



## IN THIS EDITION of the North Valley Hills Connection...

- Farewell to Family Resource Network- Executive Director- Ann Cirimele
- CHOICES 2016 Conference a HIT!
- National Core Indicators (NCI) Quality Assessment Update
- SCDD Legislation Positions Support List
- Dental Services Information from Rinaldi Surgery Center, LLC
- Competitive Integrated Employment Success Stories- DDS Consumer Corner
- THE CHATTER by the Self Advocacy Council 6
- Self Advocacy Council 6 next AREA MEETING information
- SCDD/North Valley Hills Resource list
- Transportation Resources list for all 5 counties
- Upcoming Events:
  1. 7/22/16- Arc of Amador & Calaveras 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Talent Show
  2. 9/21/16- Regional Center Fair Hearings- Improving Your Chance of Successful Outcomes- speaker-Katie Hornberger – Director of Office of Clients’ Rights Advocacy, Disability Rights California (flyer in Spanish also)
  3. 10/3/16- Best Practices in the Education of Children with Down Syndrome
  4. 10/8/16- Multicultural Health & Community Fair



## North Valley Hills Connection

SUMMER EDITION 2016

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Web: <http://scdd.ca.gov/northvalleyhills.htm>

The SCDD/North Valley Hills  
Protects the rights  
of persons with  
Intellectual and developmental  
disabilities  
in Amador, Calaveras,  
San Joaquin, Stanislaus  
And Tuolumne counties

### ***An Open Letter of Appreciation to Ann Cirimele Executive Director of Family Resource Network***

Dear Ann,

I am writing this letter to thank you for all you do every day to improve the lives and strengthen the families of the people we serve. You are a steadfast and resourceful advocate for families, parents, children and adults in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. You are an inspired and motivating teacher who shares her knowledge with those who seek it. You are an organizer, an innovator and a complete collaborator in the many activities you undertake.

But Ann, I also appreciate your determination and commitment to the task at hand I think well illustrated by the events surrounding the IEP training our agencies presented in Turlock last fall. (Continued on Neil's news - page 2)

#### **Regional Advisory Committee Members**

**Amador County**  
Vacant

**Calaveras County**  
Ericka Yanez

**San Joaquin County**  
Karen Andersen  
Virginia Sanchez  
Arthur Valdez  
Paula Weihrouch

**Stanislaus County**  
Kilolo Brodie  
Gary Del Nero

**Tuolumne County**  
Jill Ames  
Brad Putz, Chair

**Governor Appointee to SCDD**  
Kerstin Williams  
San Joaquin County

#### **Staff**

Dena Hernandez, Regional Manager  
Neil Fromm, CPS II  
George Lewis, QA Coordinator/CPS II  
Marigene Tacan-Regan, Office Technician



Ann Cirimele-  
Executive Director  
of Family Resource  
Network- giving her  
last IEP Workshop in  
San Joaquin County.  
She retires July in  
2016.



## Neil's News

(Continued from page 1)

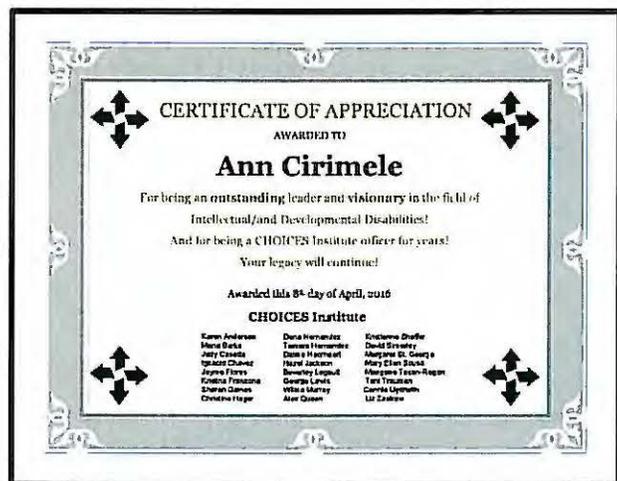
No one was at the Turlock training site to unlock the door of the building and let us in. We waited but no one came except quite a few people who signed up for the training. It looked bad, real bad! But you reassured everyone and started calling places in town and in no time at all, we were all seated at the local pizza parlor/sports bar where you shared your experience and knowledge with anyone willing to listen. Very impressive!

