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**CONTENT**  
FOR  
THIS  
MONTH'S  
ISSUE

**page 1**

Featured Employee

**page 2**

Directors Corner

**page 3**

Directors Corner

**page 4**

Continued  
Education

**page 5**

Social Work

**page 6**

Prevention

**page 7**

Did you know?

**page 8**

MSW Interns

# Featured Employee of the Month



Jesse  
Mora

It is with great pleasure that we shine the spotlight on Jesse Mora, a remarkable member of our team at Sutter Bay Hospital - EBAC. In less than a year, Jesse has made an indelible impact on both our prevention patients and our entire team, serving as an inspiration to us all.

Jesse embodies the true spirit of dedication and hard work. As our Outreach and Retention Coordinator, Jesse fearlessly tackles any challenge that comes his way, going above and beyond to ensure the well-being of our community. Despite being relatively new to EBAC, Jesse's tireless efforts have already left a lasting mark on our organization.

One of Jesse's most admirable qualities is his willingness to take on additional responsibilities without hesitation, like staffing the after-hours PrEP phone to support patients in need of prevention services. Jesse consistently demonstrates a remarkable work ethic and a genuine commitment to our mission.

What sets Jesse apart is his unwavering dedication to our community. He never shies away from a task, always asking, "What more can I do for our community?" Jesse's passion for his work is palpable, and his impact is felt by all those he encounters.

In addition to his outstanding work within our organization, Jesse will also be representing us at the LatinX Conference from May 1st to May 5th, 2024, in El Paso, Texas. This opportunity is a testament to Jesse's talents, dedication, and hard work, and we couldn't be prouder to have him as part of our team.

Jesse Mora is not just an employee; he is a shining star, illuminating the path forward for us all. We are incredibly grateful for his contributions and investment in our clinical and outreach services.

Please join us in congratulating Jesse Mora for his achievements and thanking him for his unwavering dedication to our community and our team.



## DIRECTORS CORNER

### Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: A Message to Our Sutter Bay Hospital - EBAC Staff

Dear Team,

I hope this message finds you all in good spirits and ready to tackle another day of serving our community at Sutter Bay Hospital - EBAC. As we navigate the challenges and triumphs of our daily work, I want to take a moment to remind every one of you of the incredible power of teamwork.

At Sutter Bay Hospital - EBAC, we're not just a group of individuals fulfilling our roles; we're a cohesive team united by a common goal: providing exceptional care and support to those who need it most. Whether you're on the front lines delivering compassionate patient care, behind the scenes ensuring our operations run smoothly, or anywhere in between, your contributions are invaluable and essential to our success.

As the saying goes, "Teamwork makes the dream work." Together, we have the ability to achieve remarkable feats and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our patients and their families. It's through our collaboration, communication, and unwavering commitment to excellence that we can truly make our shared vision a reality.

I encourage each of you to continue embracing the spirit of teamwork in everything you do. Let's lift each other up, support one another, and celebrate our collective achievements. By working together, we can overcome any obstacle, face any challenge, and reach new heights of success.

Thank you for your dedication, your hard work, and your unwavering commitment to our patients and our team. Your contributions do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact and fulfill our mission of providing exceptional care with compassion, integrity, and teamwork.

Here's to us, the Sutter Bay Hospital - EBAC team, and to the countless lives we will touch and improve together.

Warm regards,  
Tony





## Practitioner-Oriented Implementation Science Education (POISE) Training

The Implementation Science Coordination Initiative (ISCI) at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine has selected a total of 12 applicants from the US. The goal of POISE, which is designed for HIV prevention and care practitioners offer training on implementation science and innovative tools that can be applied to real-world practice. The training includes basic implementation science concepts, identifying implementation barriers and facilitators and implementation strategies to address them, and identifying measurable implementation outcomes. The multimodal, practice-based, five-month hybrid training is composed of a series of presentations on implementation science (didactic) sessions, an in-person meeting, self-study components, a real-world case study, peer-to-peer learning, and interactive online discussions.

The time required to complete the entire training program is estimated to be 1.5 days for in-person meetings plus an additional 40-42 hours throughout 5 months to complete pre-reading, learning activities, and final virtual meetings. A total of 12 applicants were selected for the 2024 training cohort. The training program will: 1) Increase understanding of how to apply implementation science tools for planning and writing RFPs; 2) Provide templates to operationalize program development and implementation throughout an organization; and 3) Offer science-based strategies to develop and improve HIV-related services. By the end of the training program participants will have developed an initial implementation plan for a locally relevant HIV-related program and will receive a Certificate of completion of the POISE training.



