



Lassen County Child Support Services was awarded the 2014 California State Association of Counties Challenge Award. Pictured are Larry Wosick, chair of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, left, child support services director Kelley Cote and Rafael Zuniga, warden of the federal prison in Herlong. Photo by Ruth Ellis

Child support services program wins award

Ruth Ellis

News Editor
rellis@lassennews.com

Lassen County's child support services program has won the 2014 California State Association of Counties Challenge Award for the implementation of an innovative program at the federal prison in Herlong.

Farrah McDaid Ting, of the association, presented the award to child support services director Kelly Cote and her staff during an Oct. 21 meeting of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors.

Building a Meaningful Partnership is an outreach program at the Federal Correctional Institute. Staff visits the inmates and helps educate them on the process of child support.

The California State Association of Counties established the Challenge Award to focus on county innovation and finding ways to make things work.

During the last 15 years, McDaid Ting said the entries have increased from approximately 90 to more than 200.

"Of those over 200 entries we get every year we now choose about 10 to receive a challenge award. And according to our notes this is the first time that Lassen County has received a CSAC Challenge Award so it's an extra special honor to be here ..." McDaid Ting said.

An independent panel of judges with expertise in county programs and challenges selected the award recipients.

According to McDaid Ting, Cote and staff would tell you the program is just them doing their job and trying to connect parents with their families and resolve child

"Of those over 200 entries we get every year we now choose about 10 to receive a challenge award. And according to our notes this is the first time that Lassen County has received a CSAC Challenge Award so it's an extra special honor to be here ..."

Farrah McDaid Ting, of the California State Association of Counties

support their families.

"What's innovative and what really caught our judge's eye was not only working with populations within your community, but also working with different levels of government," said McDaid Ting.

Another thing that impressed the judges was the program operated on a zero budget.

Staff developed plans to track down cases and work with the inmates in helping them realize what their responsibilities would be to their children when they

were released.

Additionally, McDaid Ting said staff also closed some cases and worked out plans for inmates to build a stronger family when they were released.

The responsibilities of child support services is to help people access paternity testing, provide an understanding about how a child support order is established, give information on what to do if an action is taken against a person and informs him or her of their rights against the action, and what actions can be taken

and when a person should start paying child support or advises when payments will start being received.

In March the department earned the Top 10 Performance Award for excellence in overall performance among the 51 agencies statewide.

Committed to quality since 1980

Lifetime guarantee on all workmanship!

Written Warranty Provided by GABCR Inc.

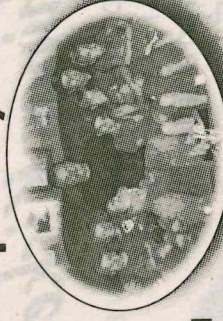


Gino's Auto Body

Gino Callegari, owner/operator

257-5358 • 704-960 Di Oro Ln. • Susanville

*See section 2095.8(e) of the Fair Claims Settlement Practices



Owner/Operator Gino Callegari and his grandchildren Achille, Daelynn, Mateo, Chase, Jarin, Justin and Trinity



Nugget Presents
The West Gets Wild!

