

The CAO Weekly Report

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Monterey County Administrative Office

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- District Attorney DUI Team receives funding
- Health Department celebrates homegrown leadership academy graduates
- Alert Monterey County test a success



Grant Continues Support for District Attorney DUI Prosecution Team



Those arrested for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) in Monterey County, especially repeat offenders and those involved in fatal or injury crashes, can expect to face highly trained, specialized prosecutors thanks to continued grant funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety. The \$414,312 grant to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office funds a Vertical Prosecution Team which works cases from arrest through sentencing.

This the third year of support the Office has received for its team from the Office of Traffic Safety, and this year they received a slight increase over last year's funding.

“Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both is a very serious problem that every year results in the death and injury of innocent motorists and passengers,” says District Attorney Dean Flippo. “This grant lets us focus on the problem and bring those responsible to justice in a more efficient and effective manner.”

Funding from this DUI Prosecution Grant aids the District Attorney's Office in handling cases throughout each step of the criminal process. In fatal and major injury DUI vehicle collisions, members of the team may respond to the crash scene to be part of the investigation.



Deputy District Attorneys Meredith Sillman and Lana Nassoura are currently assigned to the DUI Team. Team members work with the State's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program and receive specialized training, including training in the emerging problem of drug-impaired driving.



Members of the DUI Team:
Deputy District Attorney Lana Nassoura (above) and Meredith Sillman (left).

But what makes this program unique is that these prosecutors must be 'on call' and respond in the field if there is a serious DUI case. They will get a first-hand view of the potential crime, learn what's going on in the field and participate in every aspect of the case. In turn, they will be able to share with officers what is needed to make an effective court case. Team members will share information with peers and law enforcement personnel throughout the county and across the state.

The purpose of the program is to prevent impaired driving and reduce alcohol and drug-impaired traffic fatalities and injuries. In 2013, there were five deaths and 211 injuries as a result of alcohol involved DUI crashes in Monterey County.

"With this unified training, our department is seeing more successful prosecutions and better cases being put together," explains Managing Deputy District Attorney Ed Hazel. "Ultimately, our aim is to hold people accountable for their actions. We have sent drunk drivers who have hurt or killed people to prison, and we have been able to use those cases as examples to young people in hopes they will avoid getting into the same situation."



Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute Celebrates First Graduates

The Monterey County Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (MEPHLI) is celebrating its charter Cohort I graduates.

On October 7th, the MEPHLI class of 2014-15 Cohort I culminated its 14-month leadership development program with a graduation ceremony recognizing the program's seven participants.

The graduation fulfills a vision by John Ramirez, Director of the Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau and Ric Encarnacion, Assistant Director; both wanted to provide a local leadership academy which would mirror the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (EPHLI). Both Ramirez and Encarnacion are graduates of the EPHLI program.

“Our goal is to establish a learning organization where each member of our Bureau is continually trained to meet the challenges of public health and receives training for personal development to become a future leader,” says Ramirez. “We can't ‘lead the way’ without facilitating staffs' skills to do so.”

MEPHLI was created through the incorporation of locally sourced trainers and resources, including County of Monterey and Salinas City staff which offered training skills and expertise.

Among the goals of the MEPHLI Leadership Academy are to increase the leadership capacity and skills of environmental public health personnel working in diverse settings, promote and improve the environmental public health of communities and develop this Health Department Bureau's future leaders.

Through the program, participants completed an extensive learning and development regime including:

- The SkillScope Development Survey
- Creating a DiSC profile and Change Style Indicator
- Creating a Professional Development Plan
- The Health Department's Core Functions and Ten Essential Services review
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Program

In addition to these elements, an individual project addressing one or more of the Health Department's Ten Essential Services, including a PowerPoint presentation, was required for graduation. Here is a list of the interesting projects presented:

- “*Mold: Public Education & Out Reach*” by Peggy Harris, Supervising Office Assistant II; Supervisor, Office Support Staff



MEPHLI graduates: Bruce Welden, Sandra Tauriac, Peggy Harris, Cheryl Sandoval (back row). Teresa Rios, Susan Rimando, Jonabel Perez (front row).

- *“The Role of a Balanced Budget in the Effective Delivery of Environmental Health Services”* by Jonabel Perez, Finance Manager I; Supervisor, Finance Management
- *“Bedbug Control for Shelters”* by Susan Rimando, REHS, Supervisor, Consumer Health Protection Services
- *“Implementation of a Food Scraps Collection Program to Increase Monterey County’s Diversion”* by Teresa Rios, Management Analyst III; Supervisor, Recycling and Resource Recovery Services; Unified Franchise Agreement Contract Administrator
- *“Coordination of Multi-Program Environmental Health Inspections in Remote Areas”* by Cheryl Sandoval, REHS; Supervisor, Drinking Water Protection Services
- *“Developing Informational Advisories that are Both Informative and Understandable by the General Public”* by Sandra Tauriac, REHS; Supervisor, Hazardous Materials Management Services
- *“Building and Enhancing Public/Private Partnerships to Increase Efficiencies and Promote Public Health and Safety”* by Bruce Welden, REHS; Supervisor, Hazardous Materials Management Services

Congratulations graduates!



Alert Monterey County Test A Success; Sign-Ups Hit New Milestone



Thanks to high interest in the annual test of the County’s emergency notification system, sign-ups for cell phones to receive emergency messages from Alert Monterey County has reached a new milestone: 10,667

Last year at this time, there were approximately 6,000 cell phones registered in the notification system. OES staff has been working throughout the year to make the public aware of the need for cell phone registration. Thanks to this continuous outreach and a surge in sign-ups surrounding publicity about the annual notification test this week (between Tuesday and Thursday of this week, there were nearly 1,500 cell phones registered), cell phone sign-ups hit this new high.

Being prepared for an emergency or disaster includes making sure you get the information you need. You can register your cell phone anytime at <http://www.alertmontereycounty.org/>.

