



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

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of, June 2, 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>

Balanced FY 15-16 Budget Emphasizes Public Health Priorities

On June 1, the Mayor proposed his balanced budget for FY 15-17 with a focus on caring for the City's most vulnerable populations, addressing affordability issues and creating an educated, livable city. Our department's budget grows by \$45.3 million in FY 15-16 for a total budget of \$2.03 billion with significant program and service enhancements to our critical safety net services. The FY 15-16 budget:

- Restores the remaining \$8.8 million reduction in Community Behavioral Health Services to continue current funding levels;
- Includes 5 percent Cost of Doing Business (CODB) increases for nonprofits spread over two years;
- Creates 30 additional Medical Respite Beds to accommodate the current unmet needs of members of the homeless population with chronic medical conditions;
- Implements Getting to Zero – a strategy to achieve zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS related deaths and zero stigma;
- Continues the Black African American Health Initiative to address the significant disparities in health status and health outcomes disproportionately affecting the African American community
- Invests in the Population Health Division for Emergency Preparedness and Disease Prevention and Control, and;
- Establishes Wellness Centers at four HOPE SF housing sites providing health education, outreach, triage, basic nursing care and behavioral health consultation and treatment.

In addition to service enhancements, the Mayor's 15-17 budget includes significant funding for DPH to right size and strengthen its information technology (IT) infrastructure. IT plays a critical role in the Department's ability to deliver quality, coordinated care in the modern healthcare environment. The Mayor's Budget funds the first two years of a five year plan to right size our staffing and resources to support our existing services and to prepare for the implementation of electronic health records (EHR). In the weeks ahead, we will work with the Board of Supervisor's Budget and Legislative Analyst to review the proposed budget for final approval in early August.

San Francisco Strikes Out Big Tobacco

After being unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors, the Smokeless Tobacco Bill (San Francisco Health Code Article 19O) was signed by Mayor Ed Lee on May 8, 2015. Smokeless tobacco will no longer be allowed at any sport or playing field in San Francisco. This ordinance continues San Francisco's tradition of protecting youth from a lifetime of nicotine addiction. Many former professional baseball players such as Curt Schilling have openly spoken out against smokeless tobacco after suffering the results of prolonged use. Professional baseball players continue to use on the field, in the eyes of those who idolize these players, but no longer in San Francisco. The law will decrease the amount of exposure youth have to smokeless tobacco and continue the effort to make tobacco use no longer socially acceptable or desirable. Health Code 19O also strengthens the definition of tobacco products to close some loopholes. The local law will go into effect on January 1, 2016 exclusively at AT&T Park, home of the world champion Giants.

Health Department Wins Mayor's Fellowship: Marketing Expert to Join the Team

I am delighted to announce that the health department will welcome a Mayor's Executive Fellow this October to assist the SF Health Network in its marketing efforts. The Mayor's fellowship program is a highly competitive one that matches city departments to seasoned professionals with more than 10 years' experience in their fields. Our proposal for "San Francisco Health Network Market Analysis and Strategy" made a compelling case about our need for marketing expertise to help guide our first steps into this crucial new area for our organization. Having functioned historically as a safety net provider for low-income and vulnerable populations, the SF Health Network is now also working to become the region's provider of choice and to operate a new state of the art trauma center for all populations. In order to achieve its goals, DPH will need to develop a strategic marketing function that allows it to effectively communicate its unique value to both current and prospective patients. In addition to a major rebranding effort, this will include identifying target patient populations, developing a better understanding of the factors that drive their health care choices, and employing targeted marketing efforts to help inform their decisions. To help develop these capabilities, DPH will host an Executive Fellow in order to create a marketing strategy and program that meets the Network's business and program needs. Our application was among 24 received for five to eight available placements. The fellow will work at the Health Department full time for one year, reporting to Rachael Kagan, Director of Communications, and Roland Pickens, Director of the SF Health Network.

2014-2015 Flu Season Ends

Data available so far indicate that San Francisco experienced a moderately severe flu season with one reported death in an individual under the age of 65. The predominance of Influenza A H3N2 viruses this season caused a significant burden of serious disease in older people. Mismatch of the seasonal flu vaccine strains and the circulating strains may also have played a role in the severity of the season. We investigated nine influenza outbreaks. SFGH had a total of 333 confirmed cases of influenza. Laguna Honda had a total of 29 confirmed flu cases. Six cases were confirmed at DPH clinics.

