

# MHSA Showcase Webinar

## Overview

### Description

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is hosting two Showcases of exemplary Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs. The MHSA Showcase is an opportunity to prominently feature successful MHSA-funded programs and increase information sharing across counties and mental health plans.

The Showcase presentation will highlight programs that serve **unique populations**.

### Schedule

**Wednesday, September 30, 2020**  
**9:00am – 11:30am (PST)**

9:00am	Opening Remarks
9:00am–9:45am	Santa Clara County
9:45am-10:00am	Q&A
10:00am-10:15am	Break
10:15am-11:00am	Amador County
11:00am-11:15am	Q&A
11:15am-11:30am	Wrap-up

## MHSA Showcase - County Presentations

**9:00am – 9:45am**

**Q&A: 9:45am-10:00am**

### County of Santa Clara's Suicide Prevention (SP) Program

**Mego Lien, MPH, MIA**, Suicide Prevention Manager  
**Jasmine Lopez, MA**, Coordinator - Trainings and Youth

Our presentation will showcase the County of Santa Clara's Suicide Prevention (SP) Program that was developed in 2010 in response to a cluster of suicides that took place in Palo Alto high schools. With the overall goal of reducing and preventing suicides in Santa Clara County, the SP Program applies a comprehensive public health approach, with six associated program objectives that address suicide from all levels of the prevention continuum and socioecological model. While the program targets youth, middle-aged, and older adults through its work, the SP Program and Suicide Prevention Oversight Committee (SPOC) also specify target populations according to annual suicide death data analysis that accounts for disproportionately affected cultural groups. Even though MHSA PEI does not require a SP program per regulations, the success of the county's program, the data-driven approach, the strong participation of community advocates, and the outcomes produced have all helped to prioritize this program.

**10:15am – 11:00am**

**Q&A: 11:00am – 11:15am**

### Promotores de Salud and Latino Engagement in Amador County

**Stephanie Hess**, MHSA Programs Coordinator, Amador County Behavioral Health Services  
**Tara Parker, BA**, Director of Grants Administration, Nexus Youth & Family Services  
**Lori Halvorson, BA**, Programs Director, Nexus Youth & Family Services  
**Ivonne Isaac**, Program Manager, Nexus Youth & Family Services

Our presentation will highlight the Promotores de Salud and Latino Engagement programs in Amador County. We will share our successful strategies for prevention, early intervention, outreach, stigma and discrimination reduction, access and linkage to treatment, and suicide prevention for the Spanish-speaking Hispanic/Latino community. We will also discuss our Hispanic Women's group which has been meeting for over two years, and recently began utilizing Zoom to continue services during this unprecedented time.

# Presenter's Bios

## County of Santa Clara's Suicide Prevention (SP) Program



**Mego Lien, MPH, MIA**, Suicide Prevention Manager

As Suicide Prevention Manager of the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department in California, Mego Lien manages public health efforts to prevent suicide across the County, which is in Silicon Valley and includes the City of San José. Previously, Mego worked on the Injury and Trauma Prevention team at Prevention Institute, a national public health non-profit that advocates for primary prevention and community wellbeing. She has several years of experience in prevention of chronic disease and injury in low- and middle-income countries. Mego has also worked as a suicide crisis line volunteer in New York City and as a sexual assault counselor and advocate in San Mateo County, CA. She holds dual Master's of Public Health and International Relations from Columbia University in New York and a bachelor's in psychology and Education from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Mego's global health experience includes managing national public education and policy advocacy programs in Southeast Asia, focusing on tobacco control and road safety, with the non-governmental organization Vital Strategies. She has also worked on gender-based violence prevention with the United Nations Development Programme in Thailand, and on health systems-strengthening with The Earth Institute in New York City, supporting the federal government of Nigeria.

Mego began her career in magazine journalism, covering women's health and beauty for American magazine titles. She grew up in Taipei, Taiwan and is proficient in Mandarin and French.



**Jasmine Lopez, MA**, Coordinator - Trainings and Youth

Jasmine Lopez is a Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the County of Santa Clara's Behavioral Health Services Department and tasked as the trainings and youth lead. Jasmine focuses on increasing early identification and strengthening community suicide prevention and response systems. In her role, she oversees mental health and suicide prevention training coordination and supports the program's school-based partnership implementation efforts. Previously, Jasmine served as the School Mental Health Coordinator for Stanford University's Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry working collaboratively with Bay Area schools to reduce stigma and raise awareness around mental health and suicide. As the liaison between school sites and Stanford partners, Jasmine facilitated trainings for high school students and school personnel with the goal of reducing barriers to help-seeking and emphasizing the importance of mental health conversations.

Jasmine holds a Master's in School Counseling from Gonzaga University and a Bachelor's in Psychology from UC Berkeley. Serving as an advocate for mental health and suicide prevention efforts in schools, Jasmine recognizes the importance of early intervention and engaging both youth and adults in dialogue around how to best enhance community awareness.

## Promotores de Salud and Latino Engagement in Amador County



**Stephanie Hess**, MHSA Programs Coordinator, Amador County Behavioral Health Services

Stephanie Hess is the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Programs Coordinator for Amador County Behavioral Health Services (ACBHS) and has been with Amador County BHS for nearly seven years. For the past four years, she has acted as the MHSA Programs Coordinator and is responsible for the administration, planning and development of all MHSA-related activities and programs in Amador County.

Prior to her position as MHSA Coordinator, she was a Senior Finance Assistant for Amador County BHS and served as the Secretary-Treasurer for the non-profit organization, California Behavioral Health Administrator's Association. Ms. Hess was previously employed at Calaveras County Counsel's Office for four years coming from serving as a paralegal in a private family law firm. She has also served on various non-profit boards supporting local organizational efforts and community services.



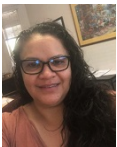
**Tara Parker, BA**, Director of Grants Administration, Nexus Youth & Family Services

Tara Parker is the Director of Grants Administration for Nexus Youth & Family Services. Tara grew up in the Bay Area and attended San Francisco State University. She has been working in the human services field in Amador County for the past 17 years. Tara has extensive experience providing case management services, English as a Second Language instruction, parent education classes, as well as facilitating and coordinating a variety of community programs at our local Family Resource Centers. Today, she oversees the Administrative Department at Nexus, writes grant proposals and applications for the agency, and works closely with program staff and community partners to ensure that quality and effective services are available and accessible to everyone.



**Lori Halvorson, BA**, Programs Director, Nexus Youth & Family Services

Lori Halvorson has been the Programs Director at Nexus Youth & Family Services since 2014. Ms. Halvorson has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Pacific, as well as over 23 years of experience overseeing human services programs in Amador County. She has worked extensively with local collaborative partners to assess community needs and ensure that quality essential services are provided for Amador County residents.



**Ivonne Isaac**, Program Manager, Nexus Youth & Family Services

Ivonne Isaac is the Program Manager for Promotores de Salud services. Ms. Isaac is trained in Mental Health First Aid, El Rotafolio Suicide Prevention, safeTALK – Alerta Sobre El Suicidio and Reconozca las Señales – El Suicidio Es Prevenible. She is bilingual and bi-literate and is proud of the effective and culturally competent services her department provides for the Hispanic/Latino Spanish-speaking population of Amador County.

