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Issue 85

Volume 6

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#WestCareCA

A Welcome by our Deputy COO, Shawn Jenkins



Shawn Jenkins

“WestCare Family,

This is a devastating and heartbreaking time in our country. My heart is heavy with our nation’s tragic history of violence and racism that continues to target the Black community. This pain has been felt collectively by our staff, those that we serve and the communities in which we operate. I grieve for those who have lost their lives, their loved ones, their innocence and their opportunity in life as a result of prejudice and discrimination.

Living our mission of empowering everyone with whom we come into contact with means speaking up against the individual and institutionalized trauma Black communities experience every day.

As an organization, the pursuit of racial equity is critical to WestCare as we work to eliminate the opportunity gaps caused by historical and on-going systemic biases and at this moment, we want to be unequivocally clear in our message to our

families and community:

We stand with the Black community.

We stand with people who are taking action for a more just and equitable world.

We value inclusivity, diversity and equality.

We will not tolerate racism or racial harassment against any individual in our organization.

We believe Black Lives Matter.

As an organization, we haven’t spoken out publicly on important social issues like racism and injustice up to now, but we need to use our voice to help drive change and support the path to healing. To be silent is to be complicit. Silence is not an option. Simply sending a message of solidarity is not enough. We know that we have more to do around racial equity.

One way to make progress is to look back, without the aid of rose-tinted glasses and make the commitment to not let the ugly parts” **(Continued on Page 2)**



(Continued from Page 1) “of our history define who we are today. If we continue to embrace the imagery and celebrate the likenesses of those who laid the foundation for injustice - we clearly are not learning from our past. As you read this, we have just revisited a bright spot in our history and celebrated the Fourth of July, the day in which the colonies gained their independence from the control of the British, forming the United States as we know it today. But, while in years past, this holiday was seen by many as a day off or a great time to BBQ, this Independence Day has been the most insightful in decades and one full of reflection on what it truly means to be ‘free.’ With the rights of immigrants and the LGBTQIA+ community regularly contested on top of the injustice felt regularly by people of color, this is a concept worth contesting. While we owe our deepest gratitude to our founding fathers, those who fought and those who continue to fight for our freedom - as a country, we have some real soul searching to do.

We want to help create long-term change and will continue to seek out ways to be part of the progress, as a company and community. You have our commitment that acts of racism, hate speech and discrimination of any kind are not tolerated at WestCare. If you see or experience such acts, please contact us so we can take immediate action.

We pledge to educate ourselves, listen more, do better, speak up in the face of injustice and foster a space where everyone is seen, heard and valued. Deepening our racial equity work will continue to be a major focus of WestCare going forward and we invite you to join us in this work.

Thank you for being part of the WestCare family as a staff member, volunteer/intern, donor, alumni and/or supporter of community we’ve built.”

With Respect & Solidarity,

Sharon L. Jones



California News

“Heroes Work Here”

As a special thank you to our staff for their dedication to those that we serve during the COVID-19 pandemic, we created special banners in May as well as a video slideshow in June to honor all of their hard work during these uncertain times! It can be viewed through the following link: https://youtu.be/nGwj4AGKq_A



June: A Month of Staff Recognition

Every day, our WestCare California staff go above and beyond for those that they serve! In recognition, we recently awarded our Employees of the Month for the previous quarter as well as staff who were nominated by their peers for exemplifying the CORE (Characteristics of Remarkable Employees) traits of "Encouragement", "Dedication" and "Customer Service!" Our staff truly embody our mission and vision in all that they do and for that, we would like to offer our sincere thanks and congratulations!



Education & Prevention News

6/2: BEAT Celebrates PRIDE With Creativity!

During a June LGBTQ group meeting, participants with our Behavioral Education And Treatment (BEAT) program, made their own tie-dyed shirts in celebration of Pride Month! Our wonderful staff also provided #Pride themed cakes for everyone involved!



The 2020 Fresno AIDS Walk Goes Virtual!

“Dear Fresno AIDS Walk supporters,

In light of the current pandemic that our world faces and the uncertainty surrounding it, we feel that the only responsible decision for our 9th Annual Fresno AIDS Walk in October is to cancel the in-person component to promote the safety of our community, our friends and our family.



With this said, we hope that you will join us on Saturday, October 24th as we hold our 9th Annual 2k Walk/5k Run virtually! We may be apart for now, but collectively and on our own time, we can still raise awareness of the virus, those who live with it and those that we have lost. Each year, the Fresno AIDS Walk serves as not only Fresno's longest running annual HIV/AIDS awareness event, but the primary fundraiser for The Living Room. However, with this year having been one unlike any other, we would like to keep the primary focus of this event on spreading awareness.

