

Costanoa Commons Advisory Board Members

These members of our community have generously agreed to advise Costanoa Commons, as needed, in their many areas of expertise. We are very grateful for their support.

Tracey Marquart, M.B.A. has a passion for high quality, holistic and personalized support services to people with disabilities, Tracey Marquart leads Community Life Services, located in Santa Cruz, as the founder and Executive Director. Tracey has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications, a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation Administration. She has dedicated her professional to career to non-profit management in organizations that provide services that build community. Tracey has more than twenty (22) years of leadership experience in serving people with disabilities and their families in a variety of community-based services such as Customized Employment Training, Educational Support, Residential Support, Respite Care, Independent and Community Living, Supported Living, Behavioral Support, and Supported Employment. For more information on Community Life Services, please find them online at www.communitylifeservices.org

James Ramoni, M.S.W., L.C.S.W. is the **Director of Aging and Adult Services** for the County of Santa Clara. His entire professional career has been in the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency dating back to 1990 as an entry level social worker in child welfare. Throughout the 1990's Jim devoted his work to children and families in crisis and supervised social work staff in innovative programs including the Agency's multicultural family resource centers and led the department in the family conferencing initiative providing families a voice in child welfare decision making. In 1999, Jim moved to the newly created Department of Aging and Adult Services serving as the manager of the Senior Nutrition Program (SNP) and the In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS). He was appointed Director of the Department of Aging and Adult Services in 2013 and is responsible for Adult Protective Services (APS), SNP, IHSS, and the Public Guardian/Administrator/Guardian/Conservator (PAGC) Office as well as the County initiative the Seniors' Agenda. Jim possesses a Master of Social Welfare from U.C. Berkeley, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Jelena Vukicevic, M.D. is a Pediatrician who has worked in the Bay Area for 25 years. She graduated from Medical School in Belgrade and completed residency training in pediatrics at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. In providing pediatric care for patients and their families, Dr. Vukicevic believes strongly that each individual has special gifts and that it is the physician's duty to pay attention to details, to be aware of traditional ways of healing for the diversity of patients in our area, and to have the patience to allow the body to heal itself, using medical knowledge to speed recovery and aid in each patient's development. She is noted in the community for her exemplary care of children with special needs. She lives in the Bay Area with her husband and three children.

Deborah Wechsler, R.N., M.P.H. is the mother of an adult son with autism. She has been a strong advocate for appropriate services and supports since her son's diagnosis in 1991. In addition to working for the benefit of her son, she has served other families and children through her volunteer work on the Community Advisory Committee for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District SELPA, through teamwork with three other mothers to create the non-profit Special Parents Information Network-Santa Cruz (SPIN) as well as served on SPIN's Board of Directors as Secretary and currently serves as a SPIN Advisory Board member. She has a long career as a Registered Nurse, Public Health Nurse and Epidemiologist in the field of Public Health, which has contributed to her ability to advocate for her son and understand many of the complex issues facing people with disabilities.

William Hall is the co-founder of The Green Water Garden, one of the first non-profits to use aquaponics to provide a supported employment program for adults with disabilities. His experience and motivation for working with people with disabilities began with his sister-in-law who had a mental disability and, since then, through his wife who works as an independent living skills provider. William is a product manager in the action sports industry with three children. The entire family engages with the disabilities community in a variety of ways, from hosting local group harvest parties to taking previous clients, who have become family, out for activities. William's work with people with disabilities stems from his passion for social justice, economic empowerment, and the environment.