

# El Diario Sin Nombre

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## CSED Employee Saves Child's Life

Like all HSD county directors, Dee Hammons, who runs the Clovis CSED office, is responsible for many things including responding to emergencies in her office. Early last month, a grandmother was in her child support office seeking help for her one-year-old grandson (the parent is still a minor).

The grandmother was discussing their situation with a caseworker when all of sudden the boy started seizing. The poor grandmother didn't know what was happening; she began to panic while carrying the boy out of the office and down the hallway on his back.

Staff quickly notified Hammons of the situation. She found the grandmother still in a panic holding the child. "The fact that she was holding the baby on his back made the situation worse," said Hammons. "When I noticed that the boy was beginning to turn blue from a lack of oxygen, I had to strongly convince the grandmother to give me control of the boy. Then I immediately laid him down on the floor, but on his side, hitting him gently on his back. When foam began coming out of his mouth I knew he was beginning to breath again.

"When the grandmother saw what I was doing she understood and thanked me when it was over," said Hammons. "The paramedics arrived and they took the grandmother and child to the hospital."

Hammons knew what to do because her husband has had epilepsy since he was 11-years old, so she is used to dealing with his breathing problems through their 17-year marriage.

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**County Director Dee Hammons responded to a life or death emergency in her Clovis office.**

## ASD Employee Ordained as Buddhist Monk

"I decided to pursue ordination as Buddhist Monk after studying Kadampa Buddhism for about four years," said Michael Stanton, who works in the Administrative Services Division as a senior budget analyst. "I admired the work being done by Buddhist monks and nuns in my tradition. They spend their lives training their minds with the goal of developing permanent inner peace. What could be better than that!"

The Buddhist religion has been around for about 2,500 years, originating in India and then spreading throughout most of Asia. Today there are about 376 million Buddhists – a religion that is becoming more popular in the West with over 1,100 Kadampa Buddhist centers around the world.

Stanton was ordained last month in the New Kadampa Tradition, a type of Buddhism that has been adapted for Westerners. "We are very fortunate to have had this pure Buddhist lineage adapted for the Western mind by our spiritual director."

The founder of the New Kadampa Tradition is the Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso. Gyatso has written 22 books on Buddhism introducing this religion to the West. Stanton's ordained name is Kelsang Jorlam, given to him by Gyatso, meaning "fortunate one on the path of preparation." He is one of nearly a dozen ordained Kadampa Buddhists in New Mexico.

As a new monk Stanton will teach a Sunday children's class called "Dharma for Kids" at the Tushita Buddhist Center, not far from where he works in Santa Fe. "There are about 60 attendees at our General Program classes on Monday nights and a good

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Michael Stanton lived in New York City during 9/11. He moved to Santa Fe soon after that.**

## Fair Hearing Bureau Has a Mix of Experienced and New Administrative Law Judges Serving the Department

Fair Hearings Bureau Chief Lawrence Kuellmer understands the singular role his staff plays in the hearing process; the role of the caseworker in the process; and the need to get cases heard expeditiously. This is why one of his first priorities after coming to Fair Hearings two years ago was to get the bureau fully staffed.

“Now we have a bunch of new people here dealing with ISD and MAD staff on a daily basis,” said Kuellmer. Three years ago there were six full-time employees in the hearings bureau: five Administrative Law Judges (including the bureau chief), an administrator and a part-time support person. Today there are ten employees: the Bureau Chief (who can serve as an Administrative Law Judge) seven Administrative Law Judges, an administrator and a full-time support person.

These individuals handle approximately 2,900 hearing requests each year. Being fully staffed has enabled the hearings bureau to reduce a backlog of cases, complete hearings and make timely recommendations. Not only are Income Support Division and the Medical Assistance Division staff involved in hearings, staff from DOH and ALTSD may be involved as well. Frequently these staff only get to know the voices on the telephones.

“Since the majority of hearings are conducted by phone, most of the field and fair hearings staff who participate have never met or seen each other face to face,” said Kuellmer. The Fair Hearings Bureau is located in Plaza San Miguel in Santa Fe. Everyone is welcome to stop in and meet the people who you know by voice and now from a photo too.



**HSD Fair Hearings Staff, Back row (left to right), Adrian Garcia, Kathleen Fallon, Chester Boyett, Louise Schaeffer, Richard Galaz. Front row (left to right), Lawrence Kuellmer, Yvonne Montoya, Esther Quintana, Mary Howells. Not pictured is Yvette Garcia**

**Lawrence Kuellmer**—Bureau Chief, born in Socorro, NM, had 15 years of experience supervising and conducting administrative hearings at NM Dept of Labor before coming to the HSD Fair Hearing Bureau in 2006.

**Louise Schaeffer**—Assistant Bureau Chief/Administrative Law Judge, born in Flagstaff AZ, came to NM in 1987 and began working for HSD in 1988. She worked in Child Support Enforcement Division and the Office of General Counsel, before joining the HSD Fair Hearings Bureau 13 years ago.

**Yvonne Montoya**—Administrative Law Judge, born in Santa Fe, NM, began working for the State in 1979, left in 1985 but returned in 1991 to the General Services Dept. She came to HSD Fair Hearings Bureau in 2000.

**Kathleen Fallon**—Administrative Law Judge, born in Garden City, NY, obtained her law degree from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law and practiced law in NY for twenty years before moving to NM in 2000. She began her career with the State with HSD Fair Hearings Bureau in 2003.

**Mary Howells**—Administrative Law Judge, born in Portland OR, came to NM for college in 1975 and obtained her law degree from UNM Law School in 1984. She was in private practice five years before beginning her career with the State in 1989 at the Public Utilities Commission where she was chief staff counsel for five years. After this she conducted implied consent hearings for TRD for another five years before joining the HSD Fair Hearings Bureau 2004.

