



COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Breaking ground for the new Seaside Family Clinic are (l-r) Julie Edgcomb, Health Department Outpatient Services Director; Dr. Steve Packer, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula; Dr. Maximiliano Cuevas, Clinica de Salude del Valle Salinas; Elsa Jimenez, Health Department Director; Supervisor Jane Parker, Margret Osborn, Monterey County Community Health Center; Seaside Mayor Ralph Rubio.

County Notes

- > Ready for elections? Early voting begins October 10th! Check the [Elections Department website](#) for details and local voter guides!

County, Partners Break Ground for New Seaside Clinic

Margret Osborn, a member of the Monterey County Community Health Center Board, told a crowd of about three dozen dignitaries about the first day the Seaside Family Health Clinic opened in the 1970s with just one exam room and four chairs.

A lot has changed since then, and more changes are ahead as the County and its partners break ground on a new Seaside Family Clinic.



Dr. Maximiliano Cuevas talks about Clinica de Salud's role in the unique partnership that led to the development of the new clinic.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place September 22nd near the existing clinic which is located at 1150 Fremont Boulevard.

The new clinic will be more than 70% larger than the current facility and is a unique partnership between Monterey County and Montage Health, the parent company of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Montage Health bought the land for the new clinic, is paying for construction and will lease the building back to the County. Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas is partnering in the project as well and will be providing dental services.

The Seaside Clinic has more than 47,500 patient visits each year, making it a key part of the community's health-delivery system. The new clinic will have nearly

20,000 square feet of space, with 33 exam rooms, a procedure room, and a dental suite creating more access to care for area residents.

The new clinic is expected to open next summer.

Child Support Services Hits New High Mark - Again

Monterey County's Child Support Services (CSS) consistently hits high marks for its collections of support monies on behalf of local families, so it should come as no surprise that the department has done it again.

The results for the amount of child support collected for the 2016 Federal Fiscal Year (which ended on September 30th) are now in, and CSS has hit its highest collection amount ever.

"The Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement and State Department of Child Support Services measures our collections to determine the cost effectiveness of our program," explains CSS Director Jody Holtzworth. "Cost effectiveness is the cost of operations compared to the amount of collections.

Last year, for every dollar spent for operations including salaries and benefits, we collected \$3.74 in support monies.”

That ratio keeps CSS on the state’s impressive list of top ten most cost effective child support programs operating in California.

Here are the numbers: CSS collected **\$43,097,633** for the 2016 Federal Fiscal Year, an increase of **\$1,857,396** over last year.

Holtzworth credits CSS staff for another year of excellent work.

“This is truly amazing and I’m proud of each and every member of our team. Their hard work is paying off for the families in Monterey County.”



County Honors Robert Taniguchi Retirement

County Supervisors and Department of Social Services staff bid a happy retirement to one of that department’s most senior and accomplished members.

Robert Taniguchi is retiring from his position as Deputy Director of Social Services after 20 years with the department, and a total of 33 years in county service.

Taniguchi came to Monterey County in 1996 to serve as a Deputy Director of Social Services, a role he held until his retirement. His accomplishments over the last two decades show how he led the department through changes both in how staff members do their work as county employees and how they work together with the community.

His contributions include:

- Leading Family and Children’s Services through Child Welfare Redesign
- Bringing the Family to Family model of community partnership in Child Welfare to Monterey County
- Establishment of the CHERISH Center that provides a safe and welcoming place for children entering foster care
- Development of the Pathways to Safety child abuse prevention program
- Establishment of the Family Reunification Partnership, a unique partnership between Child Welfare and Mental Health
- Promoted data sharing partnerships with Behavioral Health

- Implementing the extension of foster care support for non-minor dependents through their 21st birthday
- Partnering to build the Family Stabilization Program for CalWORKs families experiencing crisis
- Implementing the Resource Family Approval process
- Development of a family-friendly Visitation Center

When presenting Taniguchi with a Board resolution last week, Supervisor Jane Parker commented on his work on the Pathways to Safety program, which is an intervention program aimed at keeping children safe in their homes and out of the child welfare system by helping families with the issues that can trigger an abusive situation.

“Not only has he helped Social Services follow through on mandated services, but he looked for ways to better support children and families, create resources and partnerships to prevent people from getting tangled up in the system in the first place,” says Parker.

Social Services Director Elliott Robinson told the crowd gathered in the Board Chambers about the impact Taniguchi’s work has had on the most important aspect of their work.

“Robert is a dear friend, but also someone who has worked on some of the most challenging issues we face as a county: the safety of children, the preservation of families when possible and when not safe to do so, the formation of forever families for children,” says Robinson. “His work in the development of numerous prevention programs have a direct link to better outcomes for children in our community. Statistics show Monterey County has a very low rate of re-abuse and a low rate of placement - two indicators that linked together show our efforts to preserve the well-being of children in our community is profound.”

Taniguchi thanked all in attendance but then spoke directly to the supervisors on the dias, thanking the supervisors for all the support given to DSS throughout the years.



Robert Taniguchi (center) listens as Social Services Director Elliott Robinson (right) thanks him for his many years of service to the community. Supervisor Jane Parker (left) holds a resolution which honors his work.