



Early
Childhood
Mental
Health
Program

www.ecmhp.org

JANUARY 2025

THE DYAD

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



**CHILD & FAMILY
THERAPY SERVICES
EXPANDING TO
SOLANO COUNTY**



Created by: Vanice Robinson

Serving Contra Costa and Solano County

A message for you....



Looking Back with Gratitude, Looking Ahead with Excitement

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for all that we've accomplished together. In 2024, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary, honoring five decades of dedication to the children and families in our community. Our annual Block Party once again brought joy and connection to the Richmond community, while our first-ever Holiday Fair provided warmth and holiday cheer to so many children and families.

I am continually inspired by our clinical and administrative staff, whose exceptional work transforms lives every day. Your commitment to early childhood mental health has created a lasting impact on countless families, fostering resilience, growth, and healing. You have built a community of care, and we are deeply grateful for your passion and dedication.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are thrilled about the opportunities on the horizon. We are expanding our reach into Solano County and opening a new office in Vallejo, which will allow us to support even more families in need. Our staff directed work with autism spectrum caregiver support and education is a new venture, providing essential resources and guidance to parents and caregivers. We are also expanding our preschool mental health consultation services with Head Start programs across Contra Costa County, offering critical early intervention for young children and their teachers. Additionally, our Perinatal Circle of Care program is flourishing, providing comprehensive support for new mothers and families.

These initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to meeting the needs of our community, and we couldn't do it without the generosity of our supporters. If you are inspired by the work we do, we invite you to consider supporting our programs. Every contribution helps us continue providing life-changing services to children and families.

Thank you for your continuous support and for being part of our journey. Together, we can make 2025 a year of even greater impact.

With gratitude,

Jeffrey Sloan, MS, MBA, AMFT 112084
Executive Director



The latest news...



ECMHP expands to Solano County

We are thrilled to announce that ECMHP is expanding our services to Solano County with the launch of our P2 Five Project, dedicated to supporting children and families from birth to age five.

Our mission is to provide essential services to children in need, and we are thankful to our dedicated staff who will support these important initiatives. Stay tuned as we continue to further our mission and make a positive impact in the lives of families in Solano County!



2025

Newly Minted Licensees

Congratulations!



Maria del Carmen
(Maca) Vega
Rodriguez, LMFT



Andrea (Deia) de
Brito, LMFT



CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Last fall, ECMHP launched a new group for caregivers of children on the Autism Spectrum. The group ran for 8 weeks and was attended by 7 caregivers, who were given developmental guidance, reflective support, resources, and, maybe most importantly, a community of shared experience.

The initiative marked a big step toward narrowing the gap that often exist between mental health and developmentally focused services, and promises further efforts in this direction. The group was conceived and designed by therapists *Aaron Hume, ASW*, and *Faryn Hart, ASW*, and facilitated with support from therapist *Sophie Zimmerman, AMFT* and clinical supervisor *Cecilia De Rubira, LMFT*.

Facility Updates...



ROOF PROJECT IS UNDERWAY..

We are excited to share the latest on our ongoing roof project, which is being tackled in four phases. Phase 1 has been successfully completed, marking a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance our facility. The entire project is on track for completion by August 2025.

Stay tuned for more updates as we move forward with the remaining phases! We ask that you consider donating to support this project as capital required cuts into the funds we use to provide our ongoing programming. To donate visit our website at www.ecmhp.org/donate-today.



Phase 1



Richmond Facility

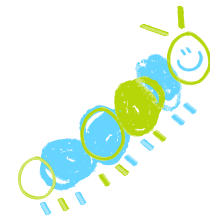
Our Richmond facility remains our home base in California serving all of West Contra Costa County. This facility is home to our comprehensive therapeutic preschool, providing essential support for young children, as well as our well-equipped clinical therapy rooms designed to offer a range of therapeutic services. We are proud to be a cornerstone of care in the community!



SOLANO LOCATION TO OPEN SPRING 2025

Our second office space will be opening in Vallejo, conveniently located off Sonoma Boulevard! This new location will serve as our Solano home base, allowing us to better serve the community and provide essential services. It will feature dedicated therapy rooms and office space for our clinicians, enhancing our ability to support those in need. We are eagerly looking forward to opening this space in Spring 2025!

Agency & Staff Highlights....



Welcoming our new staff members...



