

PROGRAM

13TH ANNUAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY HEROES AWARDS

MAY 1, 2024

PROGRAM

OPENING

10:15 AM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Anne Baumgarten, Behavioral Health Board Chairperson

INVOCATION

Thy Hope Luong,
2023-2024 Santa Clara County Youth Poet Laureate

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Marianna Moles, Behavioral Health Board Member

LEADERSHIP REMARKS

Sylvia Arenas, District 1 Supervisor

James Williams, County Executive

Darren Tan, Deputy Director, BHSD

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

10:35 AM

HOPE AND HEALING

Rovina Nimbalkar, Executive Director, NAMI

AWARD RECIPIENTS

10:50 AM

RECOGNITION OF HERO AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ad Hoc Committee Members
Anne Baumgarten, Marianna Moles, Patti Andrade

PROGRAM

2024 AWARD
RECIPIENTS

10:50 AM

AGENCY

Hoppity Learning

CONSUMER/CLIENT

Adria Joven

EDUCATOR

Amrita Vu, Los Gatos High School

ELECTED OFFICIAL

Susan Ellenberg,
President of the Board of Supervisors, District 4

FAITH BASED

Bridges of Hope

FAMILY MEMBER

Harold Brown, NAMI

MEDIA

Jocelyn Dong and staff of Palo Alto Weekly

PROGRAM

2024 AWARD
RECIPIENTS

10:50 AM

MOVER AND SHAKER

Dr. Miguel Valencia, Gardner Family Health Network

PROGRAM

Center for Survivors of Torture Program, AACI

PROGRAM

Santa Clara AOT/Telecare Corporation

VOLUNTEER

Dr. Amia Nash, Eating Disorders Resource Center

YOUNG MOVER AND SHAKER

Anagha Dogiparthi, Youth Task Force

PROGRAM

FORMER LEADERSHIP

11:50 AM

FORMER BHB MEMBERS

Jimmy Liang, Former BHB Member

Alexandros Tsobanoudis, Former BHB Member

Joel Wolfberg, Former BHB Member

CLOSING REMARKS

12:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Anne Baumgarten, Behavioral Health Board Chairperson

PROGRAM ENDS

Keynote Address

ROVINA NIMBALKAR



Rovina Nimbalkar is the Executive Director of NAMI Santa Clara County, where she pursues the organization's mission to support, educate, and advocate for individuals and families whose lives have been impacted by mental health conditions. Before becoming the Executive Director at NAMI Santa Clara County, Rovina held leadership positions in several social justice, mental health, and domestic violence prevention non-profit organizations. She has focused her career on issues related to the impact of trauma on women, children, and young adults from underserved communities. Rovina has over 15 years of experience in fundraising, community relations, marketing, outreach, financial management, and strategic planning. Rovina has a Master's in Organizational Psychology and a Master's in Social Work.

Agency



HOPPITY LEARNING

Hoppity Learning emerged humbly amidst the pandemic, recognizing its profound impact on children's well-being.

Founded by Candy Chan, a preschool teacher and Stanford University graduate, our team sought guidance from esteemed experts worldwide, including parenting experts and high-level executives Rossana Lin and David Lin, Emotional Intelligence Education specialist Dr. Anabel Jensen, Peppy Pals Co-founder Paulina Olsson, Behavioral Science expert Dr. James Prochaska, Human Motivation expert Dr. Richard Ryan, and many others to better support children and parents alike.

Together with our dedicated team of seasoned school counselors, educators, therapists, a play therapy instructor, an admin, a videographer, and our parent volunteers, Hoppity Learning embarked on providing parenting workshops and EQ parent-child coaching services.

Our mission: to build healthy brains through strong parent-child connections for school success and positive global impacts!

Over the past three years, Hoppity Learning has made significant strides, reaching over 1.4 million households in the U.S. through 24+ episodes of parenting talks on KTSF 26 TV station's "The Great Family" show. Our in-person and virtual parenting talks have benefited 17 organizations across the U.S. and Canada, with over 3000 parent-child coaching sessions delivered.

