City and County of San Francisco

Department of Public Health

Edwin Lee
Mayor

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center

Susan Currin, Chief Executive Officer

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center Launches Healthy Beverage Initiative
No more sugar sweetened beverages on campus
Better drink options respond to patient needs

(San Francisco) – San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH) announces today that the hospital will no longer sell or provide any sugar sweetened beverages on campus. This action will support our patients and community by offering healthier drinks that do not promote obesity, tooth decay and chronic disease.

Consumption of sugar sweetened beverages is linked with increased rates of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, liver disease and tooth decay. Nationally, one in three children, and half of Latino and African-American children, are expected to develop diabetes in their lifetime.

"As the hospital for all San Franciscans, it incumbent on us to provide a healthy environment for our patients, staff and visitors," said **Sue Currin**, RN, MSN, and CEO. "Our patients disproportionately suffer from chronic diseases, and we know that consuming sugar sweetened beverages does not help. With the healthy beverage initiative, we are making it easier for people on campus to make better choices about what to drink."

The policy extends to patient meals, the cafeteria, vending machines, gift shop and food trucks. The hospital will continue to offer beverages such as water, carbonated water, flavored waters, milk, tea, coffee, diet soft drinks, and 100 percent fruit and vegetable juices.

The Healthy Beverage Initiative will be kicked off **Friday June 12** at the hospital's Summerfest celebration, which brings together hospital staff, patients and community partners for a variety of wellness activities including dancing, cooking demonstrations and free food samples from the hospital's garden.

"Science tells us that daily consumption of sugary drinks contributes to both diabetes and heart disease," said **Barbara Garcia**, San Francisco's Director of Health. "As a health department, we support efforts to help people reduce their consumption of sugary drinks, through education, awareness and action. The hospital's new policy

aligns with the direction the city is taking to promote better health for all San Franciscans. "

Media availability:

SFGH Summerfest and launch of Healthy Beverage Initiative (flyer attached)
Friday June 12, 11am to 2pm
SFGH 1001 Potrero Ave, at 23rd Street
Cafeteria, 2nd Floor
Available for interviews 11:30am to 12:45pm
Sue Currin, CEO
Shermineh Jafarieh, Director of Wellness Services
Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, MD, Director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations at SFGH
Corilee Watters, PhD, RD, Assistant Director Food & Nutrition Service, SFGH

Summerfest media contact **Linda Acosta** 415-554-2928, 415-828-6757cell, linda.acosta@sfdph.org

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About San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center
San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (The General) is the sole provider of trauma and psychiatric emergency services for the City and County of San Francisco. A comprehensive medical center, The General serves some 100,000 patients per year and provides 20 percent of the city's inpatient care. In 2011, The General became the first hospital in the country to be certified for a Traumatic Brain Injury program. As San Francisco's public hospital, The General is a member of the **San Francisco Health Network**, an integrated delivery system operated by the Department of Public Health that provides all levels of care to San Franciscans. The General's mission is to provide quality health care and trauma services with compassion and respect to patients that include the City's most vulnerable. The General is also one of the nation's top academic medical centers, partnering with the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine for clinical training and research.

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