NEW: PATHS during our last state conference. Before joining I had a preconceived notion as to what this group was all about, however I went to the state conference with an open mind and was hoping for the best. I learned a lot while I was there and met some incredible people. During my time at the conference I learned how words can be taken out of context. I have been able to take this to my work place and I find myself thinking before I speak now. I have also learned that all of us are leaders in one way or another. It is how you choose to use your ability that is the key. I am happy to say that the notion that I had before joining was completely wrong. The people I have met and the lessons I am learning from NEW: PATHS will be helpful during my career and the advancements that I hope to make.

## National NEW: PATHS Membership Application

email address: [new@nationalnew.org](mailto:new@nationalnew.org)

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



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (cell)\_( \_\_\_\_\_ ) (home)\_( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County/Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Job Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Beneficiary Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Beneficiary Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Type  Individual  Associate  
Rate  1 yr - \$35  3 yrs - \$90  5 yrs - \$140

Please make check payable to:  
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**fake Scenic NEW: PATHS**  
**to Sonoma Valley**  
**Rohnert Park**  
**January 27 - 29, 2010**