So again thank you Ann, my friend and mentor, for everything you do.

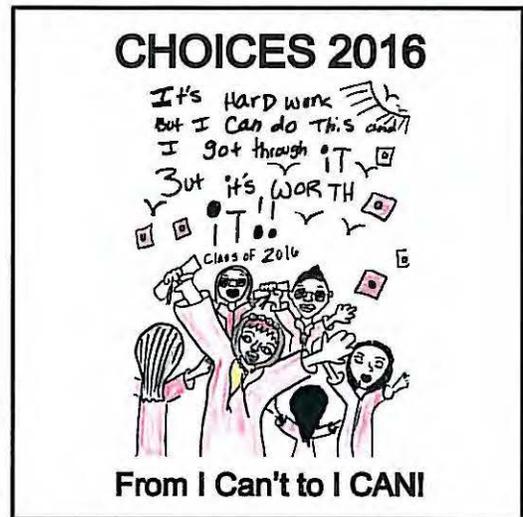
All of us at SCDD/North Valley Hills really appreciate you and will miss you!

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Neil Fromm



The CHOICES Institute also honored Ann as a long standing CHOICES member and a VERY HARD WORKER! She will be missed!



The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual CHOICES conference was one of the largest conferences for the CHOICES Institute! It took place on Friday, April 8, 2016 at the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE)! Participants received a great t-shirt, sack lunch from Panera Bread, musical styling's from **The Advocates**, and heard from several incredible advocates who shared how they went from "I can't to I CAN"! There was also a Legislative Panel at the end of the day!

Kathy Skeels, SJCOE Assistant Superintendent –Special Education/SELPA Director welcomed the crowd! Becky Thornton, self-advocate from the Self Advocacy Council 6 and Dena Hernandez, Regional Manager of SCDD/ North Valley Hills office co-emceed the event!





## National Core Indicators (NCI) Quality Assessment:

In addition, we are conducting a study to better understand the experiences among movers during the first two years of transition. The study, called the Mover Longitudinal Study (MLS) began in January 2016. DDS will survey the first 125 people who consent to participate in the survey.

The surveys will take place at 3 month, 6 month, 1 year, and 2 year intervals after moving. Survey questions will ask individuals and their family about the transition planning process and the individual's life in the community. The MLS will allow DDS to assess the transition process and community services to better support transition in future years.

George Lewis serves as the Quality Assessment Coordinator for the North Valley Hills (Stockton) & Sequoia offices (Fresno).

Please contact George at 473-6930 for more information. Also check out [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov) for a more detailed report of the NCI Quality Assessment Project.



### Where are we now?

Highlights for Fiscal Year (FY) 15/16, the second California NCI Child Family Survey is being mailed to families of children ages 3-18. The survey questions ask families about these areas of life:

-  Life at home
-  Involvement in the community
-  Access and delivery of services and supports
-  Satisfaction of services Choices
-  Decision making and control



We want to hear from you,  is important to us. In spring of 2016, we also begin the sixth adult consumer survey of individuals who have moved from developmental centers to the community (movers). A sample of individuals who have moved to the community in the last 5 years and all individuals who moved from Lanterman Developmental Center will be surveyed.

2016



## Assembly Bills (AB) – Support

- AB 488 – Gonzalez, Employment Discrimination\*
- AB 1553 – Irwin, Qualified ABLE Program
- AB 2091 – Lopez, Special Education: IEP Translation Services
- AB 2785 – O'Donnell, Special Education: English Learners: Manual
- AB 2809 – Rodriguez, Developmental Services: Regional Centers



## Senate Bills (SB) – Support

- SB 1024 – Hancock, Developmental Services: Supported Employment\*
- SB 1072 – Mendoza, School Bus Safety\*\*
- SB 1221- Hertzberg, Firefighters: Interaction with Mentally Disabled Persons
- SB 1252 – Stone, Health Care Costs: Patient Notification



## Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) - Support

- SCR 98 – Beall, California's community-based developmental services system: 50th anniversary.

