

Stepping into the New Year with Purpose & Vision

OUR NORTH STAR



Canva

a good time to remember what's important in our lives and what we want to strive for in the year to come. Here at Redwood Coast Regional Center we can look to our vision statement, one that was created in 1998 as a joint effort between our Board of Directors, RCRC employees and clients. To this day, our vision remains central to our work with the community. We hope it's an inspiration to you as it is to us and we wish you a Happy New Year!

~ Preamble ~

Redwood Coast Regional Center recognizes that a vision statement is a projection of the ideal future. A vision statement provides a picture of things, not as they are, but as they might be. It is the "North Star" that guides all journeys and which, like the North Star, remains a bright fixture on the horizon of all that is possible.

~ Our Vision ~

It is the vision of Redwood Coast Regional Center that all people in our community, including individuals with developmental disabilities, will live, learn, work, travel, and play in the best, most inclusive environments.

We envision strong, healthy individuals and families whose emotional resources are renewed and supported by the community and the regional center.

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Days to Remember

January 1st

New Year's Day RCRC will be closed

January 19th

Martin Luther King Jr. Day RCRC will be closed

January 23rd Ed Roberts Day







Stepping into the New Year

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We envision full access to a complete array of health services throughout life.

We envision a system of services and supports that is determined by the individuals served.

We envision a process that is complementary to the individual's own life, and which does not intrude upon the person's chosen lifestyle.

We envision people residing in the living arrangement of their choice. We recognize that life is made meaningful by loving, being loved, and having friends and relationships.

We acknowledge that life is enhanced by contribution, responsibility and the opportunity to learn new ideas and to engage in new experiences, including educational opportunities, social interactions, and work activities.

We envision a system of services and supports which acknowledge the person's age, lifestyle preferences and culture, and which is fluid and ever-changing. We envision all people being empowered to communicate with their own minds and hearts to determine their supports and services.

We also subscribe to a vision that represents the highest commitment to excellence.

We envision a commitment to honesty, compassion, trustworthiness, flexibility, responsiveness, accountability, accessibility, creativity and a passion for community service.

We envision a joyful and supportive environment in which trust is the cornerstone of all interactions, humor is appreciated and everyone participates fully in teamwork.

We envision one community. We value diversity and honor individuals.

We strive to be accessible, to be knowledgeable, to be accountable, to accomplish tasks in a timely and effective manner, and to offer and receive feedback formally and informally on how we are doing in fulfilling our mission and realizing our vision.

We envision all members of the support community having access to adequate resources, including funding, in order to provide desired services and supports.

We envision a collaboration between members of the community which creates a whole of services and supports which is greater than the sum of its component contributors.

We acknowledge that shared learning, communication and planning activities will provide the greatest benefit for those individuals we mutually serve, as well as for our respective members.

We envision a culture in which all members of the community are respected, supported, honored, and recognized for their diverse contributions and valued services.

We envision educational efforts which focus on teaching relationship rather than caregiving; which teach support rather than control; which teach communication rather than regulation.

We promote informed exploration and risk-taking, with opportunities for feedback.

We envision individual and community satisfaction as the standard by which all services are measured. *

https://redwoodcoastrc.org/ about-us/rcrc-at-a-glance/







Advocacy Efforts Pay Off

GOOD NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Elizabeth Hassler

As we enter the New Year, we're excited to share the good news that some of our advocacy efforts in 2025 were successful!

Some people who have seizures use a medication to help stop the seizure. This medication can be inhaled through a nose spray. When a person is having a seizure, they need help to use this medication. Before, the law said that people without a medical license at a licensed program cannot administer this medication. Licensed program staff are people who work at some kinds of day programs or living facilities.

The old version of the law meant that some people couldn't choose to use a licensed program when they might have wanted to.

But the law has changed! Advocates knew this was a problem in the system that could change. Advocates (people with developmental disabilities, our families, and the people who work to support us) talked about the issue with legislators and people in our government, including at ARCA Grassroots Day this past March 2025. We explained what a change would mean. We use real stories to explain the difference. The law passed to make that change. Now comes the part where every

different part of the state will work together. They will figure out how to make that change happen.

