



City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of

March 5, 2013

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Michelle Ruggels Wins MFAC Award



Please join me in congratulating Michelle Ruggels, Director of Operations for Community Programs, who is among the winners in this year's prestigious Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee (MFAC) Good Government Award presented by SPUR. Ms. Ruggels is being honored for her leadership in overseeing \$490 million in annual contracts to 200 community-based organizations that provide community health services to San Franciscans. She has worked for the Department of Public Health since 1997, and led the Mental Health Medi-Cal Revenue Enhancement Project in 2011, creating a more effective and efficient certification process that allows local agencies to use federal funds instead of local general funds to support their services. This effort has an expected result of \$550,000 general fund savings in FY 2014 alone.

The Award night is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 19**, at City Hall. Tickets for the event are available at www.spur.org. I urge the Commissioners and staff to attend and support SPUR and Ms. Ruggels for the well-deserved award.

Federal Sequestration Takes Effect on Friday, March 1

On Friday, March 1, federal sequestration, \$85 billion in federal fiscal year 2013 across-the-board budget cuts to government agencies took effect. Commissioners may recall that this began in 2011 when Congressional Republicans required spending cuts in order to raise the federal debt limit. In exchange for raising the debt limit, Congress enacted and the Obama administration agreed to \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board federal cuts over ten years unless agreement could be reached on equivalent debt reduction. Because the reductions were equally split between defense and non-defense spending, it was widely viewed that Congress would come to agreement on debt reduction without sequestration taking effect. In November 2011, a Congressional "super committee" failed to reach agreement, and sequestration was set to take effect at the end of 2012. On January 1, 2013, Congress postponed sequestration until March 1. As of Friday, no new agreement has been reached.

Sequestration impacts a number of departments and programs across San Francisco, including DPH. We estimate that if fully implemented for the remainder of the federal fiscal year, sequestration will result in a \$6.2 million reduction in federal funds for the Department, including cuts to Medicare, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program), CDC-funded education and outreach, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) state grant pass-through funds for substance abuse disorders. Medicaid was specifically exempted from sequestration.

We will continue to keep the Commission updated on any developments as they occur.

World Tuberculosis Day, 2013

This is an invitation to the Commissioners to join us for **World TB Day on Wednesday, March 19th at City College, 10 a.m. – noon**, in the Multi-Use Building on the main campus. The San Francisco Tuberculosis Control Section will be recognizing decades of partnership with the Student Health Center to provide access to TB screening and treatment to thousands of CCSF students. Free screening for TB and viral hepatitis will be provided to students, and a brief update on the state of TB in San Francisco and California will be provided for community partners, the general public, and healthcare providers. We will be joined by TB survivors.

Kelly Cullen Community Grand Opening Scheduled

As reported to the Commissioners in January, the first tenants moved into the new Direct Access to Housing program at Kelly Cullen Community over the New Year's holiday. This unique project partners housing, social work services and a primary care clinic operated by DPH and is designed to help people who face the most complex challenges to live with stability, autonomy and dignity.

A Grand Opening ceremony has been scheduled for **Tuesday, March 26, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., 220 Golden Gate Avenue**. Kelly Cullen Community (KCC) is a 138,023 square foot, 9-story historic mixed-use building constructed in 1909 as a YMCA and now includes 172 units of supportive housing for the chronically homeless.

I hope the Commissioners will join us as we celebrate this new and exciting event.

Project Homeless Connect 48

The next Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 20th** at Bill Graham Auditorium. We are always looking for medical and non-medical volunteers to help with this important event. If the Commissioners, DPH staff, or any members of the public are interested in helping—either a half day or for the whole event—please register at <http://www.projecthomelessconnect.com/>.

Parent Training Institute: Triple P Parenting

The PTI is a program within the Department of Public Health that receives blended funding from First 5, the San Francisco Human Services Agency, and DCYF to oversee the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based parenting programs throughout the City. One of these programs, Triple P Parenting, has been shown to reduce both child behavior problems and child maltreatment.

San Francisco's Triple P initiative began in 2009 with a pilot program, and, since that time, over 1000 families have received Triple P in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin. Outcomes from this intervention have been excellent and demonstrate statistically significant positive changes in child mental health and parenting practices from pretest to posttest. These gains have been maintained up to a year *after* the end of the intervention.

