

## **Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board of Contra Costa County** **PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS & Certificate of Merit 2018**

### **VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District III - Supervisor Diane Burgis*

#### **Eli Contreras**

Eli Contreras has created a strong presence in East County through weekly outreach to homeless individuals. He organizes fundraisers to raise money for hygiene products, clothing and food. During the week, he hosts a number of bible study events to provide a safe place. One the important aspects of his work includes to link homeless individuals to substance use disorders treatment. Mr. Contreras is a mentor to many individuals in the community.

### **VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District V- Supervisor Federal Glover*

#### **Kiki Kessler**

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Kessler has been working in program development for at-risk juveniles and adult inmate populations on volunteer basis. Through her Reentry Program, she has trained inmates at San Quentin in life skills since 2003. In addition, Kiki was instrumental in helping facilitate an innovative peer-counseling program at San Quentin whereby inmates became state certified drug and alcohol counselors. As a result of Kiki's commitment, this educational program and certification of the counselors at San Quentin has been able to continue.

### **VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District II – Supervisor Candace Andersen*

#### **Rick Baez**

Rick Baez has been in the field of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment for many years. Upon his retirement, he started volunteering at the Addiction Recovery Counseling (ARC) Program at San Quentin. In 2014, he became ARC's program director. Rick co-founded the National September Recovery Month event in Contra Costa and then replicated it at San Quentin. The ARC program, provides free education to San Quentin inmates to become fully certified Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) counselors who in turn can provide treatment to other inmates with SUD. Likewise, as part of their reentry plan upon release from prison, ARC participants are prepared to be employed as counselors. Currently, there are two former ARC students working within the AOD System of Care. Rick's dedication to the ARC program, has changed lives and advanced the AOD field in Contra Costa.

### **VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District IV – Supervisor Karen Mitchoff*

#### **Roberto Lopez**

The Monument Corridor Anti-Drug and Alcohol Coalition has greatly benefited from Mr. Lopez assistance to help reduce alcohol and drug use among youth in the city of Concord. Roberto Lopez, has volunteered a number of hours to support the coordinator of the coalition in navigating the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program which is now an important resource for the coalition. Roberto was extremely helpful in facilitating access to data related to substance use on school campus from the local School Resource Officers.

### **NON-VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District III-Supervisor Diane Burgis*

#### **Mayor Randy Pope**

Mayor Randy Pope was instrumental in helping to proclaim March 2018 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month in the City of Oakley. Passing of the proclamation, is critical to increase awareness within the City of Oakley regarding the dangers of prescription drug abuse and its impact in the national epidemic. By making a public presentation, Mayor Pope heightened community awareness and promoted resident participation in prescription drug related prevention programs.

### **NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP**

*District IV – Supervisor Karen Mitchoff*

#### **Pro-Transport 1**

Ariana Lazo, Aaron Gonzalez, and Jessica Martinez represented Pro-Transport 1 Ambulance Services during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dose of Awareness 5K Walk and Health Expo held in Contra Costa County. During the Health Expo, the

group engaged the audience by demonstrating the capabilities of their ambulance. The team participated in the health expo and provided information of their involvement in Prescription Drug Abuse prevention and intervention efforts in Contra Costa.

#### **VOLUNTEER GROUP**

*District I – Supervisor John Gioia*

#### **Soulful Softball Sunday Planning Team**

The *Soulful Softball Sunday* Planning Team, consisting of Antwon Cloird and Rodney Alamo hosted the annual *Soulful Softball Sunday* last year which is a community wide event that takes place in Richmond and brings residents together to celebrate culture, family and community values. This well attended celebration in the park, is a powerful expression of unity in Richmond. Last year's *Soulful Softball Sunday* drew a big crowd of people and offered an abundance of health and social resources to the community through informational booths. This event has helped to provide a safe space for adults and children in the Richmond area. *Soulful Softball Sunday* makes a difference in the community.