Staff who work in licensed facilities will be allowed to choose to get training to help people use the medication.

We love to share good news. We will make sure to let you know when the policy is officially



Grassroots Day on the stairs of the Capitol, March 4th, 2025.

changed. It's just another way we're all working together to make sure people have as many options as possible in what we choose to do in our lives and where and how we want to live.



To learn more, visit: https://calmatters.digitaldemocracy.corg/bills/ca_202520260ab1172







Celebrating Community at the Capitol

THE 94TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING HONORING CLIENTS, FAMILIES, AND ALL 21 REGIONAL CENTERS ACROSS CALIFORNIA

By Susan Hernandez

t was an absolute honor to be part of the 94th Annual Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony, where Governor Gavin Newsom joined representatives from all 21 regional centers, along with clients and their families, to celebrate the incredible community we serve. I've never been more excited to decorate a tree; especially knowing that nearly every ornament on ours was handmade by an RCRC client.

What made the day even more special was connecting with representatives from other regional centers and sharing the festive spirit together. When 8:00 pm. arrived, two five-year-old twins from the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center lit the 60-foot Capitol Christmas tree, along with all 21 regional center trees, illuminating the



Susan Hernandez, RCRC Diversity Outreach Specialist joins the celebration.

entire Capitol. It was truly magical, and I'm already looking forward to the 95th Ceremony in Sacramento, CA. ★

To learn more, visit: https://www.dds.ca.gov/general/newsroom/capitol-christmas-tree-lighting/







Blue Envelope Program Grows

RCRC COLABORATES WITH SEVERAL NEW POLICE DEPARTMENTS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

By Ron Lee

As Redwood Coast Regional Center's (RCRC) Emergency Management Coordinator, I first became aware of the Blue Envelope Program during a Statewide Regional Center **Emergency Management** Conference in September of 2023. The San Diego Regional Sherriff's office had implemented the program across San Diego County in partnership with the San Diego Regional Center. More recently, San Bernardino County also rolled out the program across most of their county in partnership with the Inland Regional Center (ILC). In March of this year, ILC hosted a statewide webinar to discuss the program and share its success in their area.

In March 2025, RCRC was contacted by Captain O'Neal from the Fort Bragg Police Department in Mendocino County asking to partner in rolling out the program in the Fort Bragg area. He had



RCRC Blue Envelope Brochure

heard about the program while participating in a law enforcement conference. RCRC collaborated with Fort Bragg PD to conduct a Blue Envelope Kickoff event on June 3, 2025, at Bainbridge Park in Fort Bragg. Fort Bragg Police had a team of officers at the event, including Captain Patrick O'Neal and Social Services Liaison Officer Mellisa Johnson, Those that attended the event were able to share a hotdog lunch with the officers. After lunch, attendees had an option to practice interacting with officers in "mock" traffic

stops. Captain O'Neal walked participants through the process from the officer's perspective to help people understand how best to stay safe in these types of interactions.

In April of 2025, I provided a presentation to various Law Enforcement Jurisdictions in Humboldt County. Since then, RCRC has collaborated with several law enforcement jurisdictions to bring the Blue Envelope Program to the North Coast.

Rio Dell's Blue Envelope kickoff





Blue Envelope Program Grows

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event was hosted by Rio Dell Family Resource Center and took place in June. Rio Dell Police Chief Josh Phinney and Sarah Reback of the Rio Dell Family Resource Center assisted in coordinating the event. Rio Dell Fire had firefighters at the event to answer questions and interact with attendees. The Humboldt Autism Alliance was present to provide families with information about their services and Reaching for Independence Client Advocates tabled the event to explain more about their peer led Person Center Planning support.