We are grateful for the positive impacts:

- with over 90% of parents reporting noticeable behavioral improvements in both themselves and their children, and
- over 97% of children feel a stronger connection with their parents.

Looking ahead, Hoppity Learning remains dedicated to expanding our collaborative efforts with organizations, schools, preschools, churches, and tutoring companies.

We extend a humble invitation to anyone with a passion to support children's well-being to explore our programs and join us in making a lasting difference in children's lives, fostering school success and positive societal change.

Consumer/Client

ADRIA JOVEN

As a survivor of domestic violence, which left her straddled with PTSD in addition to already present mental health issues, Adria sought relief through drugs and alcohol for nearly two decades. In 2021, after losing her children as a result of her substance abuse, she finally found the courage to get sober and address her trauma head on.



In the years that followed, Adria has thrown herself into her recovery and healing journey. She attends multiple recovery based meetings each week which has allowed her to build and maintain a support group of people who have cheered her along every step of the way, and provided encouragement during times in the beginning when she was doubtful in her ability to continue. She has also finally begun working with a therapist in an effort to overcome years of unaddressed trauma.

As she began to see the changes in herself, Adria became determined to help others within the community experiencing the same challenges. She has been featured as a speaker in prisons, inpatient facilities and the VA hospital, in hopes of bringing a message of hope to those who may feel that their situation is hopeless.

The service commitment that is closest to her heart is called Bridging the Gap, which includes a group of volunteers who wish to bridge the gap between inpatient facilities and recovery programs in the community. Twice a month Adria arranges speakers to bring into Mariposa women's facility, and she finds no greater honor than working one-on-one with other women looking for support as they set out to begin on their own recovery journey.

Educator

AMRITA VU



Amrita Vu is a dedicated mental health clinician with nearly a decade of experience, specializing in supporting adolescents through their toughest challenges. Her

journey began in a Title 1 elementary school, where she started as a clinician. It was during her work with adolescents on probation that she discovered her passion for helping young people navigate their complex emotions and experiences. Serving as a Lead Therapist since 2019, Amrita joined Los Gatos High School in the 2021/2022 school year where she continues to make a profound impact on the lives of students.

Amrita's approach to her work is deeply personal, as she strives to be the support person she wishes she had during her own adolescent years. This commitment to empathy and understanding has made her a pillar of strength in the Los Gatos High School community, as she has been instrumental in building and leading the school's Wellness Center. Through her efforts, she has created a space that serves as a support for students facing various challenges, including behavioral health issues, and substance use disorders. Her dedication to breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health has resulted in a significant increase in student engagement with the school's Wellness Center.

Amrita's impact extends beyond her role as a Lead Therapist. She actively supports peer-to-peer clubs on campus and contributes insightful writings to Reality Checks, the school's peer-to-peer publication, to raise awareness and foster understanding about behavioral and mental health issues. Additionally, she serves as the dedicated behavioral health representative for all Title IX support at Los Gatos High School, ensuring that students facing challenges receive comprehensive assistance.

Amrita's tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to student well-being have not only transformed the mental health landscape at Los Gatos High School but have also left a lasting legacy of support, understanding, and empowerment for the entire community.

Elected Official

SUPERVISOR SUSAN ELLENBERG

Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg represents the almost 400,000 residents in District 4, which includes the unincorporated community of Burbank, much of West San Jose, and the cities of Campbell and Santa Clara.

She serves as President of the Board of Supervisors as well as the Chair of the County's Public Safety and Justice Committee and Vice Chair of the Finance and Government Operations Committee.

Among her accomplishments, President Ellenberg and Vice President Otto Lee in January 2022 led the County in declaring mental health and substance abuse a public health crisis in order to advance a comprehensive and coordinated emergency response. She also led in the creation of Wellness Centers at schools across the County and the creation and use of three TRUST crisis vans. She helped shape the partnership with behavioral health CBOs to provide crisis de-escalation over the phone and in the field.

She is 2nd Vice President the California State Association of Counties and a board member of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. Additionally, she is a co-chair of Joint Venture Silicon Valley and on the board of the National Association of Counties' Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee.