In the coming weeks, we will be releasing more details through our social media accounts and hope that we can count on your continued support for what will without a doubt, be another memorable year in benefit of a cause that is so dear to our hearts!

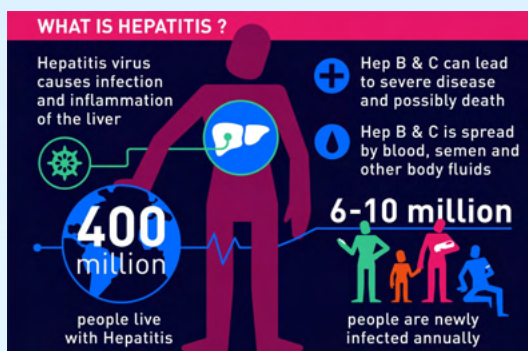
Stay safe and stay tuned!”

Sincerely,

The Fresno AIDS Walk Committee

Health & Wellness Corner

“Hepatitis Awareness” by Monica Rodriguez, Disability Advocate, Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)



“With World Hepatitis Day coming up on July 28th, this brief article will give an understanding of the virus, what to look for and information on preventing the

transmission of it. Understanding what hepatitis is and what it does to the body can help us be more cautious in our everyday lives. The virus comes in different forms varying in severity, but all cause infection and inflammation to one's liver.

The liver plays a part in more than 500 activities in the human body with roles in detoxification, regulating blood, balancing hormones and just about every aspect of metabolism. Once a person contracts Hepatitis, the liver and its various functions are disturbed with ongoing troubles. The most common types of Hepatitis are A, B and C. Though they are similar in symptoms, the transmission of each of these viruses differ. Avoiding alcohol is advised for all types as it can worsen liver disease. Symptoms between all types can include jaundice, low appetite, fatigue, nausea, abdominal or joint pain, diarrhea, dark urine and fever.

Hepatitis A (Hep A) is found in the feces of carriers and is transferred through close personal contact as well as through food or water. The virus thrives in areas with contaminated water and poor sanitation and hygiene. There is no treatment other than supportive care. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there is an estimated 6,700 new cases of the virus annually in the U.S.

Hepatitis B (Hep B) currently lives within approximately 862,000 individuals in the U.S. This type is transmitted through sexual intercourse, unsterilized needles, sharing toothbrushes or razors and to babies during birth as well as from mothers who are breastfeeding. Once you are diagnosed with chronic Hep B, the virus will most likely stay in your blood and liver for a lifetime. It is important to know that you can pass the virus along to others, even if you don't feel sick. Once a baby is exposed, there is a 90% chance that they will develop a lifelong and chronic infection.

Lastly, Hepatitis C (Hep C). About half of those who are infected do not know that they carry the virus. The methods of transmission are similar to that of Hep B, but with sexual transmission being less common.” **(Continued on Page 5)**

(Continued from Page 4) “Approximately 25% of those who are infected will recover, but for others, the virus will remain in the body and become chronic over time.

In conclusion, as with any other virus, taking preventable measures will help us be safe and remain healthy. We have to be smart about the contact we have across the board, with the understanding that some may inform you of their positive results while for others, it may be unknown. Practicing great hygiene skills will go a long way. For up to date information on the virus, please visit: www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm”

References

Medical News Today:

“What’s To Know About Viral Hepatitis?”

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/145869>

WebMD: “A Visual Guide to Hepatitis”

<https://www.webmd.com/hepatitis/ss/slideshow-hepatitis-overview>

Kudos!

Vincent Monk, M2M Counselor and James Pokorny, Detox Counselor, MLK Residential



We'd like to recognize Vincent and James for receiving Certificates of Appreciation in late May from the

individuals that they serve at our MLK Residential facility in Fresno! Congratulations and thank you both for your continued commitment to Uplifting the Human Spirit and proving that treatment works and recovery happens!

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS

We'd like to send our most heartfelt gratitude to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS for selecting The Living Room as a recipient of an emergency relief grant for \$4,000 in late May! All funds will directly support the individuals that they serve by providing bus tickets, toiletries and more. We would also like to thank their partnered donors, M.A.C. Cosmetics, ViiV Healthcare and the P. Austin Family Foundation!



The WestCare Express Returns!

