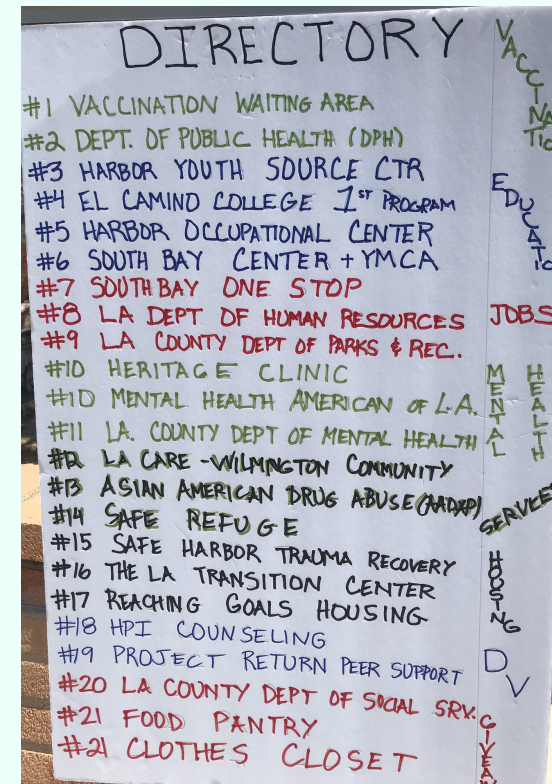


HARBOR AREA OFFICE COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND JOB FAIR

HARBOR AREA OFFICE EVENT A FIRST FOR SOUTH BAY COMMUNITY



Bureau Chief Floyd-Branch, Director Munoz, Deputy Director Cotton



Attendees and presentors along the promenade

On Wednesday, June 1st, the department hosted the Harbor Area Office Community Resource and Job Fair. Featuring 25 participating service providers including El Camino College, DMH, the YMCA, LA County Parks and Rec, and the Harbor Occupational Center, just to name a few, the seven-hour event took place outside the Harbor Probation Area Office next to the Torrance City Hall and Courthouse.

The Department has been presenting Job and Resource fairs every month with recent events taking place in Pomona Valley, East Los Angeles, Arcadia, and Santa Monica. The Harbor Community Resource and Job Fair offered assistance to adult and juvenile probationers from, as Director Delia Munoz put it, "Wilmington to Manhattan Beach and everything in between."

Ms. Munoz, Director of the Harbor and Firestone Area Offices, was producing her first Job and Resource Fair. She had done her homework by networking and attending local provider meetings as well as the recent Santa Monica fair presented by the department, but when all eyes are on you to make a successful event, things can get stressful. Still, she looked relaxed as she strolled past the long line of tables and canopies, checking in on the Fair presenters. She was kind enough to stop and chat with us.

How's the fair going so far?

Director Munoz - "It's a little early still, but we're expecting a good turnout. I've met with many of these organizations throughout the South Bay so a lot of these service providers are local. We have providers for jobs, education, mental health, domestic violence, all these different resources that our clients can benefit from and the community as well."

What was your main goal for today?

"A lot of our clients tell us point blank, "I need a job." Many are having a hard time finding work, so employment opportunities are very important. Mental health, substance abuse, a lot of those providers are here too, and those are definitely some of our clients' needs, but job-related education is at the top of the list."

HARBOR AREA OFFICE COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND JOB FAIR (CONT)

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What attributes do you look for when choosing providers for a Job and Resource Fair?

"I don't want to work with someone who's just here for the money. I really want someone that has heart and wants to work with our clients. I've met a lot of these people through provider meetings and other resource fairs I've attended, and I feel these people have heart. And they were invited for that reason."

Would you suggest other directors host a Job and Resource fair in their communities?

"It is a lot of work. But I believe they should do it because it's a win/win for everyone. We're collaborating with people that provide these services and are very caring, and you get to learn and work with them, and meet them face to face, and really see where they're coming from. All directors would definitely benefit from putting one on. You get to know who your players are in your community."

Any final thoughts?

"I would definitely do it again. Next time I would pull a lot more people in to assist. You need people. It's a lot of work. But it's worth it."

By the looks of things, staff and volunteers put together an excellent event. Staff included DPO II Villegas, DPO II Hands, DPO NGO, DPO Williams and SDPO Moss, from the Juvenile Bureau, as well as STC Gabriel and clerical, who helped with canvassing, and setting up pop-up tents and other heavy lifting. The Adult CORE staff included DPO Lockett, DPO Purnell, and DPO Moorehead. Secretary Brown, also from the Harbor office, could be seen helping everywhere on the day of the event. It was good too to see Deputy Director Cotton, Bureau Chief Floyd-Branch, and Director Varela who made their way out to Torrance to show their support, see how the event was running, and to chat with staff, presenters, and clients.

Congratulations to the Harbor Offices for continuing the good work of offering real resources to clients throughout the County.

Probation News



DPO II Holts and Ombudsman Office's Ms. Sheehee



Bureau Chief Varela and Director Munoz



Mr. Babb and Ms. Lopez from Second Chance, Inglewood Office



Deputy Chief Cotton and Director Munoz at the El Camino College table



Ms. Haque, Ms. Foster, & Ms. Porras from Safe Harbor Trauma Center.



Kerri and Natalia from Health America Los Angeles