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AGENCY ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
1000 San Leandro Boulevard, Suite 300
San Leandro, CA 94577
Tel: (510) 618-3452

Media Contact: Sherri Willis
Office: 510-267-8001
Email: Sherri.willis@acgov.org

Regional Center of the East Bay Awarded \$333,900 for Specialty County Mental Health Clinic

First service site of its kind in the County to serve persons with developmental and mental health disabilities

September 24, 2014 (San Leandro, CA) – The California Department of Developmental Services has awarded a \$333,900 Mental Health Services Act, Cycle III award to the Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB). The grant will fund services at the new Schreiber Center slated to open this fall in the Gail Steele Wellness and Recovery Center.

Earlier this year, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved \$250,000 to seed the creation of the Schreiber Center, a collaboration among the Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB), Behavioral Health Care Services and Public Health Department, and Developmental Disabilities Council of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA).

“We know that individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) are 30-40% more likely to also have co-occurring mental health (MH) condition or a mental illness. Until now, no community or government collaborative has taken up the complexities of serving this fragile population. This investment by the state to our county’s collaborative approach has been a long time coming, and one that speaks to the leadership of the County Board of Supervisors,” said Alex Briscoe, Alameda County HCSA Director.

Supervisor Wilma Chan added, “As California has moved towards deinstitutionalization with the closure of the Agnews and Lanterman Developmental Centers, the Schreiber Center will better prepare Alameda County to support individuals with complex psychiatric needs.” The grant award runs from 2014-2017 and will serve some of the county’s most vulnerable and under-resourced individuals with needs ranging in complexity and severity.

The State defines a developmental disability as a severe and chronic condition that is substantially disabling for an individual, begins before the age of 18, and is expected to continue indefinitely. Such conditions include an intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism. There are 7,086 individuals with DDs served by the RCEB in Alameda County, of which 1,091 or 15.4 percent also have a formal Axis I diagnosis (major depressive episodes, schizophrenic episodes, and panic attacks, for example) and do not have a “mental health home.”

"Wonderful news. It is very gratifying that the state recognizes the importance of this collaborative effort of Alameda County and the Regional Center of the East Bay by awarding this grant for the Schreiber Center," remarked RCEB Executive Director James Burton.

The Schreiber Center was named in honor of psychiatrists, Drs. Mary Lu and Robert Schreiber who were highly regarded in the local developmental disability community. It will replicate the successful model of San Mateo’s Puente Clinic.

Virtually all anticipated Schreiber Center patients will be supported by Medi-Cal, many being dually eligible (MediCal/MediCare), which will sustain services and operations after the grant award.

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The mission of Alameda County Health Care Services Agency is to provide fully integrated health care services through a comprehensive network of public and private partnerships that ensure optimal health and well-being and respect the diversity of all residents.