Maria "M" Figueroa
ASW



Uriel Flores
ASW



Kacy Barton
Mental Health Consultant



Sophie Zimmerman
AMFT



Cassandra Rivera
Billing Clerk



Kaila Fearey
ASW



Rosa Gamboa
Mental Health Consultant



Latrice Simmons
ACSW



Nadia Hossain
Grad Intern

Staff Promotions



Jessica Ayala
Accounting & Operations
Specialist



Samantha Watson-Alvarado
Associate Director



Vanice Robinson
Director of Operations

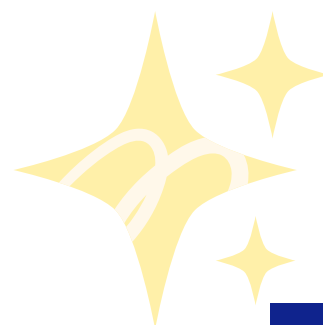
Join Our Team

Bilingual Child & Family Therapist

Mental Health Consultant

Visit our website for position details.
www.ecmhp.org/job-opportunities-1

Submit cv/resume to
employment@ecmhp.org



Staff Spotlight...



Celebrating 15 years!



**Anna Cabezas,
LMFT**

We proudly recognize and celebrate Anna Cabezas, for 15 years of unwavering commitment and exemplary service in early childhood development. Your passion and dedication have profoundly impacted the lives of countless children and families, guiding them through their formative years with compassion and expertise.

We are immensely grateful for your steadfast commitment to our mission and the positive change you bring every day. Your continued success inspires us all, and we look forward to many more years of collaboration and growth together. Thank you for being a beacon of hope and support in our community!

Yvonne's Retirement

With gratitude, we look back at a remarkable career in mental health as we celebrate the retirement of Yvonne Madera-Jaffe, who has been a vital part of the ECMHP family for 19 years. A Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Yvonne was fervently dedicated to our mission and made an indelible impact on the lives of countless children and families.

Yvonne joined ECMHP in 2006 as a Mental Health Consultant with our Preschool Consultation Program. Since 2018, she served as the intake coordinator, ensuring that all referred families receive timely services. Yvonne's kind, patient and compassionate nature, combined with her clinical acumen made her an ideal fit for this position, which she embodied beyond duty.

Yvonne's career did not start at ECMHP: From humble beginnings as a community organizer, to running youth centers or postgraduate training programs, and with 40-something years in private practice under her belt, she was already a seasoned pro when she came to us. A native of Ecuador raised by Holocaust refugees, and a practicing Buddhist, she passionately advocated for underprivileged Latin communities. She has been an inspiration to many of us who have had the pleasure of working alongside her.

As she embarks on this new chapter of her life, we wish Yvonne a delightful retirement filled with joy, travel, and lots of time with her four grandchildren. And a heartfelt thank you, Yvonne!



**Yvonne Madera-Jaffe,
LMFT
Celebrating 19 Years**

Events....



Family Enrichment Nights

Our family nights are held monthly and are designed to foster bonding and connection within our community, providing a welcoming space for families to enjoy quality time together. Each session features engaging crafts and activities, led by a dedicated community member who will also share valuable resources for young children. Whether you're creating art, playing games, or exploring new ideas, there's something for everyone to enjoy. As an added bonus, we provide a delicious dinner for all attendees, allowing you to relax and savor the moments with your loved ones.



November 2024
Hosted by: The Childrens Art Studio of Richmond



3rd Annual Summer Kick- Off

This exciting event marks the beginning of summer and is a wonderful opportunity for families to celebrate together after the school year. Enjoy a day filled with fun activities, resources for children and families, and a chance to connect with our vibrant community. Come out, bring your friends, and let's kick off the summer season with joy and togetherness! Mark your calendars for **June 6th, 2025!**

Thank you to our supporters!

Annual Fundraising Campaign

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters for their generous donations toward our annual fundraising campaign, with a goal of **\$100,000**. We are excited to share that we have raised **\$87,186.65** so far, and these accomplishments are only possible because of your unwavering support. We are truly thankful for your commitment to our mission. If you would like to help us reach our goal, please visit our website and donate today. Together, we can make a significant impact!



50th Anniversary Recap



ECMHP Leadership

Pictured above: ECMHP Senior Leadership

Jeff Sloan,
Executive Director

Samantha Watson Alvarado,
Associate Director

Lawrence Burke,
Finance Director

Sami Qreini,
Clinical Director

Suzanne Harkless,
Associate Clinical Director



“What we need is a world full of miracles, like the miracle of seeing the young child seeking work and independence, and manifesting a wealth of enthusiasm and love.”

-Maria Montessori



Did you know?

In 1981 ECMHP was the first nonprofit program to offer mental health consultation to early learning sites in the state of California.

In 2020 our preschool mental health services expanded to Head Start Preschools across the county.

Today our preschool consultation services are provided through our “ECC” (Early Childhood Consultation) program that serves Head Start across Contra Costa County.

CONTACT US



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Donate Today!

