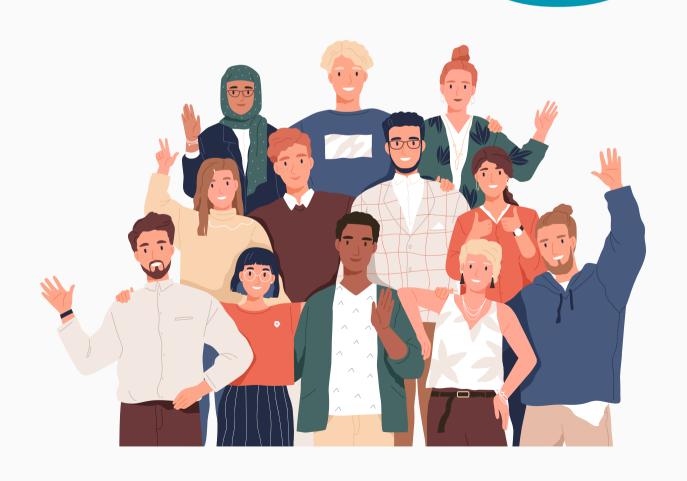
JANURARY - MARCH 2024

# Inclusion and Belonging Circular

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Behvaioral Health

COUNTY
SAN LUIS
OBISPO



www.slobehavioralhealth.org

### Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee

- Kimberli Andridge, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- Jay Bettergarcia, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- Ana Isabel Cabezas, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- Kianah Corey, SLO Behavorial Health
- Thomas Cuddy, SLO Behavioral Health
- Bryanna Gay, SLO Behavioral Health
- Amanda Getten, SLO Behavioral Health
- Star Graber, SLO Behavioral Health
- Nancy Jambor, SLO Behavioral Health
- Barry Johnson, Transitions-Mental Health Association
- Margaux Jones, Family Care Network
- Brooke Klever, Transitions-Mental Health Association
- Claudia Lopez, SLO Behavioral Health
- Annika Michetti, SLO Behavioral Health
- Jo Nibbio, Family Care Network
- Lizzy Novikoff, Transitions-Mental Health Association
- Carlos Olson, SLO Behavioral Health
- Joy Pedersen, Transitions-Mental Health Association
- Matt Pennon, SLO Behavioral Health
- Lilia Rangel-Reyes, Tri-Counties Regional Center
- Jill Rietjens, SLO Behavioral Health
- Nasseem Rouhani, SLO Behavioral Health
- Kendra Scott, SLO Veterans Services
- Karina Silva Garcia, SLO Behavioral Health
- Katherine Soule, UC Cooperative Extension
- Rachel Tarver, SLO Behavioral Health
- Joyce Tseng, SLO Public Health
- Laura Zarate, SLO Behavioral Health



### The DEI Committee: Our Shared Journey

In our dedicated journey towards creating a more inclusive and understanding community, the County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee stands as a beacon of commitment to progress. We are wholeheartedly committed to fostering cultural humility at all organizational and service levels. Our mission transcends beyond awareness; it is about actively engaging in respect, access, empowerment, and understanding the diverse tapestry of individuals, cultures, ethnic groups, genders, gender identities and expressions, sexualities, abilities, veteran statuses, spiritual affiliations, and linguistic backgrounds that enrich our community.

We are enthusiastic about leading, developing, enhancing, and maintaining a culturally-aware workforce, shaping policies, services, and programs that not only embrace but celebrate our community's diversity. Our focused efforts are dedicated to ensuring improved healthcare outcomes for every individual, honoring their unique identities and experiences.

In line with our vision of making diversity, equity, and inclusion the foundational values of our behavioral health services and management operations, we are excited to share our 'Inclusion & Belonging Circular.' This quarterly publication will be a cornerstone in our collective journey towards well-being. It will highlight vital information, resources, and services within our community, supporting us all on this path of inclusive excellence.

Through the 'Inclusion & Belonging Circular' and our ongoing efforts, we aspire to build an environment where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued, and where the well-being of each individual is our shared responsibility. Enjoy!

