



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

December 2, 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>

#### **Ebola Update**

The Department of Public Health is continuing with the planning and preparation for an Ebola response by deepening our response team. We are currently developing an Emergency Response Pool consisting of 100 staff members from multiple disciplines throughout the department to be available for activation at any time.

The Department reached out to staff through the Director's "Fast Facts" newsletter and a survey sent throughout the Public Health Division. We are proud of our DPH staff who responded to our call for volunteers. Staff have indicated their interest in providing outreach to increase awareness and clarifying misconceptions related to the Ebola virus, a willingness to conduct investigations to support and monitor contact tracing should it be necessary and providing any other general administrative duties to support the overall effort.

As we continue with our response, we are developing a "three deep" bench for the activated Department Operations Center managers to ensure that we can provide a sustained level of support should the need arise to respond to an Ebola case. The department staff has demonstrated their commitment to provide this support over time.

#### **Tom Waddell Street Renamed**

Last week, I joined DPH staff and other San Franciscans gathered at the newly minted "Tom Waddell Place to celebrate the installation of street signs that bear the new name. Tom Waddell was a noted physician and activist who founded the Gay Games in 1982, and worked at the SFDPH clinic that now holds his name.

The street was renamed from Lech Walesa by a unanimous vote of the SF Board of Supervisors last year, after Walesa said publically that gays should not hold prominent political positions. Supervisor Jane Kim, who proposed the name change, was there along with members of Tom Waddell's family, including his daughter Jessica, and her mother, Sara Lewinstein, a longtime friend of Tom's, co-founder of the Gay Games, and with whom he shared a daughter. Tom Waddell Clinic was founded in 1987 on the site of the Central Emergency Hospital. SFDPH has

provided healthcare at this site since 1917. The clinic is now called Tom Waddell Urban Health Center.

The clinic is nationally known for its innovative work in the health care of homeless people especially those with AIDS and for Transgender Tuesdays, founded in 1993, the first public health clinic in the country dedicated to the comprehensive healthcare of transgender people. We are so proud and thankful to be a health system that is truly inclusive and welcoming to all.

### **MSNBC Documentary on Massage Task Force**

On Sunday, November 23, MSNBC aired “Sex Slaves – Parlor Games”. The one hour documentary highlighted the work of Senior Inspector Ed Walsh and Environmental Technician Allan Pera as they coordinated the Massage Establishment Task Force with SFPD, DBI, City Attorney and SFFD. The documentary showed the challenges that Ed and Allan face as they try to identify illegal activities and close non-compliant massage establishments. The documentary spends considerable time on the City’s efforts to address human trafficking at these facilities. The confounding issues of the California Massage Therapy Council and the new “relaxation spas” are brought up. The documentary also filmed massage cases at the DPH Director’s Hearings chaired by Dr. Aragon.

### **HHS Announces New Region IX Director**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the appointment of Melissa Stafford Jones as the Regional Director for HHS Region IX. Ms. Stafford Jones was most recently the Chief Executive Officer at the California Association of Public Hospitals and has over twenty years of health policy experience. In her new role representing HHS, she will work with state, local, and tribal officials across California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and several territories and islands in the Pacific. As the Region IX office is based in San Francisco, I welcome Ms. Stafford Jones and look forward to working with her.

### **Wellness Services for City Employees**

The DPH is joining the City and the Health Service System's effort to expand wellness services for employees. The first step in making well-being a priority is knowing where we are and what areas we might want to work on. The Well-being Assessment (WBA) is a quick 15-minute online assessment. When you are finished, you can take steps to improve your well-being by participating in the Daily Challenge. The Health Service System will use the aggregate (summary) data to measure the impact of the wellness initiative over time.

Participation is voluntary. Review the Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions before completing the WBA. Employees who choose to participate can do so during work time with their supervisor's approval. They will also automatically be enrolled in the Well-being Assessment Rewards Contest (WBA Rewards) which gives each employee a 1 in 5 chance of winning \$20 and a 1 in 100 chance of winning \$500 for the next 5 Mondays (until 12/22). Winners will receive their rewards on a prepaid MasterCard in mid-January.

Our department's goal is 40% participation in the Well-being Assessment by the end of the contest. So far, 11% (727) of DPH employees have completed the Well-being Assessment. 113 of those employees were WBA Rewards winners this week, 5 of them winning \$500. Overall, DPH has won \$4660 to date.