**Richard Galaz**—Administrative Law Judge, born in Los Lunas, NM, began his State career in 1975 with the DOL. He became a hearing officer/Administrative Law Judge in 1978. In 1996 he was appointed as the Division Director of the Human Rights Division until he retired in 2001. He returned to state employment in 2003 as the alternative dispute resolution coordinator, until he joined the HSD Fair Hearings Bureau in 2005.

**Chester Boyett**—Administrative Law Judge, born in Arkansas, returned to NM in 1992 and began his career with the State in 1993 with GSD. He worked with HSD before becoming an Administrative Law Judge at NM DOL where after four years he returned to HSD as a part of the Fair Hearings Bureau in 2006.

**Adrian Garcia**—Administrative Law Judge, born in Española, NM, he began his career with the State with the Human Rights Division in 1996. He was a civil rights specialist supervisor when he left to conduct unemployment hearings for DOL in 2005. He joined the HSD Fair Hearings Bureau in December 2006.

**Esther Quintana**—Administrator, born in Santa Fe, NM, began her State career in 1974. She retired from CYFD in 2000 only to return to work at that agency in 2001. She joined the HSD Fair Hearings Bureau in 2005

**Yvette Garcia (not pictured)**—Support staff, born in Santa Fe, NM, began her State career with the HSD Fair Hearings Bureau in 2007. Before this she was working in a temporary position at the Santa Fe County ISD office. She as a former program participant worked her way to this career position through the NM Works program

## NCP is Grateful for a Child Support Caseworker's Kindness

It's not normal for a non-custodial parent (NCP) to leave a child support enforcement office with more than when he/she came in with. Believe it or not, this did happen in Deming.

Here is Deming CSLA Yvonne Jasso-Perales' story: Juan (the NCP) came into the Deming child support office to give his response to a court petition that was served upon him. Yvonne asked Juan her normal questions: Where do you work? How many hours do you work, etc. Juan without a doubt was eager to share his work experience and how much child support he has and was paying. He seemed particularly proud of the fact that he worked 20 hours a week at a Subway Sandwich shop and was still able to provide \$200 a month in child support for his child.

Juan also shared with Yvonne the fact that he was an amputee, losing his left leg as a young man in El Salvador. Juan told Yvonne he lost his leg while running with his parents from an explosion trying to get to a bomb shelter during the late civil war in El Salvador. They didn't make it to the bomb shelter and he only remembers later waking up in the in the United States. Juan said when he awoke in the U.S. he was told that his parents had died and that his siblings were not found.

Juan stayed in an orphanage for two years before he was adopted by his parents here in the U.S. He ended up in Colorado, living there until his adoptive parents died a couple of years ago. Juan made his way to Deming and he has been there since. For some reason he was unable to get help with his prosthetic leg.

Sadly, when Juan was explaining his experience to Yvonne he picked up his left leg and his prosthetic leg was bound together with duct tape, two by four's and super glue. He had been this way for 14 years. Yvonne, no doubt, was very overtaken by his story; she had lost her father (Eugene Jasso Jr.) just three months ago to diabetes, and her father, too, was a left leg amputee.

It was then that Yvonne knew it was sign from God that her father's leg should be given to Juan, as he could get good use from it. Yvonne then arranged for Juan to receive her father's leg at the Deming child support office.

Juan could not thank Yvonne enough for her genuine kindness, even offering to make payments to her for the leg. Yvonne's response was, "I know that this would be a great honor for my father to know that he helped someone in need, he would have done this himself."



**Yvonne Jasso-Perales and Juan.**

*(saved life, from page 1)*

"I'm not sure what caused the boy to go into seizure; I'm not sure if he too has epilepsy," she said.

Emergencies like this can be frightening, and, unfortunately, some people respond to them in the wrong way. "In situations where someone stops breathing some resort to old wives' tales, like placing a cold towel on the forehead, or, even worse, begin administering CPR by lying the victim on his or her back," said Hammons.

Hammons, a 20-year HSD employee, is looking into having her office staff receive emergency medical training so that they too will know how to respond to different emergency situations involving clients and co-workers.



### Child Support Enforcement New Employee Training

Deanna Corriz, who has been with HSD for all of 2 1/2 weeks, is learning child support enforcement techniques from CSED trainer Sue Vigil at the Albuquerque North office.

*(Buddhist monk, from page 1)*

number of families' children attend our Sunday classes. The current children's series is called 'Hidden Secrets for Happy Families,'" said Stanton. "For example, last Sunday's topic was 'respect.' We teach children from ages five to 12-years old and parents are asked to stay during the hour-long instruction."

Stanton was actually raised in the Jewish faith, but Buddhism became his calling after his move to Santa Fe in 2003. "I feel very lucky to have found this tradition here in New Mexico and fortunate to have found such a wonderful employer who is so accepting of my new path."

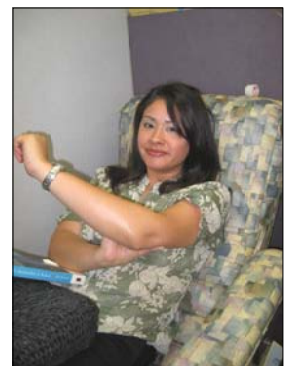
## Albuquerque Blood Drive in Full Swing



**Child Support Enforcement Division Director Charissa Saavedra was in Albuquerque yesterday in part to lend support to CSED staff volunteering to give blood.**



**From top left are Saavedra and Leroy Cordova, Leslie Condrad, and CSED attorneys Paula Bauch and Marlo Aragón.**



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