## New Grants

East Bay Advanced Care (EBAC) has applied for another grant of one million dollars a year for the next five years, Project Title: Clinic HIV Enhancement for Support and Scaleup (CHESS)

East Bay Advanced Care (EBAC) will collaborate with the public health community in Alameda County, among the nation's areas most impacted by HIV, to scale up syndemic, HIV/STI care services that encompass holistic and coordinated preventive, clinical, medical, behavioral health, and support services, and strengthen our infrastructure and partnership networks.

We will plan, implement, and evaluate: Strategy A. Strengthening Clinic Infrastructure and improving Service Delivery to Address HIV and STIs; and Strategy B. Fostering Strategic Partnerships in Support of the EHE Initiative.

For Strategy A we propose to assess our infrastructure gaps and put in place an Action Plan to: extend our clinic's on-site hours of service; expand staffing and HIV/STI services; expand community outreach, sexual health and PrEP education for individuals from priority populations, and provider training; and strengthen syndemic-focused, mental health, and housing services. We will prioritize outreach and services to BMSM, MSM, MSWM, and target outreach, education, and clinic services to women, especially cis and transgender black women for whom HIV and STI rates are rising.

For Strategy B we propose to assess our partnership gaps and put in place an Action Plan to: strengthen current community partnerships and build new relationships with local CEOs, Ryan White providers, other healthcare providers, networks, and data-sharing entities, funded by and not funded by CDC, that are important for advancing the health and well-being of our clients. We will work closely to cross-refer patients based on patient needs and preferences, create patient support systems, and strive to strategically augment the joint work of partnerships.

EBAC also replied to our medical case management, psychosocial, and prevention grant with Alameda County. This grant will use the syndemic approach to addressing HIV. EBAC will actively address the health conditions and social contexts that contribute to increased severity, disparity, transmissions, and co-morbidity and mortality rates, by creating and using outreach and recruiting strategies and service delivery models that are specifically designed to reduce health disparities and structural barriers to care, including racism, homophobia, stigma, lack of access and poverty.

# CONTINUED EDUCATION COMMUNITY WORK

## Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit

The 8th annual Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit was held in Seattle, Washington, April 19th and 20th and attended by EBAC staff Tony, Dandy, and Juriz. Over 1,000 community advocates, researchers, public health, medical and service providers from around the US attended to discuss the latest advancements in HIV prevention. The summit was centered on the implementation of biomedical tools in our prevention and treatment efforts to ultimately end the HIV epidemic in our communities.

Throughout the summit, it became evident that PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), has made significant and impactful strides in our fight against HIV. AIDSvu, highlighted that, while African Americans in the US make up 42% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2021, they were only 14% of all PrEP users. By comparison, white Americans are 65% of all PrEP users, but only 26% of all people diagnosed with HIV in the same year.

Overall, the HIV Biomedical Prevention Summit was a transformative experience. It not only provided a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices but also fostered solidarity and collective responsibility. Grateful for the opportunity to have attended this summit and learned from some of the great minds in the field.

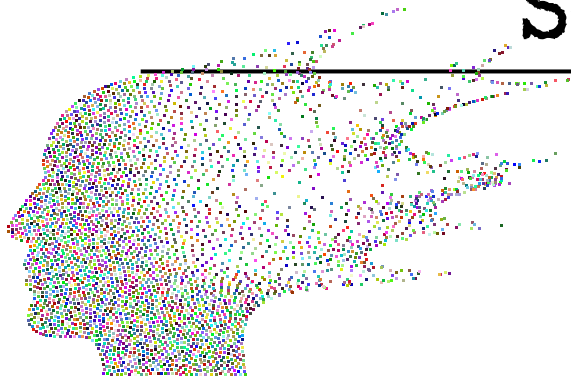


## EBGTZ Regional Case Managers Meeting

Tony presented at the EBGTZ Regional Case Managers meeting. He presented on “Enhancing Case Management Standards: A Focus on Client Relationships, Boundaries, Self-Disclosure, and Documentation.”



# SOCIAL WORK



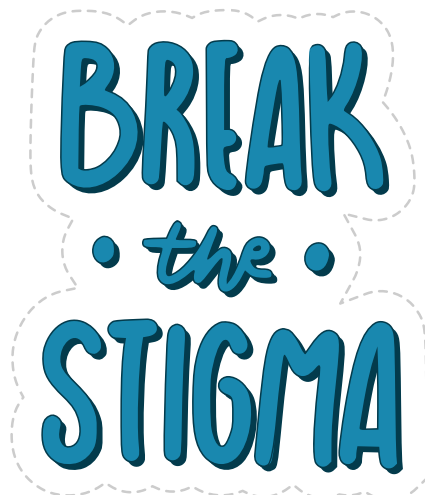
## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mental Health Awareness Month (MHAM) has been observed since 1949 and is an event dedicated to raising awareness to risk factors for mental illness, the connection between physical and mental health, and how to practice self-care.

