

Passing the Torch 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

By Nichole Haydon

Regional Center
Executive Director, Dr.
Kimberly Smalley has announced she will be passing the torch to the next generation and retiring this month. For the past 40 years, Dr. Smalley has been advocating for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families: providing

and intellectual disabilities and their families; providing behavioral services and support in a multitude of environments, clinical leadership, and mentorship always with the drive of inclusion and acceptance. Dr. Smalley's firm foundation of Person-Centered Thinking and client choice is reflected in



Dr. Smalley, Executive Director of RCRC

RCRC's Vision Statement that "all people in our community, including individuals with developmental disabilities, will live, learn, work, travel, and play in the best, most inclusive environments."

In her farewell letter to staff, Dr. Smalley reminds us that we at Redwood Coast Regional

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Days to Remember

September is

National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 1st

Labor Day
RCRC is closed

September 7th-13th

National Direct Support Professionals Week

September 20th-26th

International Week of the Deaf

September 21st

Peace Day

September 22nd

First day of Autumn

September 23rd

International Day of Sign Language







Passing the Torch

Continued from previous page

Center are part of something special. We are essential. She shares she is confident we will continue to lead in the state in Person -Centered Thinking; we will remain believers and implementers of our Vision and we will continue to stand up strong with the people we serve.

RCDSC Board President Mike Sawyer praises:

In her overall career and during her 19 years with RCRC,

Dr. Smalley has been first and foremost an advocate for the people we serve. She provides

a strong and clear voice to support them in conveying their wants, needs and dreams. In her position as **Autism Clinical** Specialist/ **Behavioral** Psychologist, she developed and expanded selfdetermination, supported employment,

residential and community

living, and inclusive schooling. In partnership with the service providers, she has led the

In her overall career

and during her 19

vears with RCRC, Dr.

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first and foremost

an advocate for the

people we serve."

- RCDSC Board

President Mike

Sawyer

Redwood Coast Regional Center closer to meeting our goals and reaching our vision. On behalf of the board of directors, we wish her the very best in retirement.

From all of us at Regional Coast Regional Center, we would like to thank Dr. Smalley for her

leadership, guidance and support through the years and wish her the happiest of retirements. Cheers to your second act and may it be even more fantastic than the first!



Nichole Haydon **RCRC Human Resources Director**



Seraphina, Dr. Smalley's assistant and RCRC's beloved mascot will be missed.







Pictured from left to right: Fernando Espinoza, Amy Benitez, Susan Hernandez, Alma Ingram, Dolores Delgado, and Julian Ocegueda.

Getting to Know Our LACC Team at Redwood Coast Regional Center

By Susan Hernandez

Center, our Language Access and Cultural Competency (LACC) team works hard to make sure every client and family has the support they need. Their mission is to improve the experience of those we serve and ensure that information and services are easier to access for our under served communities in Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, and Lake Counties.

Our LACC team is made up of Dolores Delgado, Project Assistant/

Interpreter; Fernando Espinoza, Project Assistant; Julian Ocegueda, Lead for Translation, Interpretation, and Quality Control; and Amy Benitez, Project Assistant. Each member brings unique skills and energy to their work. They provide educational workshops, offer translation and interpretation, host listening sessions, and attend cultural and community events to share information about RCRC services.

Diversity Outreach Specialists, Alma Ingram and Susan Hernandez, want to take a moment to recognize the dedication of our LACC Project Assistants. They show up for families, help connect new clients to services, and build trust within the community. Their passion and hard work make a real difference every day.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

*

Susan Hernandez RCRC Diversity Outreach Specialist







The Pollinators Fall Season is here

By Renée Thompson

As the summer heat fades and the crisp autumn air returns, a new season of baseball is underway.

Don't miss an opportunity to cheer on the Ukiah Pollinators led by coach Dwayne Nelson, Client Services Manager -Lake and Mendocino County Children's Unit.

Their fall season schedule is underway, and you won't want to miss the fun. ★



The Pollinators. Jessica Napier

THE POLLINATORS FALL SCHEDULE: Ukiah Sports Complex, 905 City Well Rd., Ukiah

Date	Time	Field	Teams	
Tue 8/19	6:30pm	COU #1	Dirtbags vs Pollinators - Roxy Bees Honey	
Thur 8/26	7:45pm	COU #1	RW Auto Center vs Pollinators - Roxy Bees Honey	
Tue 9/2	9:00pm	COU #1	Pollinators - Roxy Bees Honey vs Round Valley Hard Hitters	
Thur 9/9	7:45pm	COU #3	Kings N Queens vs Pollinators - Roxy Bees Honey	
Tue 9/16	7:45pm	COU #3	Pollinators - Roxy Bees Honey vs Jacobszoon and Associates, Inc.	
Tue 9/23	6:30pm	COU #3	ASPACE CADETS vs Pollinators - Roxy Bees Honey	
Thur 9/30	9:00pm	COU #2	Pollinators - Roxy Bees Honey vs Ukiah Family Dentistry	
Tue 10/7	9:00pm	COU #1	Pollinators - Roxy Bees Honey vs Sword & Board Shell Shockers	



