



City and County of San Francisco  
Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA  
Director of Health

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 2, 2012**

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### **Department of Public Health Works Towards A Smooth Transition for Tenderloin Health Clients**

#### **Experienced Community Based Organizations Step Up to Challenge**

**San Francisco, CA** – In January, the Board of Directors at Tenderloin Health (TLH) announced they were discontinuing operations due to continued funding challenges of the agency. TLH has focused on providing a continuum of care to vulnerable, poor and homeless residents living with or at the greatest risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS in the Tenderloin.

Under an agreement announced today by Barbara Garcia, Director of Health, three systems of care—HIV Health Services, Housing and Urban Health, and HIV Prevention—have worked diligently over the past three months to create agreements with several experienced community-based organizations to provide TLH patients with a continuity of care and no break in services. Primary care and dental services, along with most of the TLH's Center of Excellence (COE) wrap around services such as case management, will continue at the current site.

“We have worked for the last several months with TLH seeking merger potentials and other funding options that did not come to fruition,” said Garcia. “At the same time, DPH staff had to prepare for the eventual transition of DPH-funded services, if a merger was not possible.”

Other accommodations and considerations had to be made. Both DPH and TLH were committed to preserving client care to ensure that clients, who are receiving care at the main TLH location, continue to do so.

With plans in place for a smooth transition, TLH will close on April 6. During the next 30 day transition period, the following changes will be instituted.

- Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center (APIWC) will take over administration of the Tenderloin Area Center of Excellence (COE). APIWC is currently a partner with TLH and Tom Waddell Health Center, providing care and support services to people living with HIV.
- Lutheran Social Services (LSS) will assume responsibility for Emergency Housing (EH) for People Living with HIV. LSS provides similar housing services for the Department of Public Health and has the capacity and expertise in supportive housing, including HIV-

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**The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.**

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~  
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all

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specific housing and subsidies. Many of the clients that go through the EH program are already clients of services in LSS' money management and representative payee services.

- The current system of HIV Prevention will absorb the HIV Prevention Programs. Due to impending CDC budget reductions and the comprehensive nature of the current system of HIV Prevention, the TLH programs will be absorbed into the current contracts.

“In the interest of continuity of care for our clients, each of the providers above are committed to exploring opportunities for employment of TLH staff that are currently delivering these services,” said Garcia.

Garcia also noted that the HIV Prevention system offers a great deal of flexibility, shared goals and objectives, and a willingness of other community-based organizations to help those in need and prevent the spread of HIV. HIV testing in mobile sites will be continued by the STD Prevention and Control Community-Based Testing Program, UCSF AIDS Health Project, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Health Education and Risk Reduction clients will be transferred to current providers of this service, including AGUILAS, APIWC, Instituto Familiar de la Raza, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Finally, Prevention with Positives (PWP) clients will be transferred to the PWP program at the Tom Waddell Health Center.

“I am very grateful to David Fernandez, CEO of Tenderloin Health, and his staff for the many years of excellent services they have provided to some of the City's most vulnerable population. They have done it with caring and compassion. I share with them a deep regret in seeing this agency discontinue its operations. As health director, I am also confident that we have entered into agreements with excellent providers who will continue the important work begun by Tenderloin Health.”

TLH is making arrangements for identifying providers and creating a transition plan for other TLH services that are not funded by the city and county of San Francisco, such as supportive housing locations or those directly funded by the state and federal government.

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