



For Immediate Release

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Alameda County Hosts Bright Young Minds Conference to Inspire Students Toward Behavioral Health Careers

Day-long event in Oakland will feature mentoring seminars, informational sessions and networking opportunities for high school and community college students

Alameda County, CA— The Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) will host its annual “Bright Young Minds” Conference on Thursday, Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., to provide information, resources, and training for local high school and community college students interested in pursuing careers in behavioral health.

More than 100 students from high schools and community colleges across Alameda County are expected to attend the day-long seminar at Samuel Merritt University’s Health Education Center, located at 400 Hawthorne Avenue in Oakland.

“There has never been a time when the importance of supporting our youth and young adults has resonated with me more than it does now,” said ACBHD Director Dr. Karyn Tribble. “This conference represents more than an opportunity for education and workforce preparation — it represents the future of our collective community. Their voices and participation in health care careers will reshape the landscape for years to come.”

Intended to generate interest in career and educational opportunities in the industry, the seminar will include speed mentoring activities, mental and behavioral health work scenarios—including live Narcan opioid overdose training sessions—in addition to speeches from local experts. These experts will share what inspired them to pursue careers in behavioral health, their educational journeys, the challenges and benefits of their work, and advice for youth interested in entering the field.

The seminar will provide insight into the many pathways into the behavioral health field and outline the variety of careers available, including frontline employees, case managers, therapists, psychiatric providers, and leadership roles.

Additionally, *Bright Young Minds* will showcase opportunities in higher education and offer tips on applying to college. This year’s conference is particularly relevant, as ongoing workforce shortages in the behavioral health field mean there is an even greater demand for a qualified, diverse workforce.



“As I reflect on the times we’re living in, I’m reminded that our young people are an essential part of the community—one we must both lean into and learn from,” said keynote speaker Shannon Singleton-Banks, ACBHD’s Assistant Director of the county’s Substance Use Continuum of Care. “The pathways in health care are limitless, and through engagement and high expectations, we invite our youth to lead with intensity, intention, and purpose. We must continue to recognize and honor the fires they’ve walked through as they move forward on this journey called life.”

For more information about Alameda County Behavioral Health Department and its programs, visit acbhcs.org.

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.

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