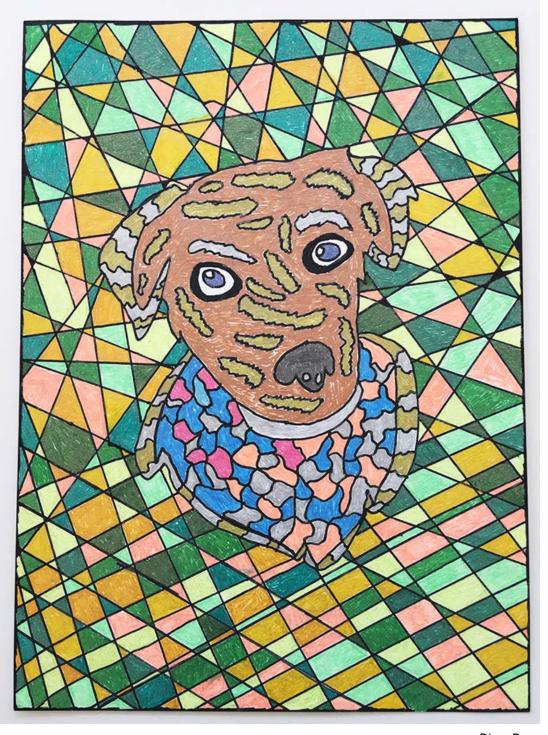
Artist's Spotlight!

Elizabeth Kordes

likes to use markers and gel pens to create her detailed and vibrant animal portraits. The skillfully rendered background pattern adds dynamic movement that carries your eye to every part of the page. *

To learn more about Elizabeth's artwork, visit **Trajectory**, a career development program for visual, literary and performing artists with disabilities in Humboldt County and a program of The Ink People Center for the Arts.

Photo courtesy of Trajectory.



Disco Dog,



Staff Shout Out!

SUZIE CARTER

She is super helpful and efficient. She is kind and makes me feel like everything is going to be ok.

AMBER CARTER & BURT RICHARDSON

Understanding, knowledgeable, patient. (Vendor comment)

MARA MOULTON-RIZZO

Mara is kind and helpful and while the onboarding system is long, she understands the system and tries to move things along as quickly as possible.

EURSELA WILSON

Because this service coordinator always responded to my emails and phone calls and when she needs something from me, I am always eager to help her.

RAEH DAVIS

Our worker was welcoming, informative and incredibly helpful. We really appreciate Raeh explaining everything to us and helping us with any and all questions in a professional and friendly way.

DEREK GARDNER

Resolved rapidly. Very grateful!

MEGAN DAVIE

A fantastic worker who came to our IEP and was able to explain many great RCRC services and help the student apply for DoR.

ANGEL PUENTE

Very caring and informative.

MICHAEL SHANAHAN

Michael has been great and responsive. Great job working with clients and vendors.









Getting to know our community

KIMBERLY JOHNSON

What is your position at RCRC?

I currently serve as a Unit Assistant for the Early Start program in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. Prior to this, I was the Office Operations Manager, which gave me a broad understanding of how our organization supports clients and staff.

What inspired you to get into this field of work?

I've been working in office environments since I was 15, where I learned the fundamentals of administrative support. Growing up, one of my closest friends had a brother with cerebral palsy. I was often involved in his care, which gave me a deep sense of purpose and a desire to help others. That experience sparked a passion for supporting individuals and families, especially in ways that combine compassion with organization and structure.

Tell us about an inspirational experience working with RCRC?

One of my most memorable

moments at RCRC was during my time working the front desk in Crescent City. A client came in hoping to speak with their Service Coordinator (SC), who happened to be on their way to a meeting. With just a couple of minutes to spare, the SC still made time to speak with the client, who had stopped by specifically to share that their SSI had resumed thanks in large part to the SC's advocacy. The gratitude on the client's face and the genuine joy from the SC was a powerful reminder of the real impact our work can have. It was a beautiful display of dedication and heart.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my free time, I love exploring the Smith River, working in my garden, and managing the chaos of my household—complete with my herd of animals, my spouse, and daughter. They all keep life lively and full of love.



