

CASA
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CALM Board Member Rick Erickson, CALM Board President Rich Schuette, CALM Exec Director Cecilia Rodriguez, Mayor Larry Lavagnino, CALM Interim Program Mgr Ryan Smith, CALM Assoc Director Deborah

CALM Expands Services to North Santa Barbara County

NORTH SANTA BARBARA COUNTY STRUGGLES with rising incidents of child abuse and neglect, and has been identified as a region of critical need, with high unemployment rates and the greatest concentration of poverty in children under six in Santa Barbara County. In addition, close to 80% of Child Welfare Services cases are located north of the Gaviota Tunnel. In an effort to respond to critical community needs in North Santa Barbara County, Child Abuse Listening & Mediation (CALM) has opened a new office in Santa Maria, located at 218 W Carmen Ln.

CALM recently acquired two contracts from the County of Santa Barbara's Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services to provide prevention and early intervention services to children and families throughout North Santa Barbara County. These contracts have made it possible for CALM to open a treatment office in Santa Maria, as well as provide home visitation services throughout North County, including Santa Maria, Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, Santa Ynez, Guadalupe, and New Cuyama.

"When CALM learned that a local service provider had to close its doors, we knew it was our duty to step in and fill the gap and do our part to serve this area in critical need of our services," said Cecilia Rodriguez, Executive Director of CALM. "It has long been part of CALM's Strategic Plan to bring our proven, effective services to this underserved area in desperate need. With time and continuing support, we hope to be able to provide a full array of Early Childhood Mental Health Services to families in need in North County."

CALM was founded in 1970 to reach stressed parents before they hurt their children. CALM offers children, families, and adults a safe, non-judgmental, caring, and strength-based environment to heal and increase family well-being. For more information about CALM's services, call 965-2376, or visit www.calm4kids.org.