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### **Awareness of Israel and Palestine**

### Empathize. Educate. Respect.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a complex and longstanding issue, deeply affecting many lives and communities. As a County department committed to the principles of inclusion and belonging, we recognize the profound human impact of this conflict and the diverse perspectives within our community.

Our role is not to engage in the political aspects of the conflict but to provide a safe and supportive environment for all community members. We are dedicated to promoting understanding and empathy, respecting the rights and dignity of every individual, regardless of their connection to or views on this issue.

We understand that global events can evoke strong emotions and stress, which is why we are here to offer support and resources. Below, you will find a list of services available for anyone seeking assistance or a space to process their thoughts and feelings in a respectful and confidential setting.

We recognize the rise of divisive rhetoric in our county and want to provide resources for those who need the support.

As a community, our focus is on ensuring safety and well-being for all within our county. We are committed to fostering a space where every voice is heard and valued, and where empathy and respect guide our actions.

### YOUR GO-TO

### RESOURCE LIST

### MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN DISASTER, WAR, AND CONFLICT AREAS

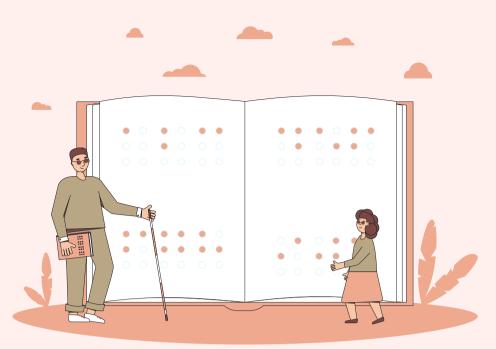
### CHILDREN'S UNLEARNING OF PREJUDICE

#### **HATE SPEECH VERUS FREE SPEECH**

ISRAEL-PALESTINE: HOW TO HELP THE VICTIMS
OF THE DEADLY ATTACKS

REPORTING ANTISEMITISM LOCALLY

X



### 4 January

### WORLD BRAILLE DAY

On January 4th we celebrate in community World Braille Day in honor of the inventor, Louis Braille's Birthday. Braille literacy is incredibly essential all over the world as it gives reaching blind and visually impaired people the opportunity to feel a sense of liberation. On this day we not only recognize but we celebrate those with visual impairments as they are deserving of basic human rights like everyone else. World Braille Day is intended to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as it is an essential for communication for many across the globe.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day





On this day, we remember the incredible work and invaluable sacrifices made by Martin Luther King Jr. in advancing the civil rights of Americans and people across the globe.

Join the community in celebration, memorial and legacy of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Upcoming events to attend:

Cal Poly's Black Academic Excellence Center & Race Matters SLO



# International Holocaust Rememberance Day Jan

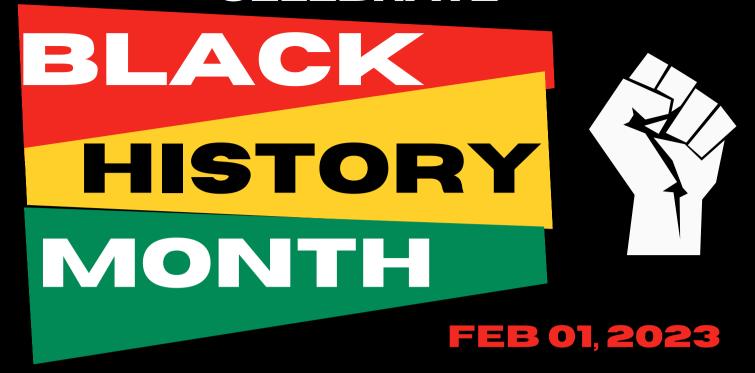
Holocaust <u>Remembrance Day</u>, also known as <u>Yom HaShoah</u>, is an international day to honor the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. It is observed annually on different dates depending on the country.

In other countries, it is often observed on the 27th of January, marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945.

The day serves as a reminder of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust and the importance of educating future generations about the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and genocide. It is a solemn occasion for reflection, remembrance, and honoring the memory of the millions of innocent lives lost during this dark period in history.