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# Rinaldi Surgery Center, LLC

April 18, 2016

This letter is being sent to inform all **families, care-providers, social workers and team members** of the **Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC)** of a new dental program. This program is especially designed for **Patients with Special Needs**. A partnership has been established between **Brian S. Adams, DDS, Rinaldi Surgery Center, VMRC and the Health Plan of San Joaquin** to develop a Dental Home for the many Patients with Special Needs that live within the five counties that are served by the VMRC.

The initial part of this program is to offer dental care under general anesthesia, to those consumers that require that specialized type of care. As we all understand, it has been very difficult to arrange this type of care. With a single phone call to the **Dental Surgery Center, located at Rinaldi's Surgery Center**, these consumers can now arrange for biannual dental visits. If the consumer has Medi-Cal through the managed care program of the Health Plan of San Joaquin, the facility fees are covered through the health plan. The dental care that is allowed by the Denti-Cal program is also covered by that aspect of the consumer's insurance continuum. It simply takes a single phone call to start the process. Please understand that this is a pilot program, but we are looking forward to it being a permanent part of our community. Consumers that need this type of special care will no longer have to drive to San Francisco or to Atwater to have their dental care completed. If you are interested in this program please simply speak with **Hazel Velazquez, Patient Coordinator, Dental Surgery Center** to start the process. Call **209-323-3488** and ask to be referred to the Dental Program. Hazel will get back to you right away.

This **Dental Surgery Center** program has been in the developmental stages for over a year and as of May 19, 2016 it will become a reality.

I would like to thank all of the wonderful people that are making this a dream come true but it would take a much longer letter. I will simply thank all of you for taking advantage of this great addition to our community.

Thanking you in advance of any response.

Brian S. Adams, DDS  
Dental Surgery Center Program Director  
Rinaldi Surgery Center  
10200 Trinity Parkway, Suite 101  
Stockton, CA 95219  
209-323-3488

State of California

*Department of Developmental Services*

## Competitive Integrated Employment Success Stories

The State's Employment First Policy, established in the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Act), is designed to further the availability of services and supports for persons to achieve more independent and productive lives, and support integration into community life.

[Learn more about the Employment First Policy!](#)

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed by President Obama in July 2015, is designed to strengthen America's workforce.

[Learn more about WIOA!](#)

In WIOA and in the Employment First Policy, "competitive, integrated employment" (CIE) is an optimal outcome.

CIE is full-time or part-time work at minimum wage or higher, with wages and benefits similar to those without disabilities performing the same work, and fully integrated with co-workers.

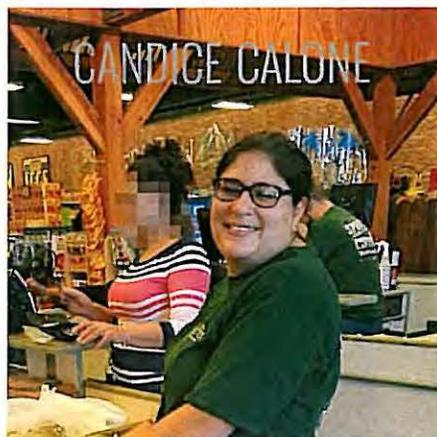
[Learn more about CIE!](#)

Recognized in the following Success Stories are individuals who have succeeded in obtaining CIE. Their stories are provided to not only highlight their individual accomplishments, but to also offer, in an educational and instructional format, the specific steps taken to achieve their accomplishments. We hope that these stories will help you see the variety of ways people achieve their CIE career goals.



If you would like to share your story, please click the **"Share Your Story!"** button and send your name, email address, and phone number to the Work Services Section.

We will follow up with you.





# CHATTER

The Self Advocacy Council 6 Chatter | Spring, 2016

## CHOICES Conference

Over 500 people attended the 29th Annual CHOICES Conference held at the San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton.

This year, the theme was "From I Can't to I CAN!" Panelists from around the community shared their "I CAN!" stories.

"Every year it just gets better," said SAC 6 member Jayme Florez. "Everyone got emotional the stories were so good."

The Self Advocacy Council 6 is one of the co-sponsors of the event.

Among the panelists was Joe Delgado, an athlete who participated in the Special Olympic World Games.

"Joe is on my swim team," said Conference attendee Jennifer Evje. "He's got everything I want. He lives on his own, he has a good new job, he has a nice girlfriend, and he can swim faster than me."