### **mySFHealth Portal Launched**

It is my pleasure to announce the opening of mySFHealth portal for San Francisco Health Network patients. mySFHealth portal is a new website that will allow for patients to view parts of their inpatient and outpatient personal health record at one site.

Hospitalized patients will be able to view their discharge documents through the portal website (in addition to receiving a physical copy at the time of discharge). Specifically, they will find their discharge instructions, discharge medication lists, and a limited set of vital signs and lab results. (Other types of information such as discharge summaries and progress notes will NOT be released on the portal; as in the past, patients may request paper copies through medical records).

Outpatients receiving care in ambulatory clinics using CareLinkSF (eClinicalWorks) will be able to view their outpatient visit summaries; vital signs; lists of medication, allergies, immunizations, and chronic conditions (problem lists); and most lab and diagnostic imaging results. Within January, outpatients will be able to request routine follow-up appointments with their primary care clinic.

The portal will be launched in a limited fashion during the first week of December. For hospital services, inpatients may be approached at the time of discharge by one of the patient provisions on our team if they are English speaking and have the ability/desire to engage with the online portal website. For outpatient clinics using CareLinkSF (eClinicalWorks), the portal will be piloted with a few clinical champions during the first week.

We are extremely excited about this new opportunity to further empower our patients in their own healthcare, as well as utilize technology to promote health and wellness.

### **Combined Charities Campaign 2014**

This year's Combined Charities Campaign has come to an end and DPH was able to contribute a total of \$67,000! I am very proud of each and every person that was able to participate in this year's campaign. It is a wonderful feeling to know that this funding will reach the organizations that need our help and support.

### **APHA Presentation**

Derek Smith, Health Educator with the Tobacco Free Project of the Community Health Equity and Promotion Branch, was invited to present at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting on November 17. The topic was San Francisco's experience educating about and regulating electronic cigarettes. His panel included other experts in the field of this emerging nicotine-delivery product and the session was attended by tobacco control leaders from around the nation including the US Surgeon General Boris Lushniak.

### **Chinese American Dietetics Hall of Fame**

Catherine Wong, Nutrition Manager at Chinatown Public Health Center, was invited to speak at the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Annual Meeting on October 20. She covered the topic of "Promising Practices to Address the Health Disparities of Asian Americans" and was inducted to the Chinese American Dietetics Association's Hall of Fame during its annual meeting. Congratulations Catherine!

### **Senator Daniel E. Boatwright Awarded to Aline Armstrong**

The California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Advisory Council awarded Aline Armstrong the 2014 Senator Daniel E. Boatwright Award for “exemplary public service on behalf of Californians touched by Sudden Infant Death Syndrome”. Aline Armstrong is the San Francisco SIDS Coordinator and Acting Nurse Manager for the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Field Public Health Nursing Program. Aline is also Past President of the Northern California Regional SIDS Council. We congratulate Aline for this award, which is the most prestigious SIDS service award that a Californian may receive.

### **SFDPH Awarded Kresge Foundation *Emerging Leaders in Public Health***

This summer, I was nominated by the County Health Executives Association of California to participate in the *Emerging Leaders in Public Health* program, sponsored by the Kresge Foundation. This 16-month program seeks to help equip local public health officials with knowledge and skills to lead in today’s changing health care environment. Nominated individuals, representing the leadership of health departments across the country, were asked to submit applications.

I applied with Dr. Aragon as my learning partner and, this week, I was notified that we had been selected to participate in this prestigious program. The program will give teams from eight local government health departments up to \$125,000 and technical assistance from field experts to undertake projects designed to enhance organizational and leadership competencies in business, planning and public health systems development.

Our chosen project builds upon the recent Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant that SFDPH was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support public health efforts to reduce chronic diseases, promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending. Through the REACH grant, SFDPH will address health inequities in among African Americans and Latinos populations through a community-based approach that aims to not only reduce cardiovascular disease but also enhance community engagement around chronic disease, improve social connectedness, and improve quality of life.

I’m excited to bring additional resources and expertise to help us reduce health disparities and improve health in San Francisco and to have the opportunity to collaborate with our colleagues in other local health departments to build on our vision for local governmental public health.

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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](http://www.sfcontroller.org) and click on the Frequently Requested tab to access the Whistleblower complaint instructions in the drop down menu.