



Board of Supervisors

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Dear Community Members,

REACH Ashland Youth Center opened its doors in April 2013 after a lengthy community vision process, a capital construction project, and a program planning and ramp up period. These processes were led by a coalition of youth, residents, and public and private agencies who deeply desired to invest in the youth and future of the community. Since April 2013, a robust array of programs and services have been offered to the youth and families of the Ashland community, including Recreation, Education, Arts/Creativity, Career Development and Health/Wellness. Over 4,000 have participated in the programs and services since the opening, and each day 250 come to REACH to learn, to connect, to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

The County's Health Care Services Agency's Center for Healthy Schools and Communities was tapped to be the lead operator of REACH, because of the vision, skill and capacity in cross systems partnerships they had developed in their national model countywide school based health services programs. During the planning years, the County and community leaders envisioned that after five years, the operational lead would be revisited, knowing that there would be new dynamics to consider.

Effective July 2018, Alameda County will change the lead operator for REACH from HCSA to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. HCSA has been honored to serve as the operational lead for REACH over these last five years and remains deeply committed to REACH youth and all of the young people and families in the unincorporated area.

The Sheriff's Office is well prepared to assume this new role as one of REACH's founding organizations with a very long history of partnership and investment in Ashland, Cherryland, and San Lorenzo. The Sheriff's Office, and its non-profit partner, the Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League, have for the past 15 years created enrichment programs serving thousands, while forging truly unprecedented relationships with youth, residents, and community groups. The Sheriff's Office is shaping a nationally recognized community-policing model that fuses public safety with public health and community development. The Sheriff's Office is excited to become the lead operator of REACH and for the opportunities it affords for improving the lives and safety of local children and families.

HCSA and the Sheriff's Office are committed to working closely together in the months ahead to ensure a smooth and effective transition as ACSO becomes the lead operator for REACH effective July 2018. A transition plan will be developed and shared with key stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Nate Miley