### CELEBRATE



ORIGINALLY STARTING AS JUST A WEEK, THIS CELEBRATION AND GRATITUDE FOR BLACKNESS HAS EXPANDED TO A FULL MONTH, BUT IS NOT JUST LIMITED TO THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. THIS MONTH IS JUST A REMINDER OF THE RESILIENCE, LEADERSHIP AND STRENGTH OF BLACK LIVES. THIS YEARS THEME FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS AFRICAN AMERICAN AND THE ARTS. AFRICAN AMERICAN ART INCLUDES INNOVATIVE FASHION, TEXTURED HAIRSTYLES, UNIQUE CREATION OF MUSIC, EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DANCE AND THE BEAUTY IN BOTH TRADITIONAL AND NON TRADITIONAL ART PIECES.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN ENGAGE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN ART AND OTHER BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY:

THE CAL POLY'S BLACK ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CENTER WILL BE HAVING THEIR SECOND ANNUAL BALCK HISTORY MONTH KICK OFF AND OTHER FUN CELEBRATORY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH. THE BRAND-NEW TEXTURE SALON PARTNERED WITH RACE MATTERS SLO WILL BE HAVING ARTISTS IN AND OUT OF THE SPACE THROUGHOUT THIS JOYOUS MONTH. THE COUNTY WILL BE CELEBRATING PRESENTS BIPOC AFFIRMING SERVICES AND ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR BIPOC PARENTS.



### **Lunar New Year**



### Feburary 10th, 2024

The origins of Lunar New Year can be traced back to ancient agrarian societies in China. It was originally a time to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring, as well as to pray for a good harvest in the coming year. Over time, it evolved into a festival that incorporates various cultural and religious traditions.

Lunar New Year is also a time for cultural performances, such as dragon and lion dances, as well as various traditional games and activities. Each year is associated with one of the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac, and people believe that the characteristics of that animal will influence the year ahead. This years animal is the DRAGON!

Overall, Lunar New Year is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal. It is a cherished tradition that brings people together to honor their heritage and look forward to a prosperous and auspicious year ahead. Check out what SLO does for Lunar New Year!







**MARCH 2024** 

# Women's HISTORY MONTH

This years <u>theme</u> is Women who advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Women's History Month is celebrated annually in March to recognize and honor the contributions and achievements of women throughout history. During Women's History Month, various events, programs, and initiatives are organized to highlight the accomplishments of women in various fields, including politics, science, arts, literature, sports, and more. It is a time to reflect on the progress made in gender equality and to raise awareness about the ongoing challenges that women face.

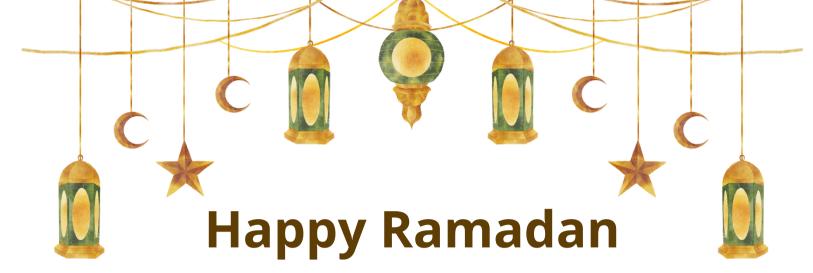
The month-long celebration provides an opportunity to learn about the significant role women have played in shaping history and society. It is a time to honor the trailblazers who have broken barriers and paved the way for future generations. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of gender equality and the need to continue working towards a more inclusive and equitable world.

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Each year, International Women's Day has a specific theme that focuses on different aspects of women's empowerment and equity. This year we will be celebrating **#InspireInclusion**. It is celebrated through various <u>activities</u>, including rallies, <u>marches</u>, conferences, panel discussions, cultural events, and campaigns. Many organizations and individuals also use this day to honor and recognize the contributions of women in their communities and around the world.