"I thought it was a great idea, and I wanted to bring some version of a program like that down to Rio Dell, so I worked with them to make it happen...The goal of it is generally the same, to improve interactions, but theirs is also a little bit more of a heads up. Let's say I pull somebody over, I show up to somebody's house, and I see the blue envelope. That keys me off at the moment." said Chief Phinney in an interview with the North Coast Journal.

Chief Allen, with the Cal Poly
Humboldt University Police
contacted RCRC in June to discuss
bringing the Blue Envelope Program
to the Cal Poly Campus. RCRC staff
provided a presentation to Cal Poly
Humboldt and Arcata City Police
Officers in September and on
November 6, the Cal Poly Humboldt
University Police Department and
Cal Poly Campus Disability Resource
Center conducted a Blue Envelope
kickoff event.

Lt. Janelle Jackson with Cal Poly **Humboldt University Police stated** the following about the Blue Envelope Program in the November 5th issue of the <u>Humboldt</u> Magazine, "When engaging with the community, clear communication is essential to ensuring everyone's safety...This program provides officers and community members with the tools and information needed to better support individuals with specific needs. By improving communication, we build trust and collaboration, creating a safer and more supportive campus community."

On November 9, RCRC collaborated with Captain Melanie Currie from the Del Norte Sherrif's office to conduct a Blue Envelope kickoff event at the Crescent City Fire and Rescue Washington

Headquarters. Present were representatives from the Del Norte County Sheriff's office, Cal Fire, Crescent City Fire Department and paramedics from Del Norte Ambulance. Community members interacted with first responders, received information about the Blue Envelope Program and Blue Envelope Program supplies.

And most recently, in late November, RCRC, in collaboration with the Eureka Police Department, hosted a Blue Envelope kickoff event at the Eureka Wharfinger Building.

Eureka Police Public Information Officer Laura Montagna was very successful in connecting with the majority of law enforcement jurisdictions in Humboldt County. Law enforcement jurisdictions in attendance were the Eureka Police Department, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Fortuna Police Department, Ferndale Police Department, Arcata Police Department, Blue Lake Tribal Police and the California Highway Patrol. The event was well attended by members of the community who were able to learn more about the Blue Envelope Program, obtain Blue Envelope materials, and interact with law enforcement officers in a low stress environment.

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Blue Envelope Program Grows

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In an interview with <u>Redwood</u>
<u>News</u> Commander Wayne Rabang
with the Eureka Police Department
stated that the Blue Envelope
Program in important to help
reduce anxiety for officers by
providing information about a
person's communication differences.

RCRC would like to acknowledge the guidance provided by staff from the IRC who met with RCRC staff on several occasions to share best practices and lessons learned from their experiences collaborating with agencies in their catchment area regarding the Blue Envelope Program. These information sessions were crucial in RCRC's success in partnering with agencies to implement the Blue Envelope Program locally.

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If you have any questions regarding the Blue Envelope roll out in your area, please contact Ron Lee, RCRC's Emergency Management Coordinator at 707-445-0893, ext. 383.





Getting to know our community

SAVANNAH KOPPENHAVER

What is your position at RCRC?

I am the Adult Unit Team Lead in Lake County.

What inspired you to get into this field of work?

I started working at the Lake Family Resource Center when I was 19, this was my first experience in social work. I enjoyed the position a lot as I helped families. At this point I wanted to get into teaching children, until I had my own. I then worked with adults at **Redwood Community Services** for a short period before my first born, these were adults with mental health needs, not developmental disabilities. I found I still enjoyed social work but took a hiatus while I learned about being a mother. I came to work with RCRC in December of 2020 for the Early Start Unit as an Associate Service Coordinator. I instantly fell in love with the job. I found that I felt for the first time I was truly helping others, more so than my prior experiences because I saw the difference in the families and children's lives as time went on. I also came to learn so much about the community we serve and felt that RCRC truly showed me what I was meant to do. I have now been here five years and recently switched to the Adult Unit as the Team Lead. and found I enjoy it even more than I did Early Start, which I never thought possible. Seeing the clients we serve and just their genuine personalities truly makes this job enjoyable, and being able to make a difference for the adults we serve and their support systems is so rewarding. Due to the work I've experienced here at RCRC I have been working on my Master's in Social Work so I can continue to make a difference, hopefully for the foreseeable future, with RCRC

Tell us about an inspirational experience working with RCRC?

