

Employment & Human Services

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For Immediate Release

Contra Costa's One-Stop Career Center and Service Integration Administrator Selected as Annie E. Casey Foundation's Children and Family Fellow

BALTIMORE, MD — The Annie E. Casey Foundation, a national foundation that develops solutions to build a brighter future for children, has selected 16 leaders from across the country as its 2013-2014 Children and Family Fellows. These accomplished public systems administrators, nonprofit leaders and community development professionals who are committed to helping low-income families succeed will use the 20-month fellowship to work toward specific, measurable improvements for children and families.

Paul Buddenhagen serves as the County Employment and Human Services Department's One-Stop and Service Integration Administrator. He oversees work at four One-Stop Career Centers, SparkPoint and a Family Service Center, helping low-income people from Brentwood to North Richmond become economically self sufficient. His focus is on developing strategic partnerships with business, government, education, faith and non-profit entities to help the County's most vulnerable people improve their lives.

"Helping to improve the way County government and our partners and communities work together to make Contra Costa County a place where everyone has an opportunity to thrive is my passion and I am thrilled that the Annie E. Casey Foundation is supporting this work," said Paul Buddenhagen.

The Casey Foundation created the Children and Family Fellowship, now in its 20th year, to increase the pool of leaders with the vision, drive and ability to create and sustain major system reforms and community initiatives that benefit large numbers of children and families.

"Paul's participation as one of the Casey Foundation's Children and Family Fellows provides Contra Costa County with an excellent opportunity to learn more about best practices around the nation for service delivery that can be adopted within our county to support the neediest individuals and families in our community," said Kathy Gallagher, Director of Contra Costa County's Employment and Human Services.

Using a results-based leadership approach, Fellows work toward their chosen goals for children and families by participating in a series of intensive leadership opportunities, including group seminars and individual coaching that build competencies, site visits to learn about innovative service delivery models and application of learning within their home organizations.

Kathy Gallagher, Director

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“By giving these talented leaders guidance, tools and learning opportunities tailored specifically to the results they hope to achieve, the Fellowship is a powerful catalyst for measurable improvements in child and family well-being,” said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation. “Over the past 20 years, the Fellowship program has created a dynamic community of leaders who continue to collaborate and challenge themselves to give all children a chance to reach their full potential.”

For additional information about the Casey Foundation’s Children and Family Fellowship program as well as a complete list of selected participants, visit their website: <http://www.aecf.org/fellowship.aspx>

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