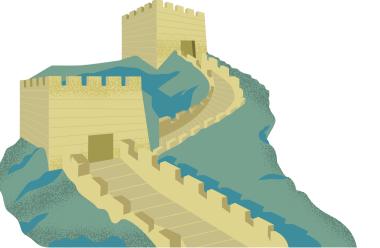
International Women's Day serves as a reminder of the progress made towards gender equality, but also highlights the work that still needs to be done. It is an opportunity to promote inclusivity, challenge stereotypes, and work towards a more equitable and just society for all genders.





Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, and it holds great significance for Muslims around the world. It is considered the holiest month, during which the Quran, the holy book of Islam, was believed to have been revealed to Prophet Muhammad.

The end of <u>Ramadan</u> is marked by the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, a festival that includes special prayers, feasting, and giving of gifts and charity. The exact dates of <u>Ramadan</u> vary each year because the Islamic calendar is lunar-based, and it lasts for 29 or 30 days, depending on the sighting of the moon. This year, this celebratory month starts on March 10th.





# WORLD DOWNSYNDROME DAY

World Down Syndrome Day is observed on March 21st each year. It is a global awareness day that aims to promote understanding, inclusion, and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome. The date, 21/3, represents the triplication of the 21st chromosome, which is characteristic of Down syndrome.

The purpose of World Down Syndrome Day is to raise awareness about Down syndrome, challenge <u>stereotypes</u>, and advocate for the rights, well-being, and <u>inclusion</u> of individuals with Down syndrome in society. It provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and abilities of people with Down syndrome, as well as to highlight the challenges they may face

and the support they need.

## MEET FRANKWARREN



Friday, October 27th

It is with great enthusiasm that we spotlight Deputy Director Frank Warren, a stalwart member of our county team for over 28 years. Frank's leadership journey is characterized by empathy, grace, and unwavering passion, qualities that he brings into his innovative role.

Frank's career trajectory is as diverse as it is inspiring. His eclectic background spans radio hosting, journalism, music, drug and alcohol counseling, public policy, administrative work, and teaching. This rich tapestry of experiences informs his unique approach to leadership and community engagement.

Having been a part of the SLO community since the age of 12, Frank's connection to the county is deep-rooted and personal. His love and passion for our community are the driving forces behind his commitment to public service. In his new role, Frank aims to foster an environment of comfort, safety, and playfulness. His vision is to secure robust grant funding that supports both new initiatives and enhances our existing programs.

A notable achievement in Frank's career is his instrumental role in the creation of what is now the DEI Committee. Alongside his colleagues, Frank laid the groundwork for this committee in the early 2010s, though their DEI efforts trace back to 2005. This highlights a key aspect of Frank's vision: understanding that diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are not fleeting trends but fundamental pillars for a vibrant, healthy community. His dedication to these principles has been a guiding light in our county's journey toward a more inclusive and equitable future.

We celebrate Frank Warren not just for his extensive professional accomplishments but for his enduring commitment to making our county a place where everyone feels valued, understood, and included.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH



# INTRODUCING Dr. Star Graber

We are thrilled to introduce Dr. Star Graber in our Inclusion & Belonging Newsletter. Dr. Graber, a cherished member of our community, steps into the role of Behavioral Health Director after a remarkable 37-year journey with our county.

Dr. Graber's academic foundations were solidified at Cal Poly, where she earned a Master's in Counseling/LMFT. This crucial milestone further fueled her already established professional dedication to therapy and mental health. Throughout her career, Dr. Graber has been a beacon of support for individuals, parents, families, and children. Her passionate work in substance use treatment speaks volumes of her commitment to healing and growth. Her approach has always been one rooted in empathy and understanding, reflecting our core values of inclusivity and belonging.

As our new director, Dr. Graber envisions a Behavioral Health landscape where accessibility and structure are paramount. She is dedicated to securing the necessary funding to expand programs and facilities, ensuring that every individual receives the care they need in a welcoming, supportive environment.

We express our deepest gratitude for the dedication and passion Dr. Graber has invested in our county. Her visionary leadership is not just a promise of progress but a testament to our collective commitment to health, healing, and community. We are excited to embark on this new chapter with Dr. Graber at the helm, confident in her ability to guide us towards a more inclusive, understanding, and healthy future.