One of the most inspirational experiences I have had is seeing the progress that children make from those who start out as entirely nonverbal, and one year later have an immense vocabulary, that is always the most exciting to me. I have

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"...being able to make a difference for the adults we serve and their support systems is so rewarding."



SAVANNAH KOPPENHAVER







Getting to know our community

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also seen some absolute genius children who know their entire alphabet and know how to spell words at 2 years old! I think that

in Early Start I learned a lot about Autism Spectrum Disorder, and have even told a coworker that I want to someday write a book about ASD titled "how to find your superpower" because from what I have seen over the years, all of the clients

we serve have a superpower of some sort, whether it be art, music, cognitive functioning, having a big heart, being a great story teller, or having amazing humor. Some clients have their superpower early on, and some develop it at a later date, just as we all do!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

During my spare time, if I have any for myself, I try to go to the gym or take a drive with the music a little too loud in my car. During the summers I try to get out as much as I can to go swimming or floating. Usually I have my three littles, ages 1, 3,

and 6 and we spend time doing arts and crafts seen over the years, all or watching the latest kids movie that has music because all of them love music like I do. I used to be art, music, cognitive play a lot of guitar and sometimes still do for the big heart, being a great kids but lately I prefer arts and crafts with them. Honestly, most of our time together

> consists of kinetic sand and slime play. We always try to go to the local events like the Christmas parades, the pear festival, or other family friendly events. Most of these events we spend with our besties so all of the kids can get their wiggles out together.





our community? If so, please email rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org

- · Your name
- · A JPG of your artwork
- · Title of artwork
- Materials you like to use
- · Your favorite themes
- A signed consent form







"...from what I have

of the clients we serve

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January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				New Years Day RCRC Closed	First 5 Humboldt Rio Dell First 5 Humboldt Willow Creek Easterseals, Lakeport	3
4	5	First 5 Humboldt Orick First 5 Humboldt Arcata	First 5 Humboldt Orick Easterseals,, Clearlake First 5 Humboldt Redway Parent IEP Workshop, Zoom Dance Therapy Loleta RCRC Board Meeting Zoom	Multiplicity Caregivers Group Lakeport	9	Multiplicity Caregivers Group Samoa
11	12	Play Group Lower Lake Multiplicity Caregivers Group Redway	14	Parent Support Group Lower Lake Loleta Food Pantry, Loleta	16	17
18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day RCRC Closed	RCRC Spanish Parent Group Lakeport	21	22	23	24
25	Multiplicity Caregivers Group Ukiah	Play Group Lower Lake	28	29	30	31 Mendo Leap Neurodiversity Night, Ukiah

For more information, see event fliers.





FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Play Group

Every Friday, 10:00am-12:00pm Volunteer Fire Department of Rio Dell, 50 Center St., Rio Dell

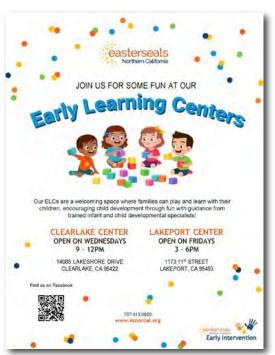
For more information, visit https://www.first5humboldt.org/for-families/playgroups/.

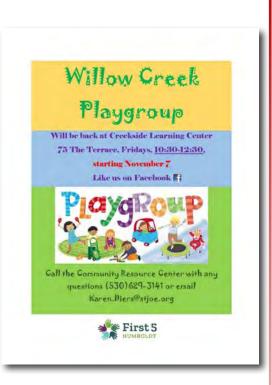
FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Willow Creek Playgroup

Every Friday, 10:30am-12:30pm

Creekside Learning Center, 75 The Terrace, Willow Creek
For more information, contact Karen Diers
at 530-629-3141 or email at Karen.Diers@stjoe.org.





