



**FSA**  
Family Service Agency  
of San Francisco

*Lives Transformed*



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## Felton Presents at NAMI California Conference



Al Gilbert and Gayathri Ramprasad

Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert and staff members Adriana Furuzawa, Bruce Adams, Amanda Downing and Michael Krechevsky engaged conference attendees with a riveting presentation and a lively Q&A session at the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) California Annual Conference held in Newport Beach, August 25 and 26, 2017. This year's theme was *Joining Forces: Building a Movement of Community Collaborations*.

Adriana and her team presented the award-winning Felton Early Psychosis program model to an attentive audience of community providers, family members, youth advocates, and others united to fight the stigma of mental illness and to build community partnerships.

Families learned more about specialized care for individuals experiencing early signs and symptoms of psychosis, similarities and differences in comparison to existing treatment for serious mental illness, and why early intervention is critical to lessen the negative impact of psychosis.

NAMI's well-attended conference also featured Friday's keynote speaker Gayathri Ramprasad, MBA, CPS, founder of ASHA International and author of *Shadows in the Sun: Healing from Depression and Finding the Light Within*. Ms. Ramprasad says her successful battle in overcoming life-threatening mental illness and her recovery taught her the power of hope and holistic wellness. She launched the wellness campaign, Healthy Minds Healthy Lives in 2006.

## Felton Program Chosen for MHBG Study



MHBG Study Meeting: Tara Niendham (UC Davis), Lisa Dixon (OnTrack NY), Adriana Furuzawa (Felton Institute), Susan Azrin (NIMH, Program Chief), Vicki Montesano (Felton Institute), Zhen Zhao (Felton Institute), Angela Sardo (UC Davis), and Paula Wadell (UC Davis).

On August 25, 2017, Adriana Furuzawa, LMFT (Director, Felton Early Psychosis Division), Dr. Vicki Montesano (Director, Felton Research and Training Division) and Zhen Zhao (Felton Health Services Research Scientist) attended the MHBG (Mental Health Block Grant) 10% Early Intervention national study site meeting, held at the Westat campus in Rockville, Maryland. The meeting included representatives from 35 study sites, federal staff from SAMHSA, NIMH, the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), the NRI team (NASMHPD Research Institute), and the Westat team.

Felton's Early Psychosis Program in San Francisco is a part of the select group of 38 programs across the nation that will participate in the MHBG 10% Early Intervention Study, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). This important three-year study focuses on how Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) programs for first-episode psychosis increase access to essential services and improved client outcomes such as symptom severity, employment, education, and quality of life. Felton's program was selected out of 248 CSC program sites.

## Young Adult Court Graduation Inspires Hope



On August 29, 2017, seven program participants of the Young Adult Court (YAC) celebrated a milestone with a graduation ceremony after successfully completing their program. The recognition took place at the Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant Street in San Francisco.

"It is very rewarding to support these young men and women who have dedicated themselves to overcoming major life challenges and making new decisions. Playing a role in helping them toward a successful life path is what we prize at Felton. We're like the driving instructors and they are the new drivers learning to navigate the road ahead," said Atiim Boykin, Felton's Director of Clinical Case Management for YAC.

As one of several partners with the San Francisco Young Adult Collaborative, Felton provides intensive comprehensive case management, life skills training and clinical interventions for transition-age youth (TAY) ages 18-25 who have committed crimes, have experienced trauma, substance abuse and/or co-occurring disorders, and are deemed at high risk to re-offend in the community. The program meets the unique needs of TAY, and helps them onto a positive developmental pathway into adulthood.

Atiim was among those interviewed for the Academy of Art's video about Young Adult Court; [click here](#) to watch the video.

## Benefits Check Up Expands



As Felton SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) and Benefits Check Up Coordinator Trainee MJ Richardson presented information to an attentive room full of seniors, translations in Mandarin, Korean, Tagalog and Russian filled the air. It was good news in every language.

The Benefits Check Up campaign is designed to connect seniors with programs that save money on medications and other health care costs. Applicants have saved an average of \$4,000 annually in assistance. MJ joyfully recalls the enthusiastic response and relief that older residents of San Francisco have expressed at the community outreach meetings.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity through Felton and NCOA (National Council on Aging) to be a part of the Benefits Check Up campaign. This allows me to work with seniors and people with disabilities in all communities in San Francisco and to share info regarding benefits for which they may be eligible," said Richardson (MJ).

"The way that seniors' eyes light up when they discover that there are new resources and support to help them navigate the challenges of aging is gratifying. It gives them a sense of hope that someone is looking out for them. They would not be aware of these opportunities without this campaign. This program improves the quality of life for all of us, and it's good to know that we are making a difference," she said.

"We hope that anyone who knows of seniors and those with disabilities who might benefit will contact us at (415) 982-7007, ext 617," Richardson (MJ) said. With a wistful smile, MJ adds, "I remember how hard our dear colleague Uverda Harry, who passed last Thanksgiving, worked for our seniors and clients with disabilities. It is an honor for all of us at SCSEP to continue this mission and to feel her spirit with us."

## Zhen Zhou, Certified Salesforce Developer



IT and [CIRCE](#) Director Kenji Paschen is proud to announce that Felton's Zhen Zhou passed the Salesforce examination to become a certified Salesforce.com developer.

"Zhen will continue to provide the professional and excellent support around Felton CIRCE as well as being the core programming team member of [CIRCE Software, Inc.](#)," Kenji added.

Zhen is Felton's Quantitative Research Scientist and Technology Lead. In addition to his work with CIRCE, he is involved with early psychosis research and evaluation, focusing on data management. He received his masters in development practice from University of California, Berkeley and his B.A. in World

Economics from Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

CIRCE was originally developed for Felton Institute and used for seven years across multiple Felton programs ranging from their Economic Security Initiative to their Early Psychosis Programs. The product revolutionized the way they served their clients. CIRCE Software, Inc. was founded in 2011 to make CIRCE solutions available to human service providers worldwide.

## Felton And You



Felton serves individuals and families in San Francisco, throughout Northern California and provides training nationally and internationally. From cradle to cane, we serve all ages, all ethnicities and walks of life with a focus on social services for low-income populations and for those who experience mental illness. Whether your heart goes out to the very young, the very old, or somewhere in between, your support will help Felton continue to serve those in need. If you'd like to view the programs Felton offers, and see what your generous donation will accomplish for San Francisco's most vulnerable please visit our website [here](#).

In addition to serving the communities of San Francisco and the Bay Area, Felton's reach is far and wide, and has attracted the attention of news and media from [Japan](#) and [Switzerland](#), organizations in [Singapore](#) and [Australia](#) and mental health organizations and professionals in attendance at numerous [conferences](#) throughout the U.S. and the world. When you help Felton help others, together, we potentially transform the lives of millions. That's exciting!

To give to the cause for which you have passion, text FELTON to 41444 on your mobile device; it's quick and easy! You may also donate online by [clicking here](#). From all of us at Felton to all of you, our friends and partners, thank you for helping us pay it forward in the Bay Area and across the globe!

**Your generous donations transform lives. Thank you!**