KIMBERLY JOHNSON



"The gratitude on the client's face and the genuine joy from the SC was a powerful reminder of the real impact our work can have."







September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Labor Day RCRC closed	2	3 Dance Therapy Loleta	4	5 RCRC Field Days Willow Creek	6
7	8	Play Group Lower Lake	10	11	12	RCRC Board Meeting Zoom & Eureka Multiplicity Caregivers Group Loleta
14	15	16 Spanish Parent Group Lakeport	Changing Tides Training, Zoom	Loleta Food Pantry Loleta Multiplicity Family Event Lakeport	TCIL Emergency Workshop Del Norte RCRC Field Days Willow Creek	20
21	22	Play Group Lower Lake	24 Changing Tides Parent Group, Zoom	25 Parent Support Group Lower Lake	TCIL EXPO Eureka	Mendo Leap Neurodiversity Night Ukiah
28	Multiplicity Activity Night Ukiah	30				

For more information, see event fliers.





LOLETA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER Dance Therapy

Sept 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th, Every Wednesday, 5:00-6:00pm Loleta Community Resource Center, 700 Loleta Dr., Loleta For more information, contact 707-733-5239.

RCRC FIELD DAYS

Service Coordinator open time

September 5th and 19th, 1:00-3:30pm 100 Country Club Dr., Willow Creek For more information, contact Anna McClure at 707-445-0893 ext. 359.

Will be canceled with inclement weather.





LAKE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

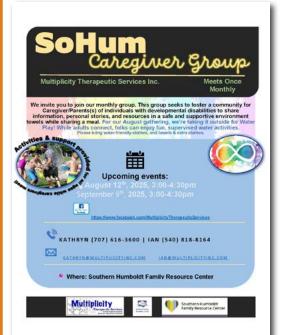
Play Group

September 9th and 23rd, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 3:00-4:30pm

16170 Main St. Suite C & D, Lower Lake For more information, contact 707-279-0563, ext 204.







MULTIPLICITY THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

SoHum Caregivers Group

September 9th, 3:00-4:30pm

Southern Humboldt Family Resource Center 344 Humboldt Ave., Redway

For more information, contact Kathryn at 707-616-3600 or Ian at 540-818-8164.

RCDSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In-Person and Virtual Public Meeting

September 13th, 9:00-10:00am

Best Western Plus Bayshore Inn, 3500 Broadway St., Eureka and Zoom • Meeting ID: 845 4614 2191 • Passcode: 888824 Dial by phone: 1 669 900 6833

For more information, contact Sedona Bowser, Executive Assistant at sbowser@redwoodcoastrc.org or 707-445-0893 ext 363





MULTIPLICITY THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Redwood Caregiver Support Group

September 13th, 1:00-2:30pm

Bear River Family Entertainment Center 263 Keisner Rd., Loleta

For more information, contact Kelly at 707-498-0010 or email kelly@multiplicityinc.com.





RCRC SPANISH PARENT GROUP

Attend, Learn, Share!

September 16th, 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10:00am RCRC office, 180 3rd St., Lakeport

For more information, contact 707-234-5415.

(This event is in Spanish)

CHANGING TIDES

Upcoming Training

September 17th, Every 3rd Wednesday, 9:30-10:30am and 6:00-7:00pm

Zoom

For more information, and Zoom link, contact 707-444-8293.





LOLETA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Loleta Food Pantry

September 18th, Every 3rd Thursday, 3:00-5:00pm Loleta Community Church, 228 Church St., Loleta For more information, contact 707-733-5239.





MULTIPLICITY THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Parent, Caregiver, Family Event

September 18th, 5:00-6:00pm

Fun Zone Arcade, 2755 Mission Rancheria Rd., Lakeport

Please RSVP at 707-494-8511 or e-mail

schedule@multiplicityinc.com with number of people attending.



Emergency Plan Workshop

TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING

September 19th, 1:00-2:30pm

Rural Human Services, 286 M St. Suite A,Crescent City Please RSVP Tara Groswird at 707-498-0977 or 707-445-8404 ext. 715.



TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING



Emergency Plan Workshop

We are proud to announce that TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT

LIVING will be offering an emergency plan workshop for all TCIL clients and interested community members that would like to learn how to create and implement an Emergency Plan for themselves and/or their families. You will also receive an Emergency Go.

Backpack at the end of the workshop to take home as a starting point for an emergency kit.

