Brighton Greens Tour of Integration

As we have mentioned before, the Business and Career Network moved to a new building with seven other agencies back in February. As all the agencies were settling in, the need for integration of services became apparent. In order to serve the clients better, the building employees must first be aware of what services the other agencies can provide the clients with. This is how the idea of Brighton Greens Tour of Integration was born.

The tour involved every employee in the building, in the fun activities associated with the tour. From decorating each section, to conducting and attending the tours everyone had something to do. Each department performed a number of tours – informational presentations that explained their mission, programs, and the impact that their program had on our client’s lives. Each department chose a theme and used it to decorate and present their department in a fun way.

The agencies that are housed within the Brighton Greens complex are; Children’s Behavioral Health, Child Support Services, Child’s Protective Services, Women Infant and Children (WIC), Employment and Eligibility portion of Nevada County Department of Social Services, Veteran Services and last but not least, the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (Business and Career Network). Presentations also streamlined the referral processes between agencies and highlighted the importance and effectiveness of ‘warm hand off ’which involves the employees from one agency “walking” the client over to a specific person within the other agency to ensure no client is left on his/her own to access the services. Warm hand off’ s get the most success as they ensure every client is provided with the help they need right away.
Alliance for Workforce Development partners with our local Chambers of Commerce so it is important for our face and name to be a presence at events that are important to the community as a whole. Program Manager Kristine Farrell and Business Service Representative Wendy Sweeney attended the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Breakfast and 107th Annual Board Installation. The Greater Grass Valley Chamber was established in 1910, a fact that its members are very proud of. The breakfast installation was attended by more than 100 business owners, community agencies and friends of the Greater Grass Valley Chamber. Splendid Holiday Décor adorned the Foothill Event Center walls and tables, and breakfast was catered by Atria Senior Living. Representatives from Assemblyman Brian Dahle, Congressman Doug LaMalfa and Senator Ted Gaines’ offices presented Certificates of Recognition to Chamber representative and members of the community.

Alliance for Workforce Development is proud to be an active member of the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce and is excited to help bring in new businesses to the Nevada County area.
Training to Employment in Truckee

The start of the winter season along with the start of new careers is happening at the Truckee office in Nevada County. One client in particular, David Williams, is attending Security & Firearms Academy Inc., to become an Armed Advanced Security Officer for Federal and State Buildings. David is a Navy Veteran and has been long term unemployed. Due to Alliance For Workforce Development’s assistance he is moving down his career pathway to his dream career. David has already received a job offer from LG&P Security Services that holds contracts for State and Federal Buildings. This January after completion of the Academy, David will receive his State Guards and Fire Arms license and he will start employment working for LG&P Security. Without Alliance for Workforce Developments assistance David would not of been able to enroll and attend Guard training to receive his Guard Card and find employment in this field. We are excited to help a Truckee resident with not only obtaining training but also finding employment in Truckee! Way to go David!
Reentry Solutions: People, Programs and Policy. 2016 Conference

This year Nevada County Business & Career Network (Alliance for Workforce Development AFWD) Youth Career Center Advisor Gem Platte, along with the AFWD Youth Program Manger Heather Alexander and Butte County Youth CCA Raechelle Villarreal were able to attend the second annual Reentry Solutions Conference in Ontario CA. This conference is designed specifically to bring together a dynamic and diverse group to address complex issues around how to best serve justice involved populations as they prepare to leave incarceration.

AFWD specially chose to attend this event because of new legislation (SB 1004) which allocates funding for a pilot program throughout 5 northern California counties. Two of the counties which BCN currently facilitates programs with juvenile hall are participating in this pilot program. SB 1004 will aim to reach a specific TAY (Transition Age Youth) population and allows for a three year pilot program where offenders who meet specific criteria will reside in juvenile hall instead of county jail. This diversion program is designed to prevent offenders from being housed with ‘more sophisticated’ criminal populations with the hopes of improving recidivism outcomes and improving reentry success. Some of the services offered to SB 1004 participants will include cognitive behavioral therapy, moral recognition therapy, mental health therapy, educational services and vocational training.

Among many informational breakout sessions, staff attended ‘Getting Back to Work: Overcoming Employment Barriers’ with a panel that included moderator Tim Rainey, Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board and panelists Joseph Paul of SHIELDS, Michael Grass-Weisner of Chrysalis and Adrian Vasquez of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. The members of this panel took on challenging barriers facing individuals today, such as procurement of I-9 documents required to become legally employed, vocational training and certifications, housing, childcare, medical healthcare, legal assistance and more. Mr. Rainey provided an enlightening overview of programmatic solutions and funding to alleviate some of these barriers as well as labor market and training goals.

By delivering vocational training, job readiness, soft skills and removing barriers, AFWD is playing a vital role specifically in the reentry efforts to aide those who are currently incarcerated as well as those who have a criminal record. Having specific awareness of the challenges that justice involved youth face allows staff to assist in an informed and effective manner.
Sierra College Career and Internship Fair in Grass Valley!

On December 2nd, 2016, Sierra College held a Career and Internship Fair on the Nevada County campus in Grass Valley, CA. Both Sierra College students and students from the local high schools, as well as job seekers from the general public were in attendance. Represented at the fair were employers from high tech companies, nonprofits, county agencies, senior care, personnel services, construction, private small businesses, and others.

Career Center Advisor, Kali Steele, Career Center Advisor, Gem Platte, and Business Services Representative, Wendy Sweeney, represented the Nevada County Business and Career Network (Alliance for Workforce Development-AFWD), they had a table at the fair to promote AFWD’s services in the local area. Staff publicized workshops and other services, gathered referrals for both youth and adults, and had the opportunity to network with community partners.

Staff also made a connection with the Center for Autism & Related Disorders, an organization that is expanding into the area, and arranged to post their upcoming employment opportunities on the Nevada County Business and Career Network job board to help them fill their open positions. The fair presented a perfect opportunity to make the AFWD services more accessible to the community.
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics

Nevada County
Total Visitors
2778

Nevada County
Business Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>1355</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positions Filled</td>
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AFWD
Total Clients
Enrolled: 504

Unemployment Rate
(As of: 11/30/2016)

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<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>Modoc</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra</td>
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