Gutierrez Leaves a Legacy

The commitment to public service for 33 years is a legacy in its own right, but Dr. Cathy Gutierrez is also leaving a legacy of firsts as she retires from the Health Department, firsts which have made our community a better place.

Gutierrez is retiring as a Deputy Director of Behavioral Health but she began her County career as a recreational therapist and during her tenure, she successfully promoted through the ranks while earning a doctorate degree.
in Psychology. During her decades of service, she has served the county’s most vulnerable residents, championed changes to improve services in underserved areas and been the ‘heart and soul’ of the Behavioral Health Bureau through her care and support of her colleagues when they needed it most.

Third District Supervisor Chris Lopez joined in as Gutierrez received a County resolution in her honor this week.

“Cathy is an absolute champion for southern Monterey County - she moved mountains to bring mental health care to King City and Soledad and her legacy will live on long after her professional role is complete,” says Lopez. “She was a role model for equity before it was a buzz word and continues to carry our community in her heart. I know her legacy will continue to have an impact through the minds, spirits and actions of the people she mentored, like me.”

Gutierrez was born and raised in south Monterey County and some of her ‘firsts’ will have a lasting impact there. She oversaw the opening the first full-time Behavioral Health clinics there starting with King City in 2007, Soledad in 2013 and a satellite clinic in Gonzales in 2015. Her work on the Proposition 47 funded “No Zip Code Left Behind” project brought a $6 million grant to fund substance use residential treatment services to South County and under her leadership, substance abuse services and funding were dramatically expanded throughout the county. As she received her resolution, Gutierrez thanked her county co-workers, mentors and family for their support.

“I stand on the shoulders of my grandmother who worked in the fields and my mother, strong assertive women who showed me I could work and go to school,” she said. “It has been an honor to serve the families, children and adults of Monterey County.”

Aloha Cathy!
Alicia Cox Honored as Investigator

Congratulations to District Attorney Investigator (DAI) Alicia Cox, who has been named 2018 Investigator of the Year for the District Attorney’s Office.

Cox was honored for her notable work in the Real Estate Fraud Unit says District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni. Her investigations have uncovered multiple state-wide fraud cases that required the involvement of state and federal agencies, leading to the creation of the Financial Crimes Task Force with the District Attorney and the FBI.

“DAI Cox is an outstanding example of what we expect from our investigators and is highly deserving of this nomination,” says Pacioni, who notes Cox has earned a strong reputation as a reliable and skilled investigator among the FBI and other agencies.

Cox has been with the District Attorney’s Office for 11 years, coming to the office from the Soledad Police Department where she was an officer and worked in the Detective Unit. Her first assignment as an investigator was with the Special Investigations Unit which focuses on welfare fraud. She has also worked on the Environmental and Consumer Fraud Units before her current assignment with the Real Estate Fraud Unit and Digital Forensic Lab.

“The majority of my time here has been spent working in the fraud units,” says Cox. “Working fraud is a great challenge as these types of cases are very intensive and can take years to uncover. Often times, it’s like finding a needle in a haystack. All the different fraud units require a new learning curve as each type of fraud is different.”

What are Cox’s most challenging cases? The ones she is working on right now she says.

Contracts/Purchasing Shares Expertise

The Contracts/Purchasing Division had some visitors last week, colleagues from a neighboring county who heard about our home grown Contracts/Purchasing Academy.
Representatives from the San Mateo County Procurement Department came for an overview of the academy.

They heard about the program earlier this year during the annual California Association of Public Procurement Officials (CAPPO) conference held in Sacramento and wanted to know how Monterey County trains staff who work with procurement.

In case you did not know, our County academy is one, if not the, most talked about procurement training tool in the state and gaining national and international recognition.

Contracts/Purchasing Officer Mike Derr gave the group an overview of the academy and how it has positively impacted the overall procurement process here.

San Mateo staff members were so impressed they will be attending one of the upcoming Instructor Led Training (ILT) classes during the next academy cohort, and they aren’t the only interested County. The San Joaquin County Procurement Department is also sending selected staff to attend an upcoming academy ILT class.

As mentioned above, the next Contracts/Purchasing Academy for County staff begins April 8th. You must register through LDN for this course. Seats are limited, so if you are interested in attending, talk to your supervisors and register soon!