This workshop will be held on the 3rd Friday of every other month. Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP: By calling Tara Groswird - 707-498-0977 or 707-445-8404 **Space is limited to 6 participants per each workshop

Location: Tri-County Independent Living 139 5th St. Eureka, Ca 95501

> Rural Human Services 286 M St. Suite A, Crescent City, Ca 95531

<u>Dates:</u> Every 3rd friday of every other month (see workshop

Times: 1:00pm - 2:30pm



CHANGING TIDES

Parent/Caregiver Support Group

September 24th, Every 4th Wednesday, 9:30-10:30am and 6:00-7:00pm

Zoom

For more information, and Zoom link, contact 707-444-8293.





LAKE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Parent Support Group

September 25th, 4th Thursday of the month, 10:00-11:00amam 16170 Main St., Suite C & D, Lower Lake

Register at: https://forms.gle/UHm1cGkHvUTxbwFh8 For more information, contact 707-279-0563, ext. 204.

TCIL - TRI-COUNT INDEPENDENT LIVING **Expo 2025**

September 26th, 10:30am-2:30pm **Sequoia Conference Center** 901 Myrtle Ave., Eureka

For more information, contact Carolyn at 707-445-8404 ext 701 or Anisa at 707-445-8404 ext 716.





carolyn@tilinet.org

707.445.8404 Ext 701 Sponsorship or Vendor Opportunities

Anisa Escobedo a.escobedo@tilinet.org 707.445.8404 Ext 716

Register at: tilinet.org/expo



MENDO LEAP

Neurodiversity Night!

September 27th, Last Saturday of the month, 5:00-7:00pm 2146 S. State St., Ukiah

RCRC families play for FREE!

For more information, visit www.mendoleap.com







MULTIPLICITY THERAPEUTIC SERVICES Activity Night!

September 29th, 5:30-7pm Slam Dunk Pizza, 720 N State St., Ukiah Please RSVP by 9/26/25 at 707-494-8511 or schedule@multiplicityinc.com with number of adults and children.



CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

5 Year Plan Input Survey Deadline: October 15th 2025

For more information, visit https://scdd.ca.gov/stateplandevelopment/

Take the survey:



https://bit.ly/3JgTkgd

Get Involved:

- Let us know what matters most to you, your family, and community
- Your input will shape SCDD's impact and priorities over the next five years

Deadline: October 15, 2025

For more information: https://scdd.ca.gov/stateplandevelopment/





SCDD and DDS Statewide Self-Determination Orientation

Want to learn more?
Contact your Service
Coordinator at RCRC or a
Participant Choice Manager.

Participant Choice Managers

Humboldt & Del Norte Counties:

Alex Ostell (707) 445-0893, ext. 317 aostell@redwoodcoastrc.org

Mendocino & Lake Counties: Sheila Keys (707) 462-3832, ext. 254 SKeys@redwoodcoastrc.org



STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ORIENTATION



Join Us to Learn...

- What is SDP*
- How SDP Works
- The Principles of SDP
- Steps to Enroll in SDP
- Key Roles in SDP
- Your Next Steps
- * Self-Determination Program

For more Information and Registration Click the link below:

https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation



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KATIE



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...Are Self-Determined!
Learn if the Self-Determination Program is
Right for You!

A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION WILL BE PROVIDED.
AN SDP ORIENTATION IS REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN SDP.





LOCAL & REGIONAL RESOURCES

Find these and many more on our website at: https://redwoodcoastrc.org/resources-hub/local-resources/















California















A community of sharing & strength

Visión y Compromiso™

Parents Helping Parents

Redwood Coast Regional Center believes that access to information, supports, and learning is necessary for all people to achieve their life goals.





Contact Us

Learn more about our services and programs.

Redwood Coast Regional Center Offices CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE

Ukiah Office | Corporate Office

1116 Airport Park Blvd. Ukiah, CA 95482 Phone: (707) 462-3832 Fax: (707) 462-3314 *Mendocino County*

Lakeport Office

180 3rd Street Lakeport, CA 95453 Phone: (707) 262-0470 Fax: (707) 264-6537 Lake County

Eureka Office

525 2nd Street, Suite 300 Eureka, CA 95501 Phone: (707) 445-0893 Fax: (707) 444-3409 Humboldt County

(New office coming soon!)

Fort Bragg Office 270 Chestnut Street, Suite A Fort Bragg, CA 95437 Phone: (707) 964-6387 Fax: (707) 964-0226 Mendocino County

Clearlake Office

14888 Olympic Dr. Clearlake, CA 95422 Phone: (707) 621-6169 Fax: (707) 264-6537 *Lake County*

Crescent City Office

1301-A Northcrest Drive Crescent City, CA 95531 Phone: (707) 464-7488 Fax: (707) 465-4230 Del Norte County

Visit us online

WWW.REDWOODCOASTRC.ORG

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Redwood Coast Regional Center

Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community