During MHAM, you may contribute information about mental health online or in person, attend screenings for mental health, or introduce resources to those you love. This brings awareness to each person’s mental health needs and can reduce the stigma of reaching out for support.

EBAC has a number of qualified Social Workers that are here to support all of our EBAC clients. If you would like to check in with any of our mental health staff or enroll in any of our support/social groups, please ask your provider or have the front desk reach out to Leslie.

We understand the stigma that surrounds physical and mental health, and our team is here to provide the support you need at the pace that works best for you.





# PREVENTION



(From left to right): Jesse, Ryan, and Juriz testing at Eddie's Place in April

Here are the impactful initiatives we have undertaken in our ongoing efforts to raise awareness and provide HIV prevention services for the month of April:

- **East Oakland:** With continued testing at the East Oakland Collective's food distribution, we tested **20** community members! Thank you EOC for allowing us to partner with you!
- **Eddie's Place:** We were thrilled to begin testing at Eddie's Place, a Cardea-ran medical respite center. We look forward to moving with them to East Oakland in May!
- **Steamworks:** We continue to test, on average, 15 sauna-goers a month! We are grateful for Steamworks' continued partnership in providing prevention services.
- **Contra Costa College:** Our team provided testing at CCC's EOPS registration center. Big thank you to CCC for inviting us out!
- The prevention team was present at Oakland's First Friday, **CalPEP's** Thrive Together event, and **Lighthouse Community Charter School's** health fair. Thank you to all these organizations for having us out!
- We continue to link folks to PrEP, especially with new referral pathways from **East Bay Getting to Zero** and **Highland Hospital**. Thank you both!

## MAY TESTING EVENTS

### **Oakland First Friday**

- Friday May 3rd: 5 - 9 pm

### **East Oakland Collective**

- Tuesday May 14th and 28th: 11 am - 2 pm

### **Oaklash Drag Festival**

- Saturday May 18th: 1 - 9 pm

### **Steamworks**

- Sunday May 19th: 12 - 4 pm

### **Eddie's Place**

- Friday May 31st: 10 am - 2 pm

As we move forward, our commitment to eradicating the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS remains unwavering. EBAC's Prevention team is dedicated to fostering an environment of understanding, compassion, and support for all members of our community. We will continue to do what we can to make a difference. Thank you!

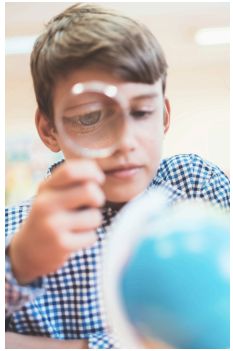
For more details on testing events and additional outreach events, follow us on Instagram!

@connectionsebac





# DID YOU KNOW?



## PATIENT SAFETY

Scammers use the internet to scam unsuspecting consumers. If an offer, mail, or message sounds too good to be true or just seems plain fishy, go with your gut and do some additional checking. Here are some common scams to be aware of:

### Personal Emergency Scam

Scammers email or post social media messages that appear to be from someone you know saying they are in distress, such as losing their wallet or having been arrested, if you get these messages from a friend, there is a good chance that their account was hacked & that it's a criminal who is out to steal your money. When you get these messages, call the person directly and delete the message that was sent to you.

### You Owe Money Scam

Be wary of emails that claim you owe money. If you hear from a bill collector or a government agency about money "owed" by you or a family member, don't respond unless you are certain it's legitimate. It's pretty common for scammers to send "bills" to people who don't actually owe them money.

### Online Dating Scam

Many people have found love via dating websites, but others have been scammed out of money by online con artists. For tips on safe online dating and a list of red flags, see "Meeting new friends and romantic partners."

### Infected computer scam

You might get a call from "Microsoft," saying your computer is infected or vulnerable to hacking, with an offer to fix it for you. Hang up. Microsoft and other reputable companies never make these calls. These are criminals trying to steal your money & plant viruses on your machine. Also be suspicious of any messages in email or that pop-up on your computer, in your Web browser or on a mobile app warning you of a virus or a security risk. If you have reason to suspect that your device is at risk, consult a trusted expert but never download software or apps that you aren't certain come from legitimate sources.



# EBAC NEWS

## Social Work Department

Over the past year we have had the pleasure of having amazing interns in the social work department. But now we have reached the bitter-sweet moment of them moving on to their next journey. The whole EBAC team will miss you and are extremely thankful for all of the support you have provided! Thank you, Jilan, Eishin, and Lizet for supporting our clients, always showing them respect & compassion, dedicating your off days to advocate for the community, and amazing teamwork! You have helped make our social work team feel complete and we will never forget you! I cannot wait to see what amazing work you all will do after this and look forward to working with you all again.