"I liked the singing by the Advocates," said Ron Mosser, who also attended the event. "I got up and danced."

see *CHOICES* page 2



*The Self Advocacy Council 6*

## Pacific Alliance Conference

by Lisa Utsey

During the month of August I attended a five day conference in Seattle Washington hosted by PADS (Pacific Alliance on Disability Self Advocacy). PADS is a project that works to strengthen Self Advocacy. It has been around for 2 years. At this conference, I learned about fundraising, social media, online technology, running a self advocacy organization and healthy facilitator boundaries.

I flew to Seattle from Sacramento with my facilitator. We were met at the airport by other advocates. We stayed on Pacific

see *Alliance* page 2

*CHOICES continued**Alliance continued*

The Advocates are a cover band featuring performers with disabilities.

Panelist Herb Hastings, who has done a lot of public speaking, inspired SAC 6 member Diana Powell who is working on her presentation skills.

"I listened to everything he had to say so I can learn to say it right," she said.

The SAC 6 made a short video for the Legislative Panel talking about concerns and issues affecting our community, such as jobs, affordable housing, transportation, and regional center services.

Beverley Legault, who was among the many panelists that day sharing their stories, turned her hobby into her own business, *Bev's Bracelets and More*.

"I really liked Bev and how she got a business going," said Florez. "That was a real I can do that story."

Other panelists included Marilyn Pipa, an office aid for Valley Mountain Regional Center and Scott Barron, who is a Peer Advocate for the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy.

The CHOICES Institute was created with the goal of providing education through an annual conference and training seminars for persons with developmental disabilities, their families, professionals, volunteers, service providers, regional center staff and others.

University Campus. We lived in a dorm for 5 days, ate lunch on a schedule and had to be in the training room on time. It was an experience as if I was really attended Collage. I learned a lot and had a great experience.

On the night before we left my facilitator and I went out to eat. We walked to a local pizzeria and afterwards took a stroll down by the harbor. We found an old anchor that was once used on one of the ships. We also seen a Charlie Brown Christmas Tree that was growing along the trail we were walking on. I had a great experience.



*SAC 6 member Lisa Utsey*

## **Diana Powell**

### **“Gets Connected”**

It takes all year to get ready for the State Wide, and SAC 6 members are part of the network of Self Advocates from throughout California on the Planning Team helping out.



“We did a lot of talking about what we’re going to do,” said SAC 6 member Diana Powell, who is on the State Wide Planning Team. “We even had to talk about the right color for the conference tee-shirt.”

This is the 21st Annual Supported Life State Wide Self Advocacy Conference and this year’s theme, *Get Connected*, is especially fitting, since the Conference is hosting the National Western States Meeting of SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered) at the same time.

The Self Advocacy Council 6 has helped with the State Wide for many years and is known for hosting *The Dating Game*, a popular favorite with attendees. This is Diana’s second year on the Planning Team.

Her presentation, *From Homeless to House Proud*, which addresses the problem of affordable housing, was chosen as one of the Conference’s break out sessions.

“My session is about the homeless and it’s a true story about what happened to me,” she explained.

“I’m going to be up on stage, so I hope I don’t get scared or embarrassed, but I want people to understand what I went through and make sure other homeless people don’t need to be going through what I did.”

# Self Advocacy Council 6 Area Meeting



FRIDAY  
AUGUST 5  
TURNER PARK  
SAN ANDREAS  
10 am - 2 pm

DRAIL  
Disability Rights CA  
Office of Clients' Rights  
SCDD  
Jerry's Dance Party  
Chili Dogs & Nachos



## A FEW resources the North Valley Hills Office shared with our communities in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne recently ...

Family Resource Network

[www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)

Independent Living Center

[www.drail.org](http://www.drail.org)

Individual Advocacy support

Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy- 1-800-390-7032

[www.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)

Home and Community Based Settings (HCBS)

[www.dhcs.ca.gov](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov)

[www.medicaid.gov](http://www.medicaid.gov)

Legislation Information

[www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

Self Advocacy

Self Advocacy Council 6 (SAC6) - 1-888-960-2416 or 209-594-1476

Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN) – [www.scdd.ca.gov/selfadvocacy](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/selfadvocacy)

Self Determination Program

[www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov)

[www.scdd.ca.gov/selfdetermination](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/selfdetermination)

