



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 January 6, 2015

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>

Certificate of Honor

Dr. Joe Goldenson was presented a Certificate of Honor by the Board of Supervisors, authored by Supervisor David Campos, on December 19, 2014 in acknowledgement of his upcoming retirement. After 28 years of service to Jail Health Services, the certificate recognized Dr. Goldenson for having devoted his professional career to the health care needs of incarcerated people who are among the most marginalized in society. Dr. Goldenson's contributions include greatly improving health care and standards of care in incarcerated settings in San Francisco and throughout the country, establishing national standards for compassionate and respectful care, and a creative and effective public health model for care in jails. Dr. Goldenson was also presented with a Certificate of Honor from the Health Commission and a Certificate of Appreciation from Public Defender Jeff Adachi.

Shigella Increase Sickens Homeless and Non-homeless Populations

There was a significant increase in the number of Shigella cases in the city last month, with 83 cases confirmed through December 29, 2014. Shigella typically occurs in San Francisco at the rate of five to 10 cases per month. Shigella is a bacteria that usually causes diarrhea that lasts a few days. Rarely, it can cause more serious illness.

Among the cases this December, about 40 percent are in people who are known to be homeless. The Health Department's San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT) is using its new medical model to provide outreach to the homeless population on the streets. The Health Department also is working with the city's shelters and soup kitchens to ensure proper sanitation, hand washing facilities and information is made available to clients.

SFHN Announces New Partnership with NEMS

San Francisco's Medi-Cal beneficiaries have a new option for health care services. The San Francisco Health Network announced on December 30, 2014 a partnership with North East Medical Services (NEMS) that will allow patients to receive primary care at NEMS clinics and specialty and hospital care at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.

NEMS is a non-profit community health system serving medically-underserved Asian populations in the Bay Area. NEMS, which was founded in 1968, is one of the largest health systems serving Asians in the U.S.

Membership in the new NMSS (NEMS with SFHN) network is available to the Medi-Cal Managed Care and Healthy Kids populations enrolled through the San Francisco Health Plan. NEMS patients who join the new network will have access to SFHN hospital services including labor and delivery, emergency and trauma care; specialty services such as cardiology, endocrinology, neurology, oncology, gastroenterology; and diagnostic services including X-ray, cardiology and laboratory services.

Patients were able to select the new network as of December 30, 2014 and started using services on January 2.

Administrative Relief for Immigrants

President Obama signed a series of Executive Actions on November 20, 2014, that could provide temporary protection from deportation and work permits to nearly 5 million immigrants nationwide. The largest groups eligible for this Administrative Relief are people who entered the United States as undocumented children, and undocumented parents of citizen or lawfully-present immigrant children. In California, some of these individuals could also become eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal coverage.

Mayor Lee issued an Executive Directive on November 21, 2014, that requires the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to align and coordinate San Francisco's Immigrant Assistance Programs with the President's Executive Actions. In coordination with city departments, OCEIA is developing a citywide plan for outreach, anti-fraud education and application assistance for immigrants who may be eligible for administrative relief. Full implementation of the plan is slated to begin in the spring of 2015. As a department that serves immigrants across all service lines, SFDPH looks forward to working with OCEIA to facilitate planning and implementation efforts.

Warm Line

Warm Line has been the subject of continued coverage since its soft opening in August of 2014. The City's Mental Health Triage Warm Line has taken more than 1,400 calls with a steady increase in calls as more people learn about the line. It's an especially difficult time of year around the holidays and some people are turning to Warm Line just for someone to talk to. The Chronicle covered Warm Line in a December 9, 2014 article highlighting the aim to provide a reassuring voice for people before they reach a point of crisis.

SFHN Doctors Featured in Latest San Francisco Magazine

Four SFHN doctors are featured in *San Francisco* magazine's Best Doctors 2015 issue. Publisher Paul Reulbach mentions that the inspiration for the "When Doctors Need Doctors" cover story was born at last year's SFGH Foundation Heroes & Hearts Luncheon. Of the six doctors featured in the section, three of them are from The General: Dr. Deborah Cohan, Dr. Andre Campbell and Dr. Alice Huan-Hei Chen and one is from Laguna Honda Hospital: Dr. Grace Dammann. They share their poignant, surprising and joyful survival stories that show us the human side they share with the people they treat.

Gift from Kaiser Supports Shape Up SF – Shape Up SF’s Bayview HEAL Zone was granted \$1 million for an additional two years by Kaiser Permanente. The funding was announced at a press conference in Mayor Ed Lee’s office on December 17, 2014 along with several other Kaiser Permanente investments in San Francisco. With these funds, the Bayview HEAL Zone will continue its work to renovate and activate MLK park; initiate a pilot community van shuttle program, build urban agriculture infrastructure/capacity, decrease sugary drink consumption and transform corner stores. All these programs are designed to create environments and social norms that support healthy eating and active living.

The Bayview HEAL Zone is bringing in additional funds to leverage Kaiser Permanente’s investment: a \$250,000 grant from the Community Opportunity Fund to renovate MLK Park, \$25,000 from Metta Fund and \$60,000 over two years from Brown and Caldwell to support the urban agriculture work.

Other community-based organizations that will receive Kaiser grants include HealthRIGHT360, The Peer Health Leadership Program at HOPE SF, PHASE at SFGH, UCSF Center for Excellence in Primary Care, The San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium and the California Center for Youth Wellness.

Project Homeless Connect celebrates 10 years

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) was created by Mayor Gavin Newsom and the San Francisco Department of Public Health in 2004 as a way to bring necessary services to people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Now in its 10th year, PHC was held for the 57th time on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. In one day at a PHC event, a person experiencing homelessness can find services that would otherwise take months to secure. These services include dental care, eyeglasses, HIV testing, housing information, food, hygiene products, medical care, mental health services, SSI benefits, legal advice, California identification cards, voice mail accounts, employment counseling/job placement, wheelchair repair, addiction services and more.

Last month’s event included a “Hoodies for the Homeless” drive. DPH Central Administration was able to assist with more than 375 coats and hoodies for the event. Many thanks to everyone who donated, including Faye DeGuzman who organized the drive and Laguna Honda volunteer Gary Speer, who collected many of the items.

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.