EASTERSEALS

Early Learning Centers

Every Wednesday, 9:00am-12:00pm 14085 Lakeshore Drive, Clearlake

&

Every Friday, 3:00-6:00pm 1173 11th Street, Lakeport

For more information, contact 707-413-6920.





FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Orick Playgroup

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 9:30am-11:30am Orick Elementary School, 120918 Highway 101, Orick For more information, contact 707-488-2821.

FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Arcata Playgroup

Every Tuesday, 1:00pm-3:00pm D St. Neighborhood Center, 1301 D St., Arcata For more information, visit https://www.first5humboldt.org/

for-families/playgroups/.





FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Play Group

Every Wednesday, 10-12pm

344 Humboldt Ave., Redway

For more information, visit https://www.first5humboldt.org/for-families/playgroups/.





LAKE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER'S FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Parent IEP Monthly Empowerment Workshop
January 7th, 1st Wednesday of each month, 2:00-4:00pm
Zoom

For Zoom information, contact 707-279-0563 ext 204.

LOLETA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Dance Therapy
Every Wednesday, 5:00-6:00pm
Loleta Community Resource Center, 700 Loleta Dr., Loleta
For more information, contact 707-733-5239.





RCDSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virtual Public Meeting

Wednesday, January 7th, 6:00-7:00pm

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

Client, family and caregivers group

Thursday, January 8th, 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.

MULTIPLICITY THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Redwood Caregiver Support Group

Saturday, January 10th, 10:00am-11:30am
Dream Athletics, 900 Vance Ave., Samoa
For more information, contact Alex at 707-601-8293or email
alex@multiplicityinc.com.





LAKE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Play Group

January 13th & 27th, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each 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

Client, family and caregivers group Tuesday, January 13th, 3:00-4:30pm Southern Humboldt Family Resource Center 344 Humboldt Ave., Redway

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

LAKE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Parent Support Group

January 15th, 3rd Thursday of each month, 10:00-11:00am 16170 Main St., Suite C & D, Lower Lake

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





LOLETA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Loleta Food Pantry

January 15th, 3rd Thursday of each month, 3:00-5:00pm Loleta Community Church, 228 Church St., Loleta For more information, contact 707-733-5239.





RCRC SPANISH PARENT GROUP

Attend, Learn, Share!

January 20th, 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)

MULTIPLICITY THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Client, family and caregivers group

Monday, January 26th, 5:30-7:00pm

Mendo Leap, 2146 S. State St., Suite A, Ukiah

Please RSVP at 707-494-8511 with total number of adults and children.





MENDO LEAP

Neurodiversity Night!

January 31st, last Saturday of each month, 5:00-7:00pm 2146 S. State St., Ukiah

PCPC families play for EPEEL

RCRC families play for FREE!

For more information, visit www.mendoleap.com







YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

2026 Cohort

July 13-July 18th

California State University, Sacramento

January 31st Application deadline

For more information, visit https://www.dor.ca.gov/home/ylf, email ylf@dor.ca.gov or call 1-855-894-3436

SCDD NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS

Family Surveys

To participate in the survey, email QAProject@SCDD.ca.gov For more information, email NCIHelp@dds.ca.gov





WANT A CAREER THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE?

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) support people with disabilities to live, work, and thrive in their communities. The DSP Internship Program gives you training, mentorship, and a pathway to a meaningful job.

Apply today and start building a career that changes lives – including yours.

To learn more, visit: <u>dspinternship.allswell.com</u>







SERVICE PROVIDERS!

DDS' contractor All's Well recruits, screens, and then pays your intern's salary for three months while you train them to become valued team members.

You can decide to officially employ them at any time. That's hiring, made easy.

Take the first step by emailing workforce@dds.ca.gov to get started.

To learn more, visit: bit.ly/dsp-portal





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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...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/





















MIND INSTITUTE











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

- @REDWOODCOASTREGIONALCENTER
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