Supervisor Ellenberg moved to San Jose in 1991 and is a former trustee for San Jose Unified School District. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, Supervisor Ellenberg is a graduate of Barnard College and Columbia University School of Law. She has worked as a real estate and land use attorney and as a social justice educator.

Supervisor Ellenberg lives in San Jose with her husband, attorney Steve Ellenberg, and their two dogs, Lacey and Peaches. They have three young adult children: Zach (married to Ruth Ferguson), Molly and Naava.



Faith-Based

BRIDGES OF HOPE

Bridges of Hope is a Faith-Based Reentry program of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County and Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph. In 2011 we participated on Santa Clara Counties Mental Health innovative team creating faith-based reentry. We are connected to three other faith-based reentry centers contracted with Diversion & Reentry Services.



The mission of Bridges of Hope is to heal the wounds of incarceration. Individuals in correctional facilities face significant challenges related to their criminal justice involvement. We, the faith community, are the most positive influence they have on the inside and on the outside. However, what happens once they are released? The healing ears of the faith community and behavioral health community are instruments of wholeness promoting the well-being of the person, their family and their community. Bridges of Hope provides trauma-informed, client-centered, culturally appropriate services through case-management, addressing barriers to self-sufficiency. We first greet people at the jail when released and direct them to Reentry. Once referred and enrolled with Bridges of Hope, services consist of an assessment, development of a wellness treatment plan, linkage to mental health, primary health, substance use treatment, shelter, transitional housing and basic needs like food, hygiene, transportation, cell phone connection and a place to receive mail. We provide work clothes, assist with union dues, tattoo removal, anger management, certificate programs, education, and employment through Catholic Charities Right Directions; furniture, bedding and rental assistance once a person is ready for permanent housing. We attend court appointments, and reconnect parents with their children. Our collaborative care model and diverse, multidisciplinary team of service navigators and case managers are essential to our integrated approach throughout Catholic Charities and community. We are grounded in evidence-based practices, incorporating transformational approaches recognizing many paths to wellness. We are a bridge to healing and a connection to social networks.

Family Member

HARRY BROWN

Harold Brown is a retired information technology manager whose career started as an officer in the USAF and continued at The Ohio State University Medical Center. In 1974, Harold was hired by El Camino Hospital in Mountain View as a Department manager to help lead the development of the world's first hospital information system. After nearly 25 years with El Camino, Harold became a Senior Project Manager with IBM. He ended his working career with the startup and successful ten year run (which was more like a sprint!) as President and CEO of DRC, a health information services company.



Harold has a long family history of severe depression and suicide which resulted in the deaths of his grandmother and three uncles. While helping his daughter recover from a major depressive episode, he and his wife benefitted greatly from the NAMI Family-to-Family class. Upon retirement, Harold became captain of El Camino Hospital's NAMIWalks Team and a Santa Clara County representative for the SF Bay Area NAMIWalks. He continues as a key member of the NAMIWalks Silicon Valley organizing committee, helping to achieve national recognition for fundraising success.

Harold has served on NAMI Santa Clara County's Board of Directors for 11 years, and has been Vice President of Fundraising for most of those years. Harold's passion is to help NAMI continue to be financially stable and to find reliable sources of revenue to support the continued growth of both existing and innovative new programs in areas like Peer Mentoring. During his years on the NAMI board, Harold has especially championed programs to serve the youth of our county. Programs like "Ending-the-Silence" help to reduce mental health stigma and to encourage early diagnosis and treatment. This improves the probability of recovery and results in happier, more productive lives.

Media

JOCELYN DONG AND PALO ALTO WEEKLY STAFF



Jocelyn Dong led the Palo Alto Weekly as its editor from 2011 to 2024, during which time she and her staff implemented a policy on how to cover public suicides in a way that reduces the risk of suicide contagion. Since its founding in 1979, the Weekly has reported on the entire range of community news, but two tragic suicide clusters in Palo Alto involving youth prompted the Weekly's journalists to carefully consider the role that the media could play in limiting contagion. Following the guidelines of the World Health Organization, the Weekly and its sister news sites developed an approach that keeps details about the suicide to a minimum as well as provides information on community resources that aid those wrestling with suicide ideation.

