Probation Staff, Work Celebrated

They are an integral part of both criminal justice and rehabilitation but too often overlooked, says Monterey County Supervisor and retired Judge John Phillips.

But not this week.

Tuesday, Supervisor Phillips presented a resolution marking Probation Services Week. Phillips told the crowd of times he came before Supervisors when he was on the bench, advocating against budget cuts for Probation.

“I told the Board at the time that I could make any ruling I wanted but it wouldn’t make a difference unless there was Probation making sure
sentences were complied with and young people had a chance to turn their lives around.”

The resolution marking Probation Services Week highlights the important work done by this department. Probation provides supervision and rehabilitation for adult and juvenile offenders using research-based approaches to public safety that promote positive behavior change. More than just monitoring, Probation strives to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism and promote healthy families and communities.

In accepting the resolution, Chief Parsons shared what is working, and why.

“I would be remiss if I didn’t take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work Probation has done over the past 12 years to dramatically reduce juvenile incarceration and to effectively manage two new populations of adult and juvenile offenders previously managed by the State,” says Parsons. “We believe in partnerships: we partner with juveniles and their families to divert them out of the juvenile justice system; with adult offenders on their path to rehabilitation, reunification and re-entry into society and with county agencies and community organizations to ensure that clients have access to the best possible support and services.”

Parsons made a special point to call out the many staff members who had come for the presentation.

“Most of all I want to thank you,” she said. “You are the ones who do the work day in and day out. I have the best Probation staff in the State of California here in Monterey County.”

And turning to the Supervisors she said with a smile, “I do hope you appreciate that.” The answer was the heartfelt applause as Probation staff stood to be recognized.

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**Elder Justice Summit Focuses on Well Being for Seniors**

The Area Agency on Aging, a part of the Department of Social Services Aging and Adult Services Branch, brought more than 120 professionals and community members together for its 3rd annual Elder Justice Summit.
The rise of isolation and loneliness among seniors and its impact on elder abuse provided the theme for the event, “Staying Engaged as We Age.”

The summit was held at Seaside’s Oldemeyer Center. Attendees were welcomed by the Mayor of Seaside and many representatives from local, state and federal legislators were also on hand. Throughout the day, attendees could also visit a resource fair featuring 18 participating agencies.

Dr. Patrick Arbore, Director of the Institute on Aging’s Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief Related Services, provided the keynote: “Loneliness and Isolation in Serving Adult Populations.”

Arbore shared recent data on trends related to isolation and overall health risks for those experiencing loneliness. Did you know that an individual experiencing loneliness has the same impact on health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day? Or that loneliness and isolation can make an individual increasingly vulnerable to abuse?

One solution? Connectedness. To emphasize his point, Dr. Arbore ended his talk by asking attendees to walk around the room, make eye contact and say “hello” to one another.

The summit also featured a panel discussion with local agencies sharing ways their programs are reaching out into the community and afternoon breakout sessions which focused on Cultivating Community Enthusiasm, Generation “Network,” Making Your Voice Heard and Isolation Task Force. Along with discussions, participants developed action steps on the subjects.

At the end of the day, attendees filled out commitment cards; organizers are hoping to maintain interest in the summit’s important topics. If you would like to know more about the issues discussed at the summit, contact Allison Yant at yanta@co.monterey.ca.us

Monterey County Administrative Office
Natividad Acute Rehabilitation Center Earns Double High Rankings

Natividad’s Sam Karas Acute Rehabilitation Center has recently received high marks from not one but two highly regarded industry ratings programs.

First, Natividad got word its facility has been ranked in the top 10% of inpatient rehabilitation facilities in the nation for the second year in a row by the Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation, the world’s largest medical rehabilitation database.

Then the Center was once again recognized as a top-performing facility by Kindred Healthcare, ranking at number one in three of five measured Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) out of approximately 100 Kindred hospital-based acute rehab units.

Natividad’s Acute Rehabilitation Center currently operates at a 95% occupancy rate and has a discharge to home rate of 83%, surpassing the benchmark of 75%.

“We truly appreciate the work and commitment of the Center’s doctors, nurses, therapists, social workers, dietitians and other health specialists in establishing an outstanding clinical program,” said Program Director Michelle Toderick. “Because of them, Natividad provides the highest level of rehabilitative care in Monterey County and our patients see remarkable results.”