For those who haven't seen it yet, we'd like to share with you the first new issue of the WestCare Express Newsletter since our organization said goodbye to our longtime friend, advocate, Editor for the publication and a true broadcast legend, John Wallace. While California has The Loop, The Express covers news and happenings throughout WestCare's 18 states, three U.S. territories and the Republic of Palau! During this time of uncertainty and much needed social change, it is the collective hope that the uplifting stories from our North American and overseas operations and perspectives featured will lend some light to your day and your weekend. We would be remiss to not acknowledge the hard work put forth by many amazing staff from across the organization who made this monthly project a reality. Thank you! To view the newest issue, please visit: https://westcare.com/pdf/wce/Newsletter_2020June.pdf



Send Your Content to the Loop!



Michael Mygind,
Marketing Specialist
and Gabriela
Espinosa-McNiel,
Director of Marketing

The Loop newsletter wouldn't be possible without the regular submissions that we receive from staff! Whether it's a success story or an event, we'd love to see it! Please send any high-quality pictures (Non-identifying if of clients) and a brief summary to:

gabriela.mcniel@westcare.com
michael.mygind@westcare.com

Program Directory

Administration

Fresno Office

1900 N. Gateway Blvd, Suite 100
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 251-4800

Services: Management, Administrative Support, Human Resources, Accounting/Billing, Contract Compliance, IT Support, Marketing/Media, Procurement, Creative Services



Treatment and Rehabilitation

MLK Residential

2772 S. MLK Blvd
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 265-4800

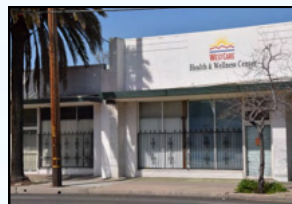
Services: Residential Drug Medi-Cal for Men and Women, Residential Treatment Program for Women and Children (M'ella), Residential Treatment Program for Men and Children: Papa Natal, Behavioral Education And Treatment (BEAT), Withdrawal Management



Belmont Health & Wellness

611 E. Belmont Fresno, CA 93701
(559) 237-3420

Services: Admissions, Adult Outpatient Program



Liberty Plaza (Sober Living)

4605 E. Liberty Fresno, CA 93702
(559) 237-3420 Ext. 20367

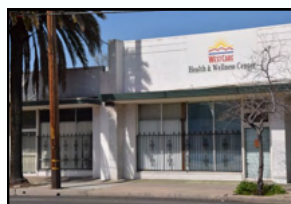
Services: Sober Living for Women



Day Reporting Center

609 E. Belmont Fresno, CA 93701
(559) 237-3420

Services: Drop-in services for Parolees including vocational assistance and linkage to treatment.



Education and Prevention

The Living Room

901 E. Belmont
Fresno, CA 93701
(559) 486-1469

Services: Case Management, Hot Meals Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA), Bee HIVE, Free HIV and HCV Testing, Linkage to Medical Care, Social and Group Support Meetings



Bakersfield Residential

2901 S. H Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304
(661) 398-4303

Services: Men's Long-term Residential, Adult Outpatient Program



Richmond Residential

208 23rd St.
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 216-4601

Services: Men's Long-term Residential (15 Beds), Detoxification Services (10 Beds), Housing and Vocational Services and Linkage to aftercare, as needed



McKinney Plaza (Sober Living)

1388 & 1398 E. Bulldog Ln
Fresno, CA 93710
(559) 237-3420 Ext. 20367

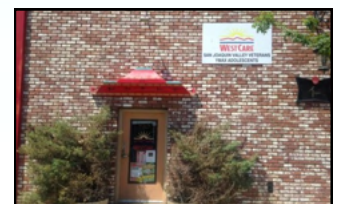
Services: Sober Living for Men



WestCare Adolescent Services

410 E. 7th St, Suite 7
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-8100

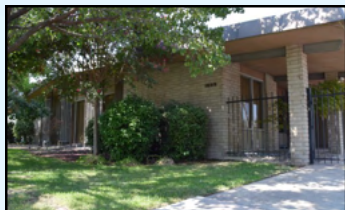
Services: Adolescent Outpatient Drug-Free Program



Veterans Services

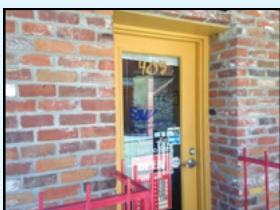
San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV)

Services: Drop-In and Ancillary Services, Supportive Services For Veteran Families (Services provided to Veterans through SSVF include: Short-term case management, legal assistance, housing counseling services and placement assistance, financial planning services, financial assistance for move in, eviction prevention, utilities, transportation, childcare and emergency supplies.)