[www.vmrc.net](http://www.vmrc.net)

Transportation - See Transportation flyer included in this e-newsletter

# Transportation Resources



Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties

## Amador County:

Amador County Transit- (209) 267-9395

<http://amadortransit.com/site/pages/home.cgi>

Amador Rides-Call (209) 267-9395

[http://amadortransit.com/site/pages/tips\\_1.cgi](http://amadortransit.com/site/pages/tips_1.cgi)



## Calaveras County:

Calaveras County Transit- (209) 754-4450

<http://transit.calaverasgov.us/>

Calaveras Common Ground-Call (209) 223-3015

<http://www.commongroundseniorservices.org/home/>



## San Joaquin County:

211 San Joaquin- Call 211 or call 1-800-436-9997.

<http://www.211sj.org/>

## **San Joaquin Regional Transit District-**

**RTD:** call Hopper/Dial-A-Ride Service

(209) 955-8400, or call General Information (209) 943-1111 or 1-800-HOW-TO-RIDE (469-8674)

<http://www.sanjoaquinrtd.com/>

**Lodi Dial a Ride- Grapeline:** (209) 333-6806

<http://www.lodi.gov/transit/dial-a-ride.html>



HOPPER



INTERCITY



METRO



COMMUTER



# Transportation

## Resources



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*Stanislaus Regional Transit*

### Stanislaus County:



211 Stanislaus- Call 211 or call 1-877-211-7826

<http://www.icarol.info/PublicResourceDirectoryFrm.aspx?org=2289>

**MOVE**-Travel Training, Bridges (Volunteer provided transportation for individuals who cannot utilize public transportation. Mileage reimbursement provided) Call

(209) 522-2300

<http://www.movestanislaus.org/>

Modesto Area Express (MAX)-Call (209) 521-1274

<http://www.modestoareaexpress.com/>

Stanislaus Regional Transit (StaRT)-Call 1-800-262-1516

<http://www.srt.org/>

Ceres Area Transit (CAT)-Call (209) 527-4991

<http://www.ci.ceres.ca.us/CeresAreaTransit/CAT.html>

Bus Line Service of Turlock (BLST)-Call (209) 668-5600

<http://www.ci.turlock.ca.us/citydepartments/developmentservices/transitservices/blastbus/>



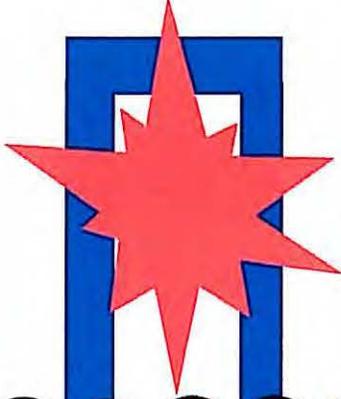
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### Tuolumne County:



Tuolumne County Transit-Call (209) 532-0404

<http://www.tuolumnecountytransit.com/>



**FRIDAY, JULY 22 @ 1:00PM**

**JACKSON RANCHERIA**  
CASINO & HOTEL

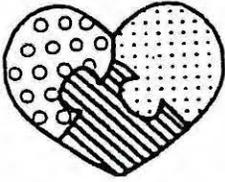
**Grand Oak Ballroom**

**A R C P L A Y E R S**

*9th Annual*  
**TALENT SHOW**  
**Las Vegas Style Revue**



**\$2 admission donation accepted**  
**All donations support The Arc's Music Program**  
**The Arc supports people in our community with disabilities.**  
**For more information call 209-267-5978.**



Family Resource Network



State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
North Valley Hills

VALLEY  
MOUNTAIN  
REGIONAL  
CENTER



Valley Mountain Regional Center

Invites you to this informative presentation!

## **Regional Center Fair Hearings – Improving Your Chance of Successful Outcomes**

**Speaker: Katie Hornberger, Director**  
Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy, Disability  
Rights California

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016**  
**Presentation 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

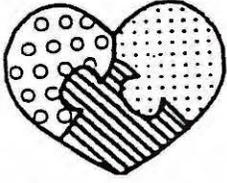
**San Joaquin County**  
**Office of Education**  
2707 Transworld Drive  
Greenwood 3 Room  
**Stockton, CA 95206**  
**(There is plenty of free parking available)**

This presentation is intended for adults with disabilities or family members with a child or adult with a developmental disability. It will give an opportunity to learn about the Fair Hearing Process through the Regional Center, where to find further information, and the implications of SB 555 (Regional Center's duty to provide information and services in your native language) & SB 468 (Self-Determination Program).