As a result of these positive outcomes, the PTI was awarded the 2011 SAMHSA Science and Service Award for excellence in implementation, and Stephanie Romney, Director of PTI, was invited to deliver the keynote address at the **2013 Helping Families Change Conference** in Los Angeles. Her presentation focused on strategies for achieving positive outcomes for families, such as ensuring that families' needs and preferences drive implementation decisions. The presentation, entitled *Evidence-based Implementation of Triple P with Culturally Diverse Families*, is available at www.pti-sf.org.

A *New York Times* reporter assigned to cover the conference filed a story on Triple P Parenting. The story is available at <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/20/helping-the-parents-to-spare-the-children/>.

Estimated HIV Incidence in California, 2006-09

The HIV Epidemiology Section recently published an analysis of HIV incidence in California entitled "Estimated HIV Incidence in California 2006-2009" in the journal *PLoS One*. Working in collaboration with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health and the State Office of AIDS, the SFDPH HIV Epidemiology Section estimated the number and rate of new HIV infections in 2006- 2009 including the first estimates of HIV incidence for the State of California. This is also the first time estimates for specific geographic, racial and risk subgroups have been presented in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The report highlights the geographic disparities in HIV incidence and confirms national findings that men who have sex with men and African-Americans are disproportionately impacted by HIV.

Among the HIV Epidemiology Section authors on the study are Susan Scheer, Chi-Sheng Chin, and Anthony Buckman . The manuscript is available online at PLOS ONE at <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0055002>.

Prevalence and New Diagnoses Maps of HIV/AIDS in San Francisco

The HIV Epidemiology Section has just released forty interactive online maps of the prevalence and new diagnoses of HIV/AIDS in San Francisco. These maps characterize the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including survival and treatment use, across the diversity of neighborhoods in San Francisco. The interactive maps are available on the SFDPH webpage at <http://sfdph.org/dph/default.asp>.

For additional maps, including HIV/AIDS cases alongside critical resources such as HIV testing, treatment and needle exchange locations, please see the complete HIV/AIDS Atlas at <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/reports/RptsHIVAIDS/HIVAIDSAtlas2010.pdf>.

A Prevention Story

This is a story about disease prevention, inter-departmental coordination, the indispensable advantage of having experienced, street-smart outreach workers, and the successful utilization of our integrated database, the Coordinated Case Management System (CCMS).

On Thursday, February 7th, DPH Infectious Disease investigators asked our Homeless Outreach Team (SF HOT) to help locate a possible meningitis-exposed group of individuals after one member of the group died. The group was reportedly comprised of a number of homeless individuals who drank together daily. The brother of the individual who died was able to supply only Street and first names. Risk factors included contact from bottle-and-cigarette sharing, and alcohol-derived analgesia that could prevent early symptoms from being recognized.

Within several critical hours, Anna Branzuela, Infectious Disease Control Investigator, and SF HOT team members, under the leadership of Jason Albertson and Rann Parker—working from knowledge of the individuals' histories in CCMS, the neighborhood dynamics, and street and law enforcement connections—were able to locate and provide prophylactic antibiotics to seven of the eight individuals. The eighth individual was located a few days later, still within the window for prophylaxis. As a result of this successful outcome, a protocol for utilizing SF HOT outreach workers in similar infectious disease situations is under development.

Many thanks to everyone involved in this wonderful example of good public health work. We saved many lives and much human suffering.

Nursing Departments Prepare for Integration

As part of the Department's transition to integrated service delivery in advance of health care reform in 2014, the Laguna Honda and San Francisco General Nursing Departments will begin quarterly conferences in April to collaborate on organizational efficiencies. The planning for the project has focused on creating systems for communication to support safe patient transfers. The hoped for outcomes are improved patient satisfaction, increased attention to serving each patient at the appropriate level of care and a focus at the nursing level on responsible financial stewardship.

Give Kids a Smile Day at SFGH

National Children's Dental Health Month kicked off on February 1st when the San Francisco Department of Public Health Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program and the Child Care Health Project), along with the SF Dental Hygiene Society, partnered once again to bring together multiple community groups to host the 4th annual *Give Kids a Smile Day Event* at the SFGH WIC.



