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Nia Patrick ACHealth-PIO@acgov.org

Alameda County Behavioral Health Department to Host Care Fair in Oakland on June 28

The gathering is aimed at improving mental health and wellness, featuring 45 community-based organizations

Oakland, CA— The Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) will host its second Care Fair on Saturday, June 28, with the gathering aimed at providing local residents with important resources and tools to improve their mental health and wellness.

"We are looking forward to bringing together community members, providers, and organizations to share a variety of resources and supports available across the county; all designed to promote the behavioral health recovery and wellness of those in greatest need," said ACBHD Director Dr. Karyn Tribble. "We anticipate that the event will be of great importance, as we hope to highlight the diversity of experiences and health practices that reflect culturally driven best practices and to discuss the importance of supporting our own behavioral health journeys. All are welcome."

The Care Fair, which will ultimately become a biennial event, was designed by behavioral health stakeholders through a cultural lens in order to recognize that mental health and wellness approaches vary across different communities. The aim of the fair is to uplift and celebrate the diverse ways in which Alameda County residents seek and receive support.

Team members from ACBHD will be joined by forty-five (45) different community-based organizations specializing in an array of services, including those offering support for mental health and substance use disorders.

County leaders also underscored the importance of meeting residents where they are and increasing access to behavioral health services at the neighborhood level.

"This event is about bringing our service providers into our neighborhoods," said Board of Supervisors District 3 Supervisor Lena Tam. "Many times, community members are not aware of many of the resources that are available to them. This Care Fair allows for



opportunities for people to acquaint themselves with the diversity and strength of mental health services and how they can find support during these challenging times."

The fair will serve as an important entry point for residents interested in learning more about ACBHD and its partners. The event will open a helpful dialogue about the stigma attached to seeking behavioral health support while highlighting the county's numerous systems of care.

In addition to the various organizations in attendance providing informational resources, the fair will also feature a series of activities, including spoken word poetry sessions, drumming performances, and Qigong demonstrations.

The fair will take place at Wilma Chan Park, located on 810 Jackson Street, Oakland from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. A long-time Alameda County Supervisor representing District 3, Chan was a fierce advocate for mental health and wellness. Formerly known as Madison Park, the site was renamed in her honor in 2023.

About Alameda County Health

Alameda County Health is the local government agency that promotes and protects the health and well-being of all who live, work, learn, and play in Alameda County. Across our Environmental Health, Behavioral Health, and Public Health Departments, and major programs covering emergency response, access to care, and homelessness services, we coordinate and partner with community organizations to support a robust safety net, build resilient communities, and improve health for all. We focus on health equity through programs and systemic change to reduce disparities for the people and communities we serve.

To learn more about the Behavioral Health Department, visit <u>www.acbhcs.org</u>.

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