Raised in Palo Alto, Jocelyn began her journalism career in 1999 at the Weekly, which is owned by the nonprofit Embarcadero Media Foundation. Over the years, she's covered health, business, neighborhoods, land use and transportation. As the Weekly's editor, she's guided a staff of sharp and committed journalists in telling Palo Alto's story through compelling, useful, multi-faceted and intelligent articles. She and her staff have understood the media's role in reporting on the city, including holding the powerful to account, as well as its role as part of the community itself. Jocelyn believes that one of the highest callings for the media is to foster community dialogue and connect people of diverse viewpoints and experiences together.

Mover & Shaker

DR. MIGUEL VALENCIA



Dr. Miguel Valencia, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, has over 40 years' experience working in community-based behavioral healthcare. He began his career in the late 1970s, filling a gap for culturally and linguistically responsive mental health services for Mexican-American immigrants, and he continues to lead Gardner Health Services Specialty Behavioral Health to provide high quality care to the most vulnerable, ethnically diverse populations in Santa Clara County.

Dr. Valencia is a County leader, serving on boards and committees to provide guidance and advocacy. He is the current treasurer and past president member of the Association of Behavioral Health Contractor Association of Santa Clara County.

Program

CENTER FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE (AACI)



For over 24 years, AACI has operated the Center for Survivors of Torture (CST), with a primary focus on supporting the wellness and recovery of refugees, torture survivors, and their families. CST provides comprehensive services addressing medical, psychological, legal, and social service needs. During this time CST has served over 9,600 new arrival survivors from over 74 countries, delivering high quality and holistic services.

Co-founder, Armina Husic has been integral to CST since its inception guiding its growth from aiding survivors of the genocidal war in Bosnia and Herzegovina to assisting refugees worldwide. CST has spearheaded numerous pioneering programs, including the integration of mental health services setting a gold standard of care for newly arrived refugees and torture survivors. Through its comprehensive approach CST continues to empower individuals to live happy, fulfilling, and secure lives in America.

CST is fortunate to have dedicated employees, many of whom have lived experience themselves. Most CST staff are multilingual, with 99% born outside of America. Each member of the CST staff undergoes extensive training to ensure they provide clients with the utmost respect and consideration for their unique circumstances.

CST goes beyond merely assisting newly arrived refugees, also providing support for those who wish to contribute to the cause. CST is an active member of the following: International Rehabilitation Torture Programs, National Consortium Torture Treatment Programs, California Consortium Torture Treatment Programs, and Santa Clara County Refugee and Immigrants Forum. AACI's current President and CEO started as a CST employee. A special thanks to: Sarita Kohli, Nira Singh, Daisy Gennette, Lauren Languido, Kook Yin, Yonas Fishatsion, Narumi Tashiro, Rola Cheikh, Salma Shaw, Marina Sahban, Daryn Reicherter, Amana Ayoub, Ruth Steinhardt, Dori Tardillo, Mladenka Kaluderovic, Bich Dao Le, and Song Vang.

Program

SANTA CLARA AOT/TELECARE



We are Santa Clara AOT- Telecare! Established 2022, Telecare AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment), We seek to transform and improve the quality of mental health and substance use services by modeling excellence, effectively collaborating with community partners and systems, and working to mitigate immediate barriers towards engagement in community treatment services. Our motivation and our mission is to utilize a multidisciplinary team approach focusing on empowering and rebuilding trust within the mental health system, awaken hopes and dreams, and meet our most vulnerable population where they are to improve our members quality of life. Our program provides intensive outpatient treatment services to individuals with severe mental illness who have difficulty maintaining engagement in voluntary treatment and living safely in the community. AOT aims to provide excellent comprehensive community mental health and substance use services to the most vulnerable population within Santa Clara County.

AOT operates under the legal authority of AB1976, also known as Laura's Law, which allows for temporary court-ordered treatment for eligible individuals who may not believe they need treatment or have refused it in the past. AOT helps individuals achieve and maintain physical and mental health while decreasing mental health crises, hospitalizations, incarcerations and homelessness.

