



COUNTY OF MONTEREY

CAO Weekly Report

In This Edition:

- > How much do you know about tsunamis?
- > DCSS staff challenge = \$
- > Health Department collaboration draws hundreds to discuss cultural, social issue

SPECIALREPORT



Those taking part in the Office of Emergency Services sponsored Tsunami Walk in Seaside stand near the edge of the city's tsunami inundation zone, which is a short distance from city hall.

County Notes

- > Moving? Spring cleaning? Don't dump that old mattress – recycle it. Find out more [here](#).

Tsunami Talk, Tsunami Walk

Are you in the 'Zone?' If you live in Monterey County, there is a good chance you live in or visit an area that is part of the county's Tsunami Zone. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) is upping its efforts this week to make sure residents around the county know about this zone and how to stay safe.

California is marking Tsunami Awareness Week this week, a reminder that tsunamis are not something that happen in countries far, far away. Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties have seen the damage tsunami waves can do, so the goal of OES's tsunami outreach is to call attention to preparedness, safety and what all locals should do if powerful waves strike.

Here are some of the special activities OES took part in this week to focus attention on this topic.

Emergency managers co-hosted a Tsunami Walk with the City of Seaside on Tuesday, March 22nd. Starting at 4 p.m., folks met in the City Chambers to see Seaside introduced as a Tsunami Ready City as well as hear preparedness information. Then, it was out on foot to Canyon Del Rey Boulevard towards the city's tsunami hazard zone sign, which is a short distance from city hall. This gave participants a chance to see how far tsunami waters can come as well as ask questions about safety and evacuations.

Other activities included:

- ~ OES participated in a state-wide communications exercise then an operational area communication exercise with partner cities and response partners
- ~ Emergency managers tested the Alert Monterey County notification system with a small sub-set of subscribers as part of the exercise mentioned above. This practice call was for emergency partners to make sure they'd get the real thing in an emergency
- ~ Tsunami preparedness and response information was widely distributed through the Monterey County Free Libraries System and at the Harbormaster's offices in Monterey and Moss Landing
- ~ Still in progress are efforts with the coastal Operational Area cities to update and finalize their tsunami response and evacuation plans, and tsunami 'playbooks'

You can get information about tsunami preparedness online at www.tsunamizone.org



Cars pass the sign indicating where the inundation zone begins in Seaside.

Families Win with DCSS Staff Challenge

The Department of Child Support Services is known for its many innovative employee challenges. When these workers push for success, families win. The latest challenge showed what's in a name can make a big difference.

Stipulations are agreements reached by both parents with the help of DCSS staff to establish paternity and child support payments. The stipulation becomes a court order without going through a court hearing. Numerous child support studies have shown that parents who enter into these

agreements are more likely to pay their child support on a regular basis. Another important thing to know about stipulations is that they result in faster payments to the family.

As part of the department's 2015 Performance Management Plan to increase child support collections, staff embarked on a campaign to increase support orders obtained through stipulations versus orders obtained through court hearings.

But how to get more stipulations? Why not call them something else?



“We encouraged staff members to start calling them agreements instead of stipulations,” explains Darrell McGowan, Management Analyst, who created the challenge. He says the name change contributed to the success of the campaign. “We provided visual displays, posters, emails, and videos on a weekly basis to promote the name change and encourage staff members to try different techniques to encourage parents to sign an agreement.”

To up the ante, two prizes were offered through the generous donations of several managers: one for the staff member and one for the staff team that obtained the most agreements during the year.

The hard work and encouragement paid off as the department obtained 75 more agreements than the previous year.



Winners of the Agreement Contest: Team 2 members Alexis Robinson, Jackie Enriquez, Shelly Gales, Josie Ramirez, Rocio Fuerte, Tina Marie Enny, Adlanta Skinner and Allie Rojas (above). Individual staff winner Carmen Mendoza (left).

Congratulations to Carmen Mendoza who won the

individual staff award and to the members of Team 2 which took the group prize!

Health Department Gathering Allows Community to Explore Sensitive Topic

The Health Department's screening of a movie focusing on a challenging topic for Latinos who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender resulted in an unexpected turnout of locals wanting to talk about the issue.

The film, *El Canto del Colibri*, explores the relationships between Latino immigrant fathers and their family members who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), including conversations with Latino fathers dealing with issues of immigration, faith, machismo, culture and the process of their LGBT children 'coming out.'

The film was screened at the Maya Cinema last month in Salinas. A panel discussion was organized after the film. What was anticipated to be 100 people coming to the event turned into a crowd of 400, 200 of whom stayed for the discussion.

"It is incredibly humbling to work hard with a talented group of people and be a part of a successful event that you know represents something much bigger than your individual efforts," says Amanda Mihalko, HIV & AIDS Programs Coordinator at the Monterey County Health Department. "To see members of our community who may not have family support feel hundreds of people acknowledging the challenges faced by LGBT folks and celebrating the positive progress, it's powerful."



Members of the LGBT Collaborative at the film event. Standing l-r: Carolina Vasquez, Alberto Salamanca, Cris Salamanca, Marco Castro-Bojorquez, Amanda Mihalko, Anna Rick, Miranda Mossey, Angelica Orozco, Gildardo Morales, Kristina Baker and Miguel Juarez. Kneeling l-r: Elizabeth Ambriz, Bamby Salcedo, José Alberto Pérez and Lisa Cisneros.

The showing of the film and panel was a collaborative effort initiated by the LGBT Collaborate which includes members from Monterey County Public Health, California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), the Epicenter, Urban Arts Collaborative, MILPA, Community Human Services and Rainbow Speakers among others.

The panel discussion included the documentary director, a father and son featured in the film, a national transgender activist and filmmaker plus a local family doing LGBT advocacy in Salinas.

The Monterey County LGBT Collaborative is a coalition which was established to improve services for LGBT people in Monterey County.