San Francisco Children's Oral Health Mission District Community Briefing

Improving children's oral health (SFHIP Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan developed by the Children's Oral Health Collaborative; co-led by DPH & UCSF), is integral to the overall Community Health Improvement Plan and a key health indicator in the Population Health Division of DPH. The San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership, Mission Neighborhood Centers and other community organizations will gather on Tuesday, June 9th to address the epidemic proportions of cavities experienced by our Latino youth. This forum will address the latest findings in children's oral health in the Mission and allow community members to give feedback and perspective on why might be happening and what we can do to help. The event will be held on June 9th from 12-2 at Mission Neighborhood Center.

Donations of Material Goods

As our national and international communities continue to deal with the aftermath of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, twisters and typhoons, the San Francisco Department of Public Health's mission to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans resonates even more than ever both locally and abroad. During these times, members of the DPH workforce have courageously volunteered their energy and expertise to supporting relief efforts directly at the sites of the hardest hit areas. To continue in this tradition, the Department of Public Health has procedures in place to donate material goods to the relief efforts that align with the City and County of San Francisco's policy [21.03\(i\)](#) regarding donation and disposal of surplus goods (defined as recently expired or obsolete goods). If you believe there are supplies that are eligible to be donated, or would like more information on this process, please contact SFDPH Associate Administrator Baljeet S. Sangha at Baljeet.Sangha@sfdph.org.

Support the Relay for Life for Cancer Care and Research

This year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life will be held on June 6th at 1pm in Fort Mason, Great Meadow. The SFGH employee BBQ will be held at noon (1 hour before the opening ceremony). SFGH's goal is to contribute \$10,000 to this fundraiser walk. Sign up to join our team or donate [here](#).

Doctors, Nurses celebrated throughout SFDPH

The SFGH Department of Medicine honored six clinicians at their annual Service Awards held May 19. Recipients included: **Dick Fine, MD** received the John Murray, MD Award For Academic Excellence in Internal Medicine & Dedication to the Humanitarian Mission of SFGH, **John Imboden, MD** from the Department of Rheumatology received the Henry F. Chambers, MD Medicine Subspecialty Consultant Award, **Jeff Schmidt, RN, MS**, Director of Clinical Operations received the Robert Lull, MD: Non-Internal Medicine Consultant Award, **Joseph Pace, MD** of Tom Waddell Urban Health Clinic received the Jane Bailowitz, MD Volunteer Faculty Award, **Will Huen, MD** received the SFGH Performance/Quality Improvement Award, and **Rachel Rutishauser, MD**, Infectious Disease, received the Inaugural SFGH Department of Medicine Clinical Fellow Award. The annual SFGH Medical Staff Dinner will be held Thurs, June 4 at 5:15pm in the SFGH cafeteria.

SFGH celebrated Nurses' Week May 6-12 with a number of awards: Debi Hines RN, PHN of the Family Mosaic Project was presented the O'Connell award for her outstanding contributions to patients and families. **Diane Jones** was presented with the SFGH Friend of Nursing Award for her remarkable work as an advocate and trail blazer in HIV-related clinical work, advocacy and program development, **Rosalyn Ferrer RN** received the inaugural Primary

Care Nursing award for her role in advancing the care of patients in the General Medical clinic and throughout the primary care clinics. Three DAISY awards were presented recognizing nurses' outstanding contributions which make a significant impact on patients and families. **Yu-Chin Huang, RN** of the Infant Care Center was recognized for her extraordinary work with the family of a deceased infant. **Juliet Shih, RN** and **Brooke Bassett, RN** of Progressive Care Unit 4B were awarded for their exemplary work with a dying patient when they honored his wishes to be outside for the last hours of his life.

Laguna Honda Celebrated Nurses Week by honoring two nursing staff with Daisy Awards for their above and beyond care to patients and their families: **Rose Flores, RN** and **Noe Madrigal, PCA**.

All these awards are a wonderful testament to the work that our staff do day after day, but what really matters is listening to what our patients have to say. Here is a letter from patient Gui Ying Liu to **Dr. Oberschelp of the Tom Waddell Clinic**. (Translated from Chinese)

“My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Oberschelp. She is a highly responsible doctor. She views patient care as her top priority; gives timely exams and treatments to her patients. It was her lunch time but she skipped her meal to care for my suffering. She treats her patients like family, her kindness brought tears to my eyes. She patiently examined my condition, checked electrocardiogram results, prescribed medicines and ordered compression stockings to prevent my peripheral edema. By the time she finished, it was almost one o'clock. I am very grateful for this great doctor and thankful for the good leadership at San Francisco General Hospital. This can be a wonderful world if all the health care providers share the kind of love that Dr. Oberschelp has for her patients. Her medical ethics serves as a role model for others. All her patients love her.”

Respectfully,
Patient Gui Ying Liu

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.