AOT services in the community include the following:

- Intensive clinical services, including individual and group therapy
- Peer support from people with lived experience of mental illness and substance use
- Intensive case management to coordinate care and link to resources
- Housing assistance to secure and maintain stable housing
- 24/7 clinical crisis support to prevent and respond to emergencies
- Medication evaluation and management to optimize treatment outcomes

Note: Medication cannot be administered involuntarily under AOT.

AOT provides an opportunity to serve individuals who need help the most and to work with them towards recovery, while they remain in our community and thrive.

Volunteer

DR. AMIA NASH

Dr. Amia Nash has volunteered on the Board of Directors for the Eating Disorders Resource Center since 2021. She is a spokesperson and ambassador for the EDRC at community events in the Bay Area to connect youth and adults to resources for eating disorders including support groups, treatment from mental health professionals, and educational workshops at schools and workplaces. Inspired by her own mental health journey and the cultural stigma she faced navigating it, Amia first joined the EDRC as an advocacy volunteer in 2014 with a passion to increase awareness and understanding of eating disorders in her community. In partnership with the Eating Disorders Coalition, Amia has met annually with members of Congress to advocate for important mental health legislation such as, Nutrition Counseling Aiding Recovery for Eating Disorders Act, Tele-mental Health Improvement Act (S. 3792), Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022 (H.R. 7666), Improving Mental Health & Wellness in Schools Act (S.754, H.R. 3331) and Kids Online Safety Act (S.1409).

Amia is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar at UC Berkeley, School of Public Health with a specialty area in Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health. She has partnered in community-engaged research focused on health equity with marginalized youth for the past eight years. Her current research at UC Berkeley's Innovations 4 Youth Research Hub focuses on statewide social and emotional learning initiatives and youth participatory action research, which brings youth voice to the design, development, and implementation of health programs and practices that affect young people. Amia received her Doctor of Public Health from UC Berkeley, MS in Community Health and Prevention Research from Stanford University School of Medicine, and her BS in Public Health from Santa Clara University.



Young Mover & Shaker

ANAGHA DOGIPARTHI



Anagha Dogiparthi is currently a junior at Wilcox High School. She has always had a passion for community service, public health, and advocacy, particularly focusing on educational inequalities within Santa Clara County.

Anagha represents District 4 in the Santa Clara County Youth Task Force, where she serves as the liaison of the Education Subcommittee. Through the YTF, Anagha has reached out to underserved schools within the county to provide educational workshops on important, often ignored topics across different middle schools on topics such as tobacco prevention and the relationship between social media and mental health issues. So far, in collaboration with other members of the YTF, Anagha has presented at three different elementary/middle schools and has impacted over 200 students in her efforts to promote educational diversity for youth.

Anagha is also a member of the Tobacco Use Prevention Program Peer Advocate Committee, where she co-led the organization and execution of the TUPE Youth Resource Fair, where over 20 organizations across the county came together to educate students in the county on different community/extracurricular activities they can get involved in. As a whole, there were around sixty attendees, who participated in the various educational workshops, college panels, activities, and tabling initiatives. Anagha hopes to once again collaborate with TUPE to make the Resource Fair an annual event, as many youth reported that they were grateful for the opportunity to branch out within their county.

Anagha has also had the honor of presenting and paneling at different conferences across the county such as the annual Kids in Common Conference, Teens Tackle Tobacco Conference, and Stanford's Pediatric Grand Rounds through Stanford's REACH Lab. At these events, Anagha was able to provide her insights as a young person about issues impacting the youth of her generation, something she believes is essential to creating a genuine difference in Santa Clara County.

2023- 2024 Behavioral Health Board

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Daniel Tran

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Anne Baumgarten
Marianna Moles
Alexandros Tsobanoudis

Help is available for individuals & families in crisis or struggling with mental health challenges and/or substance use issues.

Crisis Support

**Please call the Crisis and Suicide Prevention Lifeline at:
1 (800) 704-0900, press 1 OR
Dial 988 for local 408, 650, and 669 area codes**

You can also Text RENEW to 741741

Non-Crisis Support

**Please call the Behavioral Health Services Center at:
1-800-704-0900**



COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Behavioral Health Services

Supporting Wellness and Recovery