This presentation is free of charge, but RSVPs are required.

To RSVP, please call 209-473-6930  
or email: [marigene.tacan-regan@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:marigene.tacan-regan@scdd.ca.gov) and provide your name,  
email address, and phone number. Space is limited. If you need any  
special accommodations, please let us know beforehand.

Please share flyer with others who may be interested!



Family Resource Network



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

North Valley Hills

VALLEY  
MOUNTAIN  
REGIONAL  
CENTER



Valley Mountain Regional Center

Les invita a esta presentación informativa

**Audiencias Imparciales del Centro Regional – Mejorando sus probabilidades de obtener resultados exitosos**

**Horador: Katie Hornberger, Director**  
**Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy, Disability Rights California**

**Sept 21, 2016**  
**Presentación 6:30 p.m. a 8:30 p.m.**  
**Oficina de Educación**  
**Condado de San Joaquin**  
**2707 Transworld Drive Greenwood 3 Room**  
**Stockton, CA 95206**  
**(Hay suficiente estacionamiento gratuito)**

Esta presentación está destinada para adultos con discapacidades o para los miembros de familia con un niño o un adulto con una discapacidad del desarrollo. Le dará la oportunidad de aprender sobre el proceso de audiencia a través del Centro Regional, dónde encontrar más información, así como las implicaciones de SB555 (el deber del Centro Regional de proporcionar información y servicios en su lengua materna) y el SB 468 (Programa de autodeterminación).

Esta presentación es gratuita, pero es necesario que reserve su lugar.

Para confirmar su asistencia, por favor llame al 209-473-6930 o por correo electrónico: [marigene.tacan-regan@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:marigene.tacan-regan@scdd.ca.gov) y de su nombre, dirección de correo electrónico y número de teléfono. El espacio es limitado. Si necesita arreglos especiales, por favor háganoslo saber de antemano.

Por favor, comparta este volante con otras personas que puedan estar interesadas!



# SAVE *the* DATE

October 3, 2016

Presents  
2nd Annual Conference

## Best Practices in the Education of Children with Down Syndrome

San Joaquin County Office of Education • 2707 Transworld Drive • Stockton, CA 95206



### SPEAKERS

- Patti McVay, a Partner in Down Syndrome Unites – Championing All Disabilities and has served as the Director of Education at the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome in Colorado, which focuses on significantly improving the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome. She has worked as a Special Education Director in California, was recognized as a Partner in the Special Education Research Organization in Hokkaido, Japan and in 2011 and received the Global Down Syndrome Foundation Award of Excellence in Education.
- Laurie Pahl, a Partner in Down Syndrome Unites – Championing All Disabilities, has a strong background in child centered training, in class technical training and school team coaching. She has expertise in emergency preparedness and assists school districts prepare for and respond to crisis situations for students with developmental disabilities.

### CONFERENCE TOPICS

#### Keys to Student Success in Inclusive Settings

- Tools for increasing student participation with typical peers
- Tools for increasing student success in general education
- Process for making curriculum accommodations
- Importance and power of visual tools
- Key elements of positive behavior planning
- Hands-on activities for brainstorming, co-operative planning and work
- Identification of takeaways – know who you will enlist and what you will practice tomorrow



### Conference Supporters



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
Wanda Farinelli-Mikita  
209.915.6612  
deltaflower@sbcglobal.net

# Multicultural Health & Community Fair

Saturday

October 8, 2016

10am to 2pm

**FREE ADMISSION**

Normandy Village Shopping Center

7908 N West Lane, 95210

Come meet the people servicing  
you and our community!!!

Fun for  
ALL  
AGES!!!

\*Over 40 Booths

\*Raffle Baskets

\*Health Education

\*Nutrition Info

\*Community  
Resources

Entertainment  
from many  
cultures:

-Dancing

-Singing

-Music

-Rapping

-Poetry

& more...



Find us on Facebook at  
[facebook.com/mehfair15](https://www.facebook.com/mehfair15)