#### **YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL**

*District III – Supervisor Diane Burgis*

#### **Rita Ewaz**

Over the last three years, Rita has been a member of the Contra Costa County Youth Health Coalition, otherwise known as CourAGE. During her time with CourAGE, she has consistently advocated for youth awareness regarding the harms of marijuana use. In her first year, she created a presentation about the harms of marijuana use for Middle School Students, which she has presented across the county. During her second year, she participated in a marijuana focus group conducted by Stanford University which resulted in the development of an on-line toolkit that educators can use. Most recently, she was actively involved in the Youth Town Hall meeting where she provided input into the Proposed County Marijuana Regulatory Framework. Rita has directly reached students from different areas of the county through school presentations and workshops.

#### **YOUTH-LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL**

*District V - Supervisor Federal Glover*

#### **Brianna Griffin**

Brianna is an active member of the County Wide Youth Health Coalition, otherwise known as CourAGE. She participates in the Prescription Drug Workgroup and created a youth friendly brochure discussing the dangers of prescription drug abuse/misuse and how to properly dispose of unwanted or expired medications. Brianna also attended the Martinez City Council meeting to accept a resolution declaring March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

#### **YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL**

*District V – Supervisor Federal Glover*

#### **Rosette Tyree**

Representing the Contra Costa County Youth Health Coalition, Rosette volunteered at the Dose of Awareness 5K Walk/Health Expo and participated for the full day. Rosette was responsible for the youth activity booth and assisted with the set up and take down of the event. Her presence, warm demeanor and leadership skills drew young people to the booth where prevention messaging was shared in a youth friendly manner.

#### **YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL**

*District V – Supervisor Federal Glover*

#### **William Latier**

On February 27th, William Latier attended the Youth Town Hall Meeting to discuss marijuana businesses in his community. During the meeting, he addressed the effects that marijuana would have if certain issues were excluded such as: edibles, permits, and buffer zones. Because of Mr. Latier leadership, greater understanding about the implications of critical issues related to marijuana legalization were brought to the attention of participants in the Youth Town Hall meeting.

## **Certificates of Merit**

### **YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL**

*District V - Supervisor Federal Glover*

#### **Abraham Garcia**

On February 27<sup>th</sup> Abraham Garcia participated in the Youth Town Hall meeting and shared his personal experiences on how marijuana has had a strong effect on his life. With the examples that Abraham provided he set the tone for the rest of the Youth Town Hall meeting. His story captivated the audience and gave other students the confidence to speak up for their communities.

### **NON-VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District IV - Supervisor Karen Mitchoff*

#### **Barbara Hewitt**

Barbara Hewitt is a Professor at Diablo Valley College (DVC) and has dedicated her tenure to the development of many Substance Abuse Counselors in the field today. Despite her multiple responsibilities, she attends the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) System of Care meetings to learn of changes in the field and network with service providers so that her students gain access to internship opportunities. Barbara has also been instrumental in arranging for the AOD Advisory Board Meetings to be held occasionally at DVC which has allowed the Board to fulfill its mission.

### **NON-VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District I - Supervisor John Gioia*

#### **Karina Guadalupe**

Karina Guadalupe is actively involved in the alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention field through her work as a Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Site Coordinator at De Anza High School and the Tobacco Prevention and the Youth Tobacco Advocacy and Policy Project. Karina's dedication to prevention and positive youth development has supported young people from West Contra Costa to learn about issues, speak to local decision makers, and advocate for policy change in their local communities.

### **NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP**

*District IV – Supervisor Karen Mitchoff*

#### **U.S. Army Unit (297<sup>th</sup> ASMC)**

Mark Karandang, Anh Ngo, Savannah Reyes, and Carolina Garcia represented their U.S. Army Unit 297<sup>th</sup> ASMC during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dose of Awareness 5K Walk and Health Expo held in Contra Costa County. The Unit, gave a highly engaging presentation of the tactical capabilities of their military ambulance. Their participation in the health expo was instrumental in the overall success of the event.