The day involved many hours of behind-the-scenes coordination and assistance from SF WIC, who provided parent outreach, and staff from SFGH Hospital Facilities and SFGH Learning Center who made

space available to the streams of toddlers and their parents.

As a result, 123 children (most under 3 years old) were provided with free dental screenings, toothbrush cleanings, and fluoride varnish. Their parents received oral health education and guidance in establishing a "dental home" for their child. Each child received a tiny backpack with preschool book and coloring materials.

Throughout the day, over 50 volunteers worked to protect the oral health of these predominantly immigrant and low-income children. With 41% of SFUSD kindergartners entering school with a history of dental decay, this was a community effort to bring attention to the importance of preventing the disease. SFSU nursing students were taught how to screen for dental decay in babies and small children, and how to apply fluoride varnish. The day's impact will continue into their future professional work. All children are being followed up by AmeriCorps Navigators interning in the MCAH section, to help the parents establish a dental home, and to get needed treatment.

Nation's First Family Planning Program for HIV-Positive Men Launched at SFGH

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center launched the nation's first program to address reproductive options for HIV-positive men who have sex with women, including starting a family. PRO MEN (Positive Reproductive Outcomes for Men) is an initiative of BAPAC (Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center) based at SFGH's Ward 86 HIV Clinic. It is the first program of its kind to develop reproductive health services specifically for HIV-positive men in the primary care setting.

PRO MEN produced a nine-minute video (<http://vimeo.com/54624505>), "HIV Positive Men: Healthy Sex Lives, Healthy Families," based on the experiences of four individuals with issues of HIV prevention, family planning and safer conception options. Deborah Cohan, MD, is director of Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC). PRO MEN has developed additional resources for patients and providers to identify the best care for HIV-positive men who may be interested in having a child, as well as their partners. The program will expand in 2013 to include monthly educational groups, provider trainings and two additional videos for outreach to this less visible population.

The video project was funded by a grant from the Macy's Foundation and launched by both BAPAC and Ward 86 Staff. The *San Francisco Chronicle* featured the program on February 7th. A link to the article can be found at <http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/How-men-with-HIV-can-safely-become-dads-4258290.php>.

Shape Up San Francisco Annual Walking Challenge

The Department is once again inviting the Commissioners and staff to join us for another Shape Up San Francisco Walking Challenge. As the Commissioners may recall, each year we participate in teams or individually and, over the course of 10 weeks (April 1-June 7), set a goal for each team to achieve 1,016 miles—the equivalent of the California coastline. Although the event is called a walking challenge, participation is not limited to walking but can be any physical activity such as swimming, biking, running, dancing, or anything that anyone enjoys. The Challenge is a great motivator for any age and ability level because it allows you to set your own goals and use whatever physical activity is most fun for you. Right now, we are recruiting

team leaders who would enjoy leading a group towards better health and fitness through increased physical activity. For questions about this year's Walking Challenge, please contact Amy Iacopi, Walking Challenge Coordinator, at shapeupsanfrancisco@gmail.com. The website is <http://shapeupsfwalkingchallenge.org/>. Registration begins Monday, March 11. Team Leaders Orientation will be Wednesday, March 13th, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 25 Van Ness Ave., 3rd Floor, Room 330A.

Genome Girls Prepare for 2013 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

The Genome Girls started out as a group of co-workers and friends from the UCSF/SFGH Cancer Risk Program, who are now preparing for their fifth participation in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer scheduled for September 28 & 29.

As the Commissioners know, the Avon Foundation has been a huge supporter of breast cancer services for underserved women at San Francisco General Hospital, providing funds in 2002 to build a state-of-the-art digital mammography center at SFGH. The Avon Foundation also helped create the UCSF Cancer Risk Program satellite clinic at SFGH, which was the first program in the country to offer free genetic counseling and genetic testing for women at increased risk for cancer based on hereditary factors.

We are deeply grateful to the Genome Girls (and guys) who are making such personal commitments to supporting the work of the Avon Foundation at SFGH and throughout the Bay Area.