### **Embracing Inclusion & Belonging in our Behavioral Health Initiatives**



I hope this message finds you embracing the start of a new year with hope and enthusiasm! As we transition into the heart of the year, our conversations and efforts within the Department of Behavioral Health are increasingly centered on the vital issues of mental health and substance abuse. These are more than just areas of professional focus; they are threads woven into the fabric of our communities, touching many lives in deeply personal ways.

In this edition of "Messages from Matt," I'm eager to delve into how inclusion and belonging profoundly impact mental health and recovery journeys. The principles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) are not just pillars within our department; they are beacons that guide us towards more compassionate, supportive services and outcomes for everyone that we serve.

In our ongoing mission to be a force for positive change, we are actively seeking ways to ensure that every individual—regardless of their background or the challenges they face—feels welcomed and valued. We're reimagining how we can be more inclusive and create safe spaces where people not only find the support, they need but also where they truly feel they belong.

In our work, we recognize that to foster a sense of belonging, we must listen to and learn from the diverse voices of our community. It's about building relationships that are rooted in respect and understanding. That's why we're focusing on initiatives that break down barriers and open doors, particularly for those grappling with mental health and substance abuse issues.

It's crucial that we continue to challenge ourselves to think beyond traditional frameworks and embrace innovative approaches. Just as my family finds solace and connection in the stunning landscapes of the San Luis Obispo coastline and mountains, we want our community to find a sanctuary within our services—a place where the beauty of diversity is celebrated and where everyone can find the path to wellness surrounded by support. Take a moment to visit our <u>DEI Resources</u>.

We are always evolving, learning from you, our community, and each other. Our Inclusion & Belonging Circular is one of the many ways we hope to keep you informed and involved. Your insights are invaluable, and I encourage you to share your experiences and suggestions. Together, we can create a tapestry of care that is as diverse and vibrant as the community we serve. I am always happy to have a conversation and can be reached at msnyderpennon@co.slo.ca.us.

Join Our Inclusion & Belonging Community! Ready to explore, connect, and grow with us?

Simply scan this QR Code to sign up for our Inclusion & Belonging Circular



### **Dates to Remember**

### **January**

- Celebration of Life Month
- International Quality of Life Month
- Self Love Month
- World Braille Day (Jan.4)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan.15)
- International Holocaust Day (Jan.24)

### **February**

- Black History Month
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
- <u>Self Love Day</u> (February. 3)
- <u>Lunar New Year</u> (Feb.10)
- Random Act of Kindness Week (Feb.13-19)
- National Eating Disorder week (Feb.19-Feb. 25)

#### March

- Women's History Month
- Self Harm Awareness Month
- National Developmental Disabilities Awareness
   Month
- Zero Discrimination Day (March 1)
- International Women's Day (March 8)
- Ramadan (March 10)
- World Down Syndrome Day (March 21)
- World Teen Mental Wellness Day (March 2)
- World Bipolar Day (March 30)



#### Resources

**DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES** 

SAN LUIS OBISPO ADULT 2180 Johnson Ave San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-781-4275 Website

SAN LUIS OBISPO YOUTH 277 South St., Suite T, San Luis Obispo, 93401 805-781-4754 Website

PASO ROBLES ADULT 805 4th St Paso Robles, CA 93446 805-226-3200 Website

ATASCADERO ADULT 3556 El Camino Real Atascadero, CA 93422 805-461-6080 Website

**GROVER BEACH ADULT** 1523 Longbranch Ave Grover Beach, CA 93433 (805) 473-7080 Website

PREVENTION & OUTREACH 277 South St San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-781-4754 Website

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARROYO GRANDE YOUTH

SAN LUIS OBISPO YOUTH 0-5 MARTHA'S PLACE CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER 2925 McMillan Avenue Suite ARROYO GRANDE ADULT 108 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-781-4948

SAN LUIS OBISPO YOUTH 1989 Vicente Avenue San Luis Obispo, 93401 805-781-4179 Website