Fresno

1505 N. Chestnut
Fresno, CA 93703
(559) 255-8838



Hanford

410 E. 7th St
Suites 5 and 9
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-8100



Merced

399 George Drive
Building F
Merced, CA 95341
(209) 722-3501 Ext. 145



Stockton

2291 W. March Lane
Suite C-100
Stockton, CA 95207
(209) 662-6073

Veterans Plaza

119 N. Calaveras
Fresno, CA 93701
(559) 241-8751

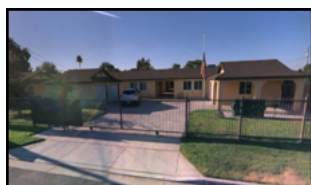
Services: Transitional housing for male Veterans for up to two years, case management, Veterans Safeway to Work Program (VSWP)



HomeFront

3636 E. Eugenia Ave.
Fresno, CA 93725
(559) 266-1169

Services: Transitional housing for female Veterans with/without children for up to two years, case management



Mental Health and Wellness

Crisis Psychiatric Response Services (CPRS)

209 E. 7th St.
Madera, CA 93638
(559) 673-3508



Services: Service coordination to adults receiving services from designated hospital emergency departments within Madera County who are deemed appropriate for an assessment for involuntary psychiatric treatment pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code 5150.

Support & Overnight Stay (SOS)

2772 S. MLK Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 512-6802

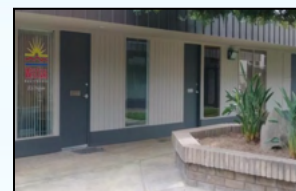


Services: Provides a safe, supportive environment to spend the night for individuals who arrive at an ER with a mental health condition needing services that don't require a legal hold, Case Management and transportation to ensure client engagement with outpatient mental health services, Linkages to wrap-around services.

SOS Specialty MH Clinic

3636 N. First St., Suite 123
Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 512-6802

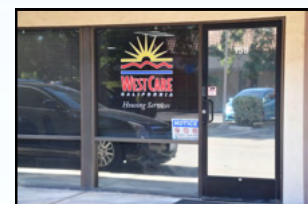
Services: Provides a supportive drop-in environment for individuals referred by Emergency Room Departments with access to support groups, clinicians and case management.



Housing Opportunities

Housing Services

1900 N. Gateway Blvd,
Suite 158
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 241-8753 Ext. 21230



Services: Assistance with supportive housing to families who are currently or chronically homeless, Project LiftOff, HDAP (Housing and Disability Advocacy Program), Home Sweet Home, Opening Doors to Housing and Wellness, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR).

Criminal Justice

Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP)

Services: Case management, treatment placement in residential, outpatient and sober living, domestic violence education, vocational training, pre-employment, job placement services and transportation from prison to treatment.

Area 1



Chico
2585 Ceanothus Ave.
Suite 170
Chico, CA 95973
(530) 830-1180



North Highlands
4612 Roseville Rd.
Suite 112
N. Highlands, CA 95660
(916) 564-4400



Bakersfield
2901 S. H St.
Bakersfield, CA 93304
(661) 326-0485



Fresno
5014 E. University Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 214-0264



Stockton
2291 W. March Lane
Suite C-100
Stockton, CA 95207
(209) 662-6073

Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program (CCTRP)

Services: Provides treatment services to female inmates (112 in San Diego, 50 in Stockton) who have a minimum of 45 day and a maximum of 2 years left on their sentence. We provide an array of gender responsive trauma informed services including substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, education, vocational and employment readiness.



San Diego
3050 Armstrong St.
San Diego, CA 92111
(619) 359-8266



Stockton
1609 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 642-8488

How You Can Support WestCare Online

If you know someone who loves to shop online, they can help WestCare by shopping at **AmazonSmile** (bookmark <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0852629>) and selecting WestCare Foundation. A portion of the purchase will be donated to WestCare at no cost to the shopper.



WestCare is registered with **PayPal Giving Fund**. When shopping on eBay or using PayPal online, users can select WestCare as their charity of choice. Donations can be made by visiting <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/105865137050618816/charity/74402>



WestCare is also on **Mightycause**, the online fundraising engine. The organization participates in events like #GivingTuesday. Donations can be made by heading to the following link: <https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Westcare-Foundation>

