

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Guisselle Nunez
(925) 485-5216
gnunez@clpccd.org

Chabot College, Las Positas College, and Ohlone College Collaborate to Host Alameda County College Mental Health Forum

(Dublin, CA) - On Tuesday, April 23, 2020, mental health teams from Chabot College, Las Positas College, and Ohlone College collaborated to host the Alameda County College Mental Health Forum via Zoom with the goal of strengthening partnerships between community colleges in South Alameda County, county agencies, and community-based mental health service organizations.

With limited resources available to sufficiently support student mental health, community colleges are reaching out to local communities and organizations to establish relationships to connect resources to students in need. Many community college teams on campuses can't keep up to serve the breadth and depth of needs, and the amount of students. The Alameda County College Mental Health Forum, first held in June 2019, works to address complex student mental health needs and build a robust referral network for community college students whose needs cannot be met through campus based services.

"Anxiety is increasing during the shelter-in-place order, and the number of calls going into the crisis centers is up. We want students to know we are taking this seriously and trying to identify the help they need, and be able to get them help through our community partners," said Sang Leng Trieu, Mental Health Grant Coordinator at Chabot College. "Being able to provide a forum with a great turnout between the community colleges, county agencies and community based organizations is amazing and helpful to get students connected to the resources they need, if resources on their respective campus aren't available when they need them."

During the forum, community college representatives shared services offered on their respective campuses to provide the opportunity for open discussion, ideas, and feedback. Community-based mental health service organizations and community colleges utilized the chatbox within Zoom to share resources to help each other support students in need, including students experiencing domestic violence, how to address basic needs, housing, and food insecurity issues. Moderators captured advice and ideas of how to spread the word of resources available to students on all campuses.

Alameda County was well represented during the forum, with six of the seven community colleges in the county participating including Chabot College, Las Positas College, Berkeley City College, Laney College, Merritt College, and Ohlone College. Eight community based organizations were present, including Alameda County Crisis Support Services, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, BACA (Bay Area Clinical Associates), California Youth Connection, CSUEB Community Counseling Clinic, Side by Side, Trauma Transformed - East Bay Agency for Children, and Tri-County Health Center. Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Agency was also present.

The next Alameda County College Mental Health Forum will be held on Tuesday, May 12th, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

About Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

CLPCCD serves 29,000 students annually, in the San Francisco East Bay Area, particularly southern Alameda County, through its two colleges: Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore. CLPCCD is governed by a seven-member board of trustees which is responsible for all policy decisions. Board members are elected from trustee areas by the registered voters of nine communities: Castro Valley, Dublin, Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Sunol, and Union City.

-CLPCCD-