

Benefits' Counseling Services

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)

***550 Quarry Road
San Carlos, CA 94070***

A new program recently developed through a partnership of San Mateo County Mental Health and VRS has resulted in the creation of **Financial Empowerment Pilot Project or FEPP**, for short. **FEPP** provides benefits' counseling services to County of San Mateo representative payee clients who are referred through their County of San Mateo case managers. The pilot project also provides benefits' information to County staff and mental health consumers residing in San Mateo County. The benefits' counseling services include:

- * ***Education about current benefits' status and benefits' eligibility***
- * ***Assistance and education about money management and financial planning***
- * ***Exploration of vocational options while collecting benefits***
- * ***Benefits' analysis***

Contact staff: **Joe Hennen—Benefits' Planner—802-6578**
 John Bloomstine—Benefits' Specialist—802-6485
 Nancie Broman—Benefits' Specialist—802-6475
 Judy Downing—Vocational Rehabilitation
 Counseling Supervisor—802-6486.

The **VRS Social Security Benefits Technicians** assist VRS and San Mateo County mental health clients with their Social Security issues and concerns. Typically, they help clients with reporting wage earnings to the Social Security offices. They also try to help clients resolve issues involving overpayments from Social Security and waivers needed to address these issues.

Contact staff: Judy Downing—802-6486.

To apply for Social Security benefits, contact a local Social Security office. (See attachment = "County of San Mateo Social Security Offices.")

For assistance with the process of applying for Social Security benefits contact:

Rita Torres (Human Services Agency)—599-3849
 Sarban Singh (Human Services Agency)—802-6419