



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

May 6, 2014

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>

Covered California's First Open Enrollment a Success

Covered California closed its inaugural open enrollment period on April 15th. Officials reported that during the six months period, nearly 1.4 million people signed up for plans through Covered California and another 1.9 million enrolled in Medi-Cal. Combined, these 3.2 million Californians represent over one-third of nationwide participation in new coverage options under the Affordable Care Act. Officials credited this success in large part to the broad network of outreach and enrollment entities who partnered with Covered California.

Among the Covered California enrollees, 85% have paid their first month's premium, nearly 6% are children, while 46% are aged 18-44, and approximately 48% are aged 45-64. Most enrollees are eligible for federal tax credits and/or cost-sharing subsidies, and the Silver tier plans (second-least expensive and covering at least 70% of enrollee health care costs) are the most popular. Covered California also reports having met or exceeded its enrollment projections for African Americans (3% of total enrollees), Asian Americans (21%), and Latinos (28%). Updated regional level data is not yet available.

Open enrollment for the 2015 plan year will begin on November 12, 2014. However, some special circumstances do allow people to enroll in Covered California before this date, including marriage/divorce, birth of a child, loss of current health insurance, or moving to an area with different plan options. Enrollment in Medi-Cal or the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) is available year-round.

State Board of Pharmacy

The Laguna Honda Hospital pharmacy was inspected by the California State Board of Pharmacy (BOP) on Monday April 21, 2014. There is national scrutiny around sterile compounding and the Board of Pharmacy has been a stickler during their surveys this past year. The findings of the inspector were limited to one minor change in the frequency on cleaning of walls, ceilings and surfaces in our sterile compounding areas. The minimal findings show that the Laguna pharmacy has done an exemplary job keeping track of the many important details required to comply with the BOP regulations. It also provides confidence in the quality of care the pharmacy is providing to a vulnerable population.

Preterm Birth Initiative

On April 24, UCSF announced that it will receive \$100m from Mark and Lynne Benioff and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support a 10 year initiative to reduce the burden of preterm birth locally and globally. This landmark award will establish robust discovery and implementation research programs drawing expertise from disciplines across the UCSF campuses and key partners, including the SFDPH. Dr. Jonathan Fuchs, from the Center for Learning and Innovation, and Drs. Mary Hansell and Curtis Chan from Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, were deeply involved in the development of the project plan which proposes to use collective impact approach to reduce racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in preterm birth. Collective impact brings together multi-sectorial partners to implement proven interventions and innovative solutions to address complex social and health issues. SFDPH will be a key partner to help leverage its strong outreach to its network of clinics and community partners while also focusing on "inreach" to other city agencies that can be mobilized to turn the curve on preterm birth in vulnerable communities-- a headline indicator of the population's health in San Francisco.

DPH Nurses Week 2014

This year, Nurses Week is May 5 through May 9. The DPH Nursing Leadership Council will recognize and celebrate the contributions of the DPH Nursing Staff with an awards ceremony at the Nurses Week Reception on May 8 at the San Francisco General Hospital cafeteria. Join in thanking the DPH nurses that make a difference.

Nation's First Library Social Worker Helps Give Hope to the Homeless

Leah Esguerra, LMFT, embedded SF HOT Psychiatric Social Worker at the San Francisco Public Library, was interviewed twice about the social services she provides at the library. Health and Safety Associate, Joseph Bank, was also interviewed. Both radio pieces garnered positive feedback from the community about the collaborative work between Public Health and the Public Library. The KGO Radio interview aired on March 17, 2014 while NPR California Report aired on April 11, 2014. We are proud of Leah and the compassionate and effective program she has developed with the Health and Safety Associates, a model that has been copied in San Jose and Sacramento. Chief Librarian, Luis Herrera, shares his support. "Initially there were some questions about whether this was a good idea," he says. "But it's taken off. And I think, in fact, we would look at the idea of expanding."

Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education

In April, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons presented Twyila with an award for her Outstanding Contributions to Education for Advance Practice Providers at the Plenary Session here in San Francisco. This is the first time such an award has been presented to someone other than a neurosurgeon.

Before Twyila's involvement in education for advanced practice providers and allied professionals, this was a spotty and often-forgotten offering at our national meetings. Not only has Twyila organized and galvanized these efforts over the past decade, but her annual free-standing advanced practice course has become the most important educational event of the year.

Treasure Island Nurse Clinic

April 24 was opening day at the Treasure Island Nurse's clinic and the community response has been positive. 11 people sought services, ranging in ages from 8 to 60. In addition to the nurse on duty, a dedicated Health Worker will also staff the clinic two days a week, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. In a month, there will be a "grand" opening for the new clinic.

The Whistleblower Program, operated by the Controller's Office, receives complaints regarding the misuse of City funds, improper activities by City officers and employees, deficiencies in the quality and delivery of government services, and wasteful and inefficient City government practices. There are a number of ways to file a complaint. Go to www.sfcontroller.org and click on the Frequently Requested tab to access the Whistleblower complaint instructions in the drop down menu.