

Health Leadership Program

Class VII News

Spring 2008

Class VII graduates celebrate their success at spring ceremony

*Anthony Iton, director and
public health officer of the
Alameda County Public
Health Department, addresses
the graduating class.*



Family, friends and colleagues joined 26 Health Leadership Class VII fellows to celebrate their success as they graduated on April 4 at Sierra Health Foundation. A joyful exuberance marked the ceremony and following reception. In comments to the graduates, President Chet Hewitt stated that Sierra Health Foundation has high expectations of these outstanding individuals as they continue their work as leaders dedicated to improving health and quality of life in their communities.

Guest speaker Anthony Iton, director and public health officer of the Alameda County Public Health Department, gave a powerful presentation to guests and graduates on the causes of disparities in health across communities. Dr. Iton was an advisor to and is featured in the PBS documentary series *Unnatural Causes*, which explores racial and socioeconomic inequalities in health.

Representing her fellow Class VII graduates, Lourdes González spoke eloquently about the program as an inspiring, rewarding and transforming experience. She also expressed gratitude to USC and Sierra Health on behalf of her colleagues for this valuable opportunity.

The Health Leadership alumni, represented by Wendy Greene (Class IV) and Bob Herne (Class V), invited the Class VII graduates to join the alumni network and continue their leadership learning and expand their networks. Since 2001, 182 health and social service professionals have successfully completed the Health Leadership Program.



The newest Health Leadership fellows celebrate their graduation.



Alumni continue leadership learning

The Health Leadership alumni meet three times per year to re-establish friendships, reinforce earlier learning, and address new topics to enhance their leadership skills. In the last year, members of Classes I-VI attended a retreat at Grizzly Creek Ranch, Sierra Health's camp in Plumas County, and two events at Sierra Health.

At the retreat in early May, Ron Gilbert, Ph.D., a member of the program's faculty, returned to work with the group on the Leadership Excellence Assessment (LEA), a process in which each fellow's staff evaluates him or her as a leader. This was a follow-up to the LEA conducted as part of the class curriculum. Dave Landis, former Nebraska state senator and current director of urban development for the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, conducted a workshop on problem-solving negotiation. Alumnae Wendy Greene (Class IV) and Rachel Farrell (Class VI), along with facilitator Francesca Wright, led a discussion on challenges and strategies related to top health care issues in our communities.

Dave Logan, Ph.D., of CultureSync, and a program faculty member, returned once again on the first of a two-day session in January to revisit the subject of "tribal leadership," also the title of his new book. Fellows also had the opportunity for one-on-one consulting time with Dave during the evening. On day two, the group explored the Enneagram with Diane Pendola, co-founder of Eco-Contemplative Center, as a way to understand oneself and one's team. The Enneagram is an ancient Sufi teaching that describes nine different personality types and their interrelationships.

At the September 2007 event, alumni learned and experienced "open space technology," a meeting technique where those present set the agenda, identify topics, and then discuss the issues of personal interest.

Class projects put leadership skills to work



Dream Catcher Collaborative team members Diane Cooper-Puckett, Kay Hudelson, Jane Atkins, Lourdes González and Peter Simpson show their dream catcher after their presentation.

Class VII members presented the work of their project teams during the final three-day class session. As a part of the Health Leadership Program, participants work in small groups to practice new leadership techniques, to learn from one another, and to use and expand their networks and resources to examine issues affecting nonprofit organizations and health concerns in the region. The projects were:

Dream Catcher Collaborative: This team presented its plan for developing a rural collaborative of those with resources and those who need services to increase access to care in a rural part of Shasta County, where services and other health care resources are limited or not available.

Holly Courts Housing Community Resource Project:

To develop healthy families and a stronger community in an affordable housing apartment complex in West Sacramento, this team developed and implemented a plan to integrate professional and community-based knowledge, skills and services for the low-income, multilingual residents.

Fostering Healthy Relationships Between Youth and Law Enforcement:

Through surveys of youth and law enforcement officers in Sacramento, West Sacramento and Woodland, the team assessed the relationship between these two groups and identified best practices and model programs that have shown success in bridging the gap between youth and law enforcement.

Evaluating Sierra Health's REACH Program Improvement Grant Program:

After conducting an assessment of this program that funds community organizations to increase youth participation in quality programs, the team reported an overall positive impact, and recommended continuation of the program to enhance the youth development efforts of nonprofit organizations in the capital region.

Fund Development Plan to Save a Nonprofit Organization:

This team designed a fund development plan to sustain the Multiple Assistance Center in Humboldt County. During the team's presentation it was announced that funding for MAC to continue operations had been found and services will continue.

People

Leaders on the move...

Lupe Alonzo-Diaz

(Class IV) has been named Executive Director of Health Professions Education Foundation, a nonprofit public benefit corporation of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

Maryfrances Collins

(Class VII) has been promoted to Division Manager of Adult Services for the Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services.

Kevin Duggan

(Class V) has taken the position of Chief Development Officer, Mercy Foundation for Mercy Methodist Hospital of Sacramento.

