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San Mateo County's exhibit at the 2006 California State Fair. The county won a silver medal award for the California Counties. — Courtesy Photo

County exhibit gains accolades at California State Fair

By Kathleen Jay
Special to the Examiner

San Mateo County was recently awarded a silver medal award for the California Counties exhibit at the 2006 California State Fair.

San Mateo County's 2006 State Fair exhibit was also awarded the Superintendent's Award recognizing the best exhibits created exclusively with county participation.

"San Mateo County's exhibit demonstrates the ability of our leaders to collaborate in highlighting the best aspects of our community," President of the Board of Supervisors Jerry Hill said. "We may not have won a gold medal. But, the collaboration of nonprofits, business groups, education and government earns a gold in my book."

Reflecting its sesquicentennial celebration, the county's exhibit highlights agriculture and takes visitors on a tour of the county's heroes from the lumber and rail days of the Woodside Store to the pioneers of the biotechnology industry.

The exhibit also notes links among the hospitality, farming and fishing and the county's growing reputation as a culinary destination.

Participants in the exhibit included the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the San Mateo County Farm Bureau, the San Mateo County Historical Association and Cañada College.

"With fresh, local products including produce grown in the county, seafood caught off of the coast and locally made beer and wine, San Mateo County is fast becoming a world-class culinary destination," said Anne LeClair, president and chief executive officer of the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "The County's exhibit spotlights our products, which are as fresh as it gets."

For more information, visit www.co.sanmateo.ca.us.

KATHLEEN JAY » SOCIAL SERVICES

Nonprofit for the mentally ill awarded

Family Service Agency to use funds to create programs for youth, adults, seniors

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Department of Public Health recently awarded the Family Service Agency of San Francisco a grant of \$1,385,220 — funds which the nonprofit will use to create four new treatment programs to serve The City's mentally ill young people, adults and seniors.

"At FSA, we know that the best mental health treatment programs maximize client recovery while improving the quality of life," said Bob Bennett, chief executive officer of Family Service Agency of San Francisco. "And lower the tax burden for all of us."

According to the organization, state and national studies have demonstrated that intensive mental health programs can maximize client recovery while reducing taxpayer expenses. The new programs being developed will serve those who are most vulnerable, most costly and hardest to reach in The City, the agency said.

"By creating the best, most advanced treatment programs available anywhere, FSA serves its clients and the larger community at the same time," Bennett said. "We applaud the Department of Public Health for creating opportunities to develop truly exemplary, transformative models of care for people suffering with severe mental illness."

Founded in 1889, FSA is the largest nonsectarian provider of outpatient social services in the City and County of San Francisco.



Capriesha Thomas, a former program participant and current care worker at Family Service Agency's nursery at Hilltop High School, holds a young child as Hilltop Developmental Center site supervisor Cathy Lucero offers encouragement. Ms. Thomas was part of the FSA's Teen Resources to Achieve Positive Practices program. — Courtesy photo

It provides comprehensive social services at no cost or on a sliding scale, and services are offered in multiple languages at several locations throughout The City.

FSA currently provides social services that include family and individual counseling,

family intervention, medical assessments and mental health services for children, youth, couples and families.

"We believe that intensive, wraparound programs do more than just settle for managing these conditions," Bennett added.

"We think they offer mentally ill people — and their families — the best tools and resources to help them actually get their lives back."

For more information, visit www.fsasf.org.

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SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY RECEIVES FUNDS TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS FOR THE CITY'S MENTALLY ILL

The Family Service Agency of San Francisco recently received a grant of \$1,385,220 for which it will develop four new programs to serve The City's mentally ill. The funds for the latter three programs will be provided through new revenues generated by Proposition 63, which was passed by California voters in 2004 and imposes a 1 percent tax on annual personal incomes over \$1 million. Proposition 63 provides funds to counties to expand services and develop programs and integrated service plans for mentally ill children, adults and seniors.

The following is a breakdown of the programs:

» **Senior Peer Recovery Center:** FSA was awarded \$180,000 annually to develop and operate a Senior Peer Recovery Center for older adults with serious mental illness. The center will be based at the Curry Senior Center on Turk Street and will operate in conjunction with the Curry Center's daily meal program. The Senior Peer Recovery Program will serve as a comprehensive drop-in resource and recovery center for severely mentally ill seniors, and will link these seniors with many available services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, medical care, social activities and peer-to-peer recovery support. The Senior Peer Recovery Center is expected to serve 150 clients daily.

» **Moving Ahead Program for Youth:** FSA was awarded \$279,000 annually to develop and operate a full-service program for mentally ill youth ages 16-25. The Moving Ahead Program for Youth will assist seriously mentally ill young people in becoming independent and productive members of the community. The program will provide mental health and substance abuse treatment, physical health care, housing assistance and vocational and educational support to approximately 22 of The City's most seriously disturbed young people each year. The program will partner with Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, the San Francisco Public Defender, the San Francisco District Attorney, Community Awareness and Treatment Services and the Tom Waddell Health Center.

» **Comprehensive Adult Recovery and Engagement program:** FSA was awarded \$367,608 annually to develop and operate a full-service program for seriously mentally ill adults. The Comprehensive Adult Recovery and Engagement program will provide several recovery-oriented services, including housing and basic needs assistance, physical health care, benefits assistance, employment services and integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment services to approximately 34 individuals with serious mental illnesses. The program will partner with Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, Community Awareness and Treatment Services and the Tom Waddell Health Center.

» **Intensive Wellness Program for Seniors:** FSA was awarded \$558,612 annually to develop and operate a full-service program for seriously mentally ill older adults, age 60 and above. The Intensive Wellness Program for Seniors will provide integrated treatment services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, physical health care, housing assistance and vocational and educational support to approximately 43 of The City's most seriously disturbed older adults each year. FSA will partner with Curry Senior Center, Community Awareness and Treatment Services, Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, the Over 60 Project at UCSF and the Tom Waddell Health Center.

— Kathleen Jay