



COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Incoming Supervisors Luis Alejo and Mary Adams pause at a reception following the swearing in of new and returning Supervisors on Tuesday, January 10th.

County Notes

- > The DA's Office gathered 51 holiday gifts for foster children last year, assuring it a spot on the 'Nice List' this year.



New, Returning Supervisors Sworn In

There are two new faces on the Board of Supervisors this week, but those faces are not new to the world of public service and politics.

This week, two new and one returning Supervisor were sworn in during the first meeting of the new year.

New District 5 Supervisor Mary Adams was sworn in by retired Judge Richard Silver, while new District 1 Supervisor Luis Alejo was sworn in by his wife, the Honorable Karina Cervantez Alejo. Also sworn in Tuesday was District 4

Supervisor Jane Parker, who was re-elected for a third term. Parker was sworn into office by retired Sheriff's Deputy Luther Hert.

Mary Adams brings a wealth of community service to her new job. Before winning the election for the District 5 seat, she was the President and CEO of the United Way of Monterey County for 14 years. She described in a TV interview last year how she caught the bug for public service.

"I remember as a small child going with my mother door to door for the March of Dimes, the mothers march against polio and that made an impact on me and it's had a lasting impact," Adams said. She is not a newcomer to politics either. Retired Congressman Sam Farr told the crowded board chambers he recalled his first run for public office in 1975, with Mary Adams running his campaign.

Find out more about Mary Adams [here](#).

Luis Alejo is a seasoned political figure with a reputation for hard work and high energy, which he will now put to work for District 1 residents. Before running for supervisor, Alejo spent three terms in the Assembly and comes away with an impressive record of successful legislation. Family members celebrated his success at this first board meeting. Besides being sworn in by his wife, Alejo's mother came to the podium during public comment to share with the crowd how proud she was of her son's latest achievement.

Find out more about Luis Alejo [here](#).

Know Your AED and Save a Life

If there was an emergency cardiac situation at your workplace, could you save someone's life? Yes! You just need to know your AED.

AED stands for Automatic External Defibrillator. An AED is a device used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart. Built-in computers assess the patient's heart rhythm, judge whether defibrillation is needed then administer the shock. Prompts guide the user through the process.

The County has 71 AEDs in seven departments right now and a new grant will provide three more, but what makes these new machines different is for whom they are intended. These will be Public Access Defibrillators (PAD), which means they will be available for the public or be in private spaces where large numbers of people gather. These additional AEDs will be placed at the Government Center, the Life Foundation Building and Schilling Place.



What is needed now is employees at those locations to be trained on how to use these machines. You don't have to be a doctor or know CPR to help someone using an AED, you just need to know how to use the machine. Why not give it a try?

There will be a training session on how to use AEDs at the Government Center on Friday, February 17th from 1-2 p.m. in the Board Chambers. The training will explain:

- What is an AED
- When to use your AED
- Tips and guidelines about using your AED

There will also be a hands-on scenario to practice using an AED and saving a life. Watch for sign up information about the program.

Mental Health Consumer Panel Educates New Employees

New employees in the Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) Bureau got a powerful start to their new assignments after hearing from some of the clients they will be serving in the future.

A panel of health service consumers from Success Over Stigma (SOS), which is a program of Interim Inc., took part in the weeklong Behavioral Health New Employee Training last month. Panel



Members of the Success Over Stigma client panel pictured left to right: Mario Ramirez, Beth Barrell, Kontrena McPheter, Kathleen Lawrence and Carol Hernandez.

members provided insight into staff-client customer service that is an important part of MCBH's vision and mission of a family and consumer-driven mental health system.

Employees had the opportunity to hear from and speak to people with 'lived experience,' people who are served by Behavioral Health staff and programs. These speakers shared their stories with new employees and provided invaluable 'straight talk' as to what is helpful and not helpful when serving them and other clients.

“We want to work with clients in a collaborative way where the client is the leader of their treatment; clients know about their own mental health,” said Jill Walker, MCBH Training Manager.

The SOS program is funded by the Mental Health Services Act and promotes consumer involvement in planning and executing mental health services and anti-stigma messaging in the community. It also serves to increase peer involvement in developing and strengthening mental health services both locally and at the state level.