Lori Juszak

(Class I) is an adjunct faculty member teaching a Nonprofit Management Certificate series of courses at Shasta College. She also continues as a trainer with True North, Inc.

Betty Low

(Class III) has joined Mutual Assistance Network of Del Paso Heights as Program Manager of the Community Services Division.

Carl McLaney

(Class II) has been promoted to Deputy Director, Cal-Mortgage Loan Insurance Division for the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

Kim Rhinehelder

(Class VII) has taken the position of Chief Development Officer, Mercy Foundation for Mercy San Juan Medical Center.

Susan Sells

(Class II) is now Prevention/Early Intervention Program Manager for Tuolumne County Behavioral Health.

Ginger Swigart

(Class IV) has joined Sacramento County Office of Education as School Readiness Project Specialist.

Annemarie Vincent

(Class V) is now Senior Policy Manager for Breathe California of Sacramento—Emigrant Trails.



Leadership stories



Class VII graduate Lourdes González shares her experience in the Health Leadership Program.

Reflecting on the Health Leadership class, I can truly say that it has been such an inspiring, rewarding and transforming experience in both my professional and personal life. I felt privileged and honored to work closely with such a group of dedicated and committed individuals while expanding my own potentialities in developing my leadership skills.

Throughout the training, I had the opportunity to reconnect with my core values with an open heart while increasing my self-confidence. The strategic model has been instrumental in keeping myself organized and goal-oriented. My networking capabilities have been enhanced by sharing our stories, therefore creating a sense of community.

The Health Leadership Program offers the opportunity of personal growth by creating a safe environment where the leadership skills find expression through the highest purpose of service. I will always be grateful for this unique Health Leadership class that helped me tremendously in becoming a better individual with a clear vision about my purpose in life.

With many blessings,
María Lourdes González
Class VII

Applications available for Class VIII

The eighth Health Leadership class begins Oct. 14, 2008, with a four-day residential retreat at Grizzly Creek Ranch in Portola in Plumas County. Fourteen days of instruction are scheduled from October through early April. The program brochure and application are available now on Sierra Health's Web site, www.sierrahealth.org. Applications are due to Sierra Health by noon on June 30, 2008.

The most competitive candidates will:

- lead a health or social service nonprofit organization, public agency or department,
- supervise a team of at least three individuals throughout the scheduled leadership program,
- work for a nonprofit organization or public agency that serves one or more counties in Sierra Health's 26-county funding region, and
- demonstrate the capacity to become a vital leader in the community.

Health Leadership class roster

Class VII 2007–08

Daniel Albano

Chief Operating Officer
CommuniCare Health Centers
Davis

Karen Alvord

Executive Director
Lilliput Children's Services
Sacramento

Jane Atkins

Chief Quality Officer
Mayers Memorial Hospital
Fall River Mills

Michele Blake

Public Health Program Coordinator
Sutter County Human
Services—Health
Yuba City

Glynis Butler-Stone

Director of Clinical Services
Children's Receiving Home
of Sacramento
Sacramento

Maryfrances Collins

Division Manager of Adult Services
Yolo County Department of
Employment and Social Services
Woodland

Diane Cooper-Puckett

Executive Director
Peg Taylor Center for
Adult Day Health Care
Chico

Larry Dayton

Program Manager
The Salvation Army Shelter Services
Sacramento

David Dove

Executive Director
Collings Teen Center
West Sacramento

María Lourdes González

Clinical Director
Wild Iris Women's Services
of Bishop, Inc.
Bishop

Daniel Hahn

Captain
Sacramento Police Department
Sacramento

Kay Hudelson

Resource Center Program Director
Golden Umbrella, Inc.
Redding

Adèle James

Program Officer
The California Endowment
Sacramento

Michelle Johnston

Health Promotion Supervisor
UC Davis Cowell
Student Health Center
Davis

Wendy Knowles

Vice President, Operations
Blood Source
Sacramento

Jennifer Long

Executive Director
First 5 Colusa
Colusa

Becca Louisell

Associate Director for
Public Health Programs
California Center for
Civic Participation
Sacramento

Valerie Martinez

Operations, Energy and
Environmental Services Director
Redwood Community
Action Agency
Eureka

Chris McCarty

Director of Community Programs
Sacramento Children's Home
Sacramento

Kim Rhinehelder

Chief Development Officer,
Mercy Foundation
Mercy San Juan Medical Center
Carmichael

Adrian Ruiz

Co-Director
Youth Development Network
Sacramento

Jennifer Savin

Program Director
Community Pride Project
Sacramento

Peter Simpson

Executive Director
Harm Reduction Services, Inc.
Sacramento

Terri Smyth Canillo

Resident Services Program Manager
Community Housing
Opportunities Corporation
Davis

Rogelio Villagrana

Youth Training Coordinator
Woodland Coalition for Youth
Woodland

Kimberly Williams

Chief Executive Officer
Boys and Girls Clubs of
Greater Sacramento
Sacramento



SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION

An Endowment for Northern California

1321 Garden Highway
Sacramento, CA 95833

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Know someone who'd benefit from
the Health Leadership Program?

The Class VIII application is available

online at www.sierrahealth.org

or by calling 916.922.4755.