

## **Aging and Hospice and Palliative Care Experts Named to Hospice of the Valley's Professional Advisory Board**

*James Ramoni and Jennifer Ramirez bring wealth of industry expertise to nonprofit*

**SAN JOSE, Calif., September 8, 2014** – Hospice of the Valley has named aging and hospice and palliative care experts James Ramoni and Jennifer Ramirez to its Professional Advisory Board.

Ramoni is director of the Department of Aging and Adult Services, Social Services Agency, for the County of Santa Clara. His entire professional career has been in the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, dating to 1990 as an entry-level social worker in child welfare. Throughout the '90s, he 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. He also led the department in the family conferencing initiative, providing families a voice in child welfare decision-making.



In 1999, Ramoni moved to the newly created Department of Aging and Adult Services, serving as the manager of the Senior Nutrition Program, as well as the In-Home Supportive Services Program. He was appointed director of the Department of Aging and Adult Services in 2013 and is responsible for Adult Protective Services, the Senior Nutrition Program, In-Home Supportive Services Program, and the Public Guardian/Administrator/Guardian/Conservator Office, as well as the county initiative, the Seniors' Agenda.

Ramoni has a master's in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. in molecular biology and psychology from San Jose State University. He is also a licensed clinical social worker.

Jennifer Ramirez is deputy director at Children's Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition. She advocates statewide for pediatric hospice and palliative care, oversees the Family Advisory Council, directs the agency's internal operations, and manages the local Partnership for Children transportation and financial assistance program serving Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties in California.



She brings 14 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, previously working in the independent living movement at Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL), advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, including those with serious illnesses. At CCCIL, Ramirez served for five years as the director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Program. She served two terms as president of the

Human Care Alliance, a partnership of more than 60 nonprofit organizations in Santa Cruz County collaborating to maintain a comprehensive safety net of services for the community.

“Hospice of the Valley is very fortunate to add the expertise of two industry veterans such as James Ramoni and Jennifer Ramirez to our Professional Advisory Board,” said Sally Adelus, president and CEO of Hospice of the Valley. “We look forward to their contributions to our mission of bringing dignity and hope for those facing serious illness by providing comfort through compassionate palliative, hospice and grief care.”

### **About Hospice of the Valley**

Celebrating nearly 35 years of service to our community, Hospice of the Valley is a nonprofit organization that exists to support patients and their families during one of life’s most challenging – yet most meaningful – times. Hospice of the Valley provides serious illness and end-of-life care programs and services, including palliative and hospice care, grief counseling for adults, children and families, and emotional support, education and practical assistance. Established in July 2013, the [Palliative Care Center Silicon Valley](#), the first independent, community-based, licensed outpatient center of its kind in California for seriously ill patients and their families, is a division of Hospice of the Valley. Hospice of the Valley also provides a community resource website for patients and families at [seriousillness.org/santaclaracounty](#). Hospice of the Valley honors all cultures, beliefs, values and traditions and is committed to serving its diverse community and providing equitable access to care for all regardless of financial ability. For more information, call 408.559.5600 or visit [hospicevalley.org](#).

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