



## **Transitions-Mental Health Association**

*Inspiring hope, growth, recovery and wellness in our communities*

### **Library Outreach Program**

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries, in partnership with Transitions Mental Health Association, has launched the Library Outreach Team (LOT), a pilot project that connects library patrons experiencing homelessness with a Social Worker and Case Manager to break down the barriers to accessing crucial social services agencies and organizations.

The newly formed Library Outreach Team includes a part-time Social Worker, Margaret Shepard-Moore, and a full-time Case Manager, Morgan Ferris, who will help connect patrons to much-needed resources, including mental health, housing, health insurance, food programs, showers, Veteran's programs, and more.

"Resources and social programs can be difficult to access for anyone, and the barriers are compounded when someone is in survival mode, has experienced trauma, and has mental health challenges," LOT Social Worker, Margaret Shepard-Moore commented, adding, "That's the common theme we continue to see, trauma and mental health challenges that have led to homelessness, and then it's compounded out on the streets. We're here to help navigate the barriers, lift people over them and get them connected so they can move forward."

Case Manager, Morgan Ferris commented on her new role, "The Library Outreach project is a collaborative, community effort that I'm very proud to be a part of. Our local libraries are community hubs, a place for people to connect to information, resources, and programs, and there is no stigma attached to going to the library. Add to that, our libraries are inclusive, comfortable, quiet, and free. We aim to build on these strengths to create a safe, non-judgmental, trauma-informed environment where people experiencing homelessness feel comfortable coming to us for help."

People can connect with the Library Outreach Team at the downtown SLO Library Tuesdays, 10-11:30 am; Atascadero Library Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am; the Arroyo Grande Library Thursdays, 9-11 am; the Los Osos Library first and third Thursdays, 1-3 pm; and the Morro Bay Library second and fourth Thursdays, 1-3 pm. This schedule is subject to change as the program develops.

Residents can drop in for help during these times, or they can make an appointment to meet with a LOT member by calling (805) 540-0057.

To get the most up-to-date LOT Outreach Schedule, email Miriam Vargas, Program Manager, at [mvgargas@t-mha.org](mailto:mvgargas@t-mha.org).

