



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator

MEMORANDUM

October 26, 2020

TO: Agency/Department Heads

FROM: *Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator*
SUBJECT: **Board Recognition of 2020 National Association of Counties Achievement Award Winners – November 10, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**

The County has been awarded six National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards. These awards are for innovative programs in the District Attorney's Office, Health Care Services Agency, Information Technology Department, Probation and the Social Services Agency.

The Board of Supervisors will be honoring the 2020 NACo Achievement Awards at its regular meeting on November 10, 2020 as an 11:00 a.m. Set Matter.

Congratulations to all of our departments for your ongoing commitment to innovation and collaboration.

Attachment



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator

MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2020

TO: Each Member, Board of Supervisors
Agency/Department Heads

FROM: *Susan S. Muranishi*, County Administrator

SUBJECT: 2020 National Association of Counties Achievement Award Winners

The National Association of Counties (NACo) announced its 2020 Achievements award winners and Alameda County received six Achievement Awards. Congratulations to the winning departments – your commitment to innovation and excellence showcases Alameda County as a national model for other local governments. The following abstracts summarize Alameda County's award-winning programs:

Achievement Award Winners:

1. *"Oakland Midnight Basketball," Probation Department* – Category: Children and Youth

In 2018, the Alameda County Probation Department (ACPD) helped reinstate the Oakland Midnight Basketball League (OMBL) in order to: 1) provide a safe activity for players and attendees during hours when shootings increase in Oakland; 2) connect players and attendees to helpful resources and services in the community; and 3) foster positive relationships between players, their peers, and adult mentors. Each season, youth and young adults ages 16-25 play on one of 12-16 teams over a period of eight weeks. Games take place between the hours of 9pm and 1am, and players are required to attend a life-skills workshop for one hour before their game each week. The most recent season, Summer 2019, served over 250 players, 89% of whom said they received helpful information from workshop speakers and 78% who said they planned to stay in touch with players or adults they met through the league. ACPD has been a primary funder and integral partner of the league since its inception in Summer 2018, and ACPD recently received a \$1 million grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections to help operate 6 seasons of the OMBL over 3 years.

2. *"Alameda County Restorative Justice Project (ACJRP)," District Attorney's Office* – Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

District Attorney Nancy O'Malley and her office broke new ground by piloting a partnership of county and community leaders to create, fund, and implement the nationally recognized Alameda County Justice Restoration Project "ACJRP." ACJRP is based on DA O'Malley's vision of reducing recidivism by offering peer support services in lieu of traditional incarceration, prosecution, sentencing, and supervision. ACJRP is a unique effort to break the cycle of recidivism afflicting much of our nation by offering an alternative to incarceration that provides a second chance for low level felony repeat offenders through individualized peer support, navigation to vital services, such as behavioral health/substance abuse services, and successful pathways to employment, education, and housing. For those who successfully complete the 24-month program, their felony conviction is erased, which is an important part of an opportunity for a bright future. ACJRP's use of an independent professional evaluator has provided consistent statistical evidence that ACJRP's approach to reducing recidivism does break the cycle of destructive behavior and incarceration. In coming together to build and implement ACJRP we are also discovering and eliminating specific barriers to an individual's successful return to the community. In addition to establishing the value of program accountability, ACJRP has become a model for improved service delivery, as well as better data collection, analysis, and sharing. ACJRP also promotes enlightened views of criminal justice outcomes.

3. ***"Pretrial Services (Expansion of Pretrial into Tyler Supervision)" Probation Department – Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety***

On January 21, 2020, Alameda County Probation Department launched a first-of-its-kind pretrial component to its case management system. This system immediately notices the Pretrial Services Officer of an arrest, forwards the specifics of the crime in a queue where the officer can conduct a validated risk assessment and digitally forwards the findings to a pretrial judge who then makes a decision about release. Statistical analysis on arrest times, charges, decisions and many other criminal justice data points will be compiled for the courts to review and make decisions about expanding this effort. Critical to the success of implementing a comprehensive pretrial services program, is the ability to conduct pretrial work in real-time, exchange relevant information with fellow justice partners which ensures stakeholders have the necessary information to make critical decisions without hindering public safety. The Alameda County Pretrial Module accomplishes this feat and serves as a model that can be replicated in other jurisdictions.

4. ***"Alameda County Diabetes Disparities Reduction Initiative" Health Care Services Agency – Category: Health***

The Alameda County Diabetes Disparities Reduction Initiative (ACDDRI) is a collaboration of the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), the Alameda Alliance for Health (the major Medicaid managed care plan in the county), two neighborhood-based clinics, and the University of California, Berkeley, to transform diabetes care and management. From decades of research, we know that medical interventions alone are not enough to reduce diabetes rates or prevent diabetes-related complications. Patients need a range of supports to understand their disease and how diet and exercise influence health; to overcome social and economic barriers to needed behavior changes; and to communicate with their care teams more effectively. Short-term diabetes education classes may increase patients' knowledge, but without additional supports to translate that knowledge into action, many will not be able to make real changes that result in improved health outcomes. ACDDRI's comprehensive model of care aims to offer participants the full range of support they need to address the medical and social determinants of health. To this end, ACDDRI focuses on reducing health disparities in diabetes rates and acuity within the county's African-American and Latinx communities, concentrating on two of our most underserved and under-resourced communities.

5. ***"FAST Emergency Shelter App.," Social Services Agency – Category: Human Services***

According to Alameda County's 2019 Point-in-Time Survey, more than 8,000 people experience homelessness on a single night in Alameda County, with approximately 20 percent in need of emergency shelter. As cell phone use proliferates among the most vulnerable population, nationwide, developers have begun creating apps that address the needs of the homeless. The goal of these apps is to bring vital resources like shelters, rehabilitation centers, or food pantries directly to homeless people with cell phones. In an effort to enhance the ability of emergency shelters under contract with the Alameda County Social Services Agency (SSA) to more efficiently manage their subsidized bed capacity, as well as to provide unsheltered individuals with real time information about the availability of overnight shelter beds, SSA authorized the development of the FAST (Find A Shelter Tonight) Emergency Shelter App. Initial piloting of the App commenced in January 2020 with 17 shelters.

6. ***"Integrated Fraud Network (IFCN)," Information Technology Department – Category: Information Technology***

Alameda County's Information Technology Department (ITD) in partnership with the Social Services Agency (SSA) successfully redesigned and launched a web-based Integrated Fraud Communication Network (IFCN) application to bring efficiencies to the investigation process and to retire a 20 year old legacy mainframe application used by the SSA Program Integrity Division (PID). Alameda County assists more than 52,000 people who receive CalWORKs (assistance for families with children), CalFresh and General Assistance monthly. The PID unit protects the interests of those in genuine need and conserves taxpayer resources by detecting, deterring, and prosecuting fraud from those who obtain public aid they are not entitled to. The IFCN application gets a quarterly feed from the State on potential fraud cases. The application then collates supporting data from several ancillary systems and presents it to the investigator as a dashboard. This minimizes the processing time and reduces possible errors in the investigation. The application also presents all pertinent current and historical data

related to a case, thereby reducing the need for printing and storing historical artifacts. Having the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data in a secure application instead of paper files makes the entire business process around investigation more secure.

Due to social distancing measures, there will not be an in-person Achievement Awards Luncheon this year.

Please visit www.naco.org for a complete list of the 2020 NACo Achievement Award Winners.

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