Website

SAN LUIS OBISPO ADULT 2178 Johnson Avenue Paso Robles, CA 93446 805-781-4700 Website

SAN LUIS OBISPO PSYCHIATRIC HEALTH **FACILITY** 2178 Johnson Avenue San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-781-4711 Website

CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT 2180 Johnson Avenue San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-781-4275 Website

345 S. Halcyon Road Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805-473-7060 Website

1350 East Grand Avenue Arrovo Grande, CA 93420 805-474-2154 Website

ATASCADERO YOUTH AND **ADULT** 5575 Hospital Drive Atascadero, CA 93422 805-461-6060 Website

SERVICES AFFIRMING FAMILY EMPOWERMENT (SAFE) Website

RESOURCES IN THE **COMMUNITY** 

ACCESS SUPPORT NETWORK (ASN) 1320 Nipomo St San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-781-3660 Website



### **Resources (continued)**

**RESOURCES IN THE** COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

ASPIRE COUNSELING SERVICES 865 Aerovista Suite 130 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 888-585-7373 Website

ATASCADERO - THE LINK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER San Luis Obispo, 93401 4507 Del Rio Ave. Building 805-544-4355 #1

Atascadero, CA 93422 805-794-0217 Website

CAL POLY COUNSELING **SERVICES** (STUDENTS ONLY) 1 Grand Ave, Building 27 San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 805-756-2511 Website

CENTER FOR FAMILY STRENGTHENING (CFS) 3480 Higuera St, Suite 100 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-543-6216 Website

CENTRAL COAST AREA NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS 800-549-7730 Website

CENTRAL COAST INTERGROUP (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) 1333 Van Beurden Drive Los Osos, CA 93402 805-541-3211 Website

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF SAN LUIS OBISPO (CAPSLO) 1030 Southwood Dr Website

COPE INTENSIVE **OUTPATIENT PROGRAM** 628 California Blvd. Suite A San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-541-9113 Website

**CUESTA COLLEGE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** (STUDENTS ONLY) Building 3100, Room: 3150 Highway 1 San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 805-546-3171 **Website** 

FAMILY CARE NETWORK 1255 Kendall Rd San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-781-3535 Website

THE GALA PRIDE AND **DIVERSITY CENTER** 1060 Palm St San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-541-4252 Website

HOSPICE OF SLO COUNTY 1304 Pacific St San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-544-2266 Website

LUMINA ALLIANCE 51 Zaca Lane, Suite 150 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-545-8888 Website

PASO ROBLES - COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER 1035 Vine Street, Suite #A Paso Robles, CA 93446 805-543-7969 Website

PASO ROBLES - THE LINK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER 1802 Chestnut Street Paso Robles, CA 93446 805-794-0217 Website

### **Resources (continued)**

RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

SAN LUIS OBISPO -COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER 676 Pismo St San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-543-0859 Website

TRANSITIONS-MENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION
784 High St
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-540-6500
Website

WILSHIRE COMMUNITY SERVICES 285 South St, Suite J San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-547-7025 Website

### CRISIS RESOURCES VIA PHONE

CENTRAL COAST HOTLINE 800-783-0607 <u>Website</u>

CRISIS TEXT LINE Text 'HOME' to 741-741 <u>Website</u> FRIENDSHIP LINE (PEOPLE AGED 60+)
800-971-0016
Website

LUMINA ALLIANCE 24 HOUR
CRISIS LINE (FOR SURVIVORS
OF SEXUAL/INTIMATE
PARTNER VIOLENCE)
805-545-8888
Website

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LINE 988 Website

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) HELPLINE 1-800-950-6264 Text 'NAMI' to 741-741 Website

SLO COUNTY MENTAL
HEALTH EVALUATION TEAM
(MHET)
800-838-1381
Website

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)
NATIONAL HELPLINE
1-800-622-4357
Website

TREVOR LIFELINE (LGBTQ+YOUTH)
1-866-488-7386
Text 'START' to 678-678
Website



# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

COUNTY
SAN LUIS
OBISPO

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Behavioral Health