

SPARKLE & SHINE: DPH STARS & FIRSTS

Staff Awards and Special Recognition

The Department is fortunate to have a highly motivated and deeply committed staff who work hard every day to deliver health services and manage the programs that promote and protect the health of all San Franciscans. Some of our staff are also recipients of special awards and recognition from agencies and professional associations outside of the Department. Here are some highlights of this year's awards.

Chair of National Association of Public Hospitals & Health Systems

Gene Marie O'Connell, CEO of San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center, was named Chair of the National Association of Public Hospitals & Health Systems. This is a great honor for Ms. O'Connell, as NAPH represents over 100 hospitals and health systems across the nation, that together comprise the essential infrastructure of many of America's largest metropolitan health systems, including San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center. Additionally, Ms. O'Connell remains a Board Member of the National Public Health & Hospital Institute which is the research arm of NAPH. Ms. O'Connell was also honored for the sixth consecutive year by San Francisco Business Times as one of the top 100 most influential women in Bay Area business.



Mental Health Association's - 60th Anniversary Awards Recipient

Barbara Garcia, Deputy Director of Public Health received the Mental Health Association of San Francisco's (MHA-SF) *Public Policy Leader Award* at the Association's 60th Anniversary Awards Luncheon in May. Ms. Garcia received this award for her ongoing commitment to mental health with a special emphasis on her leadership in organizing San Francisco's planning for the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63).



National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addiction Professionals Finnegan-McNally Founders Award

Robert P. Cabaj, MD, Director of the Department of Public Health's Community Behavioral Health Services, was awarded the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addiction Professionals Finnegan-McNally Founders Award in 2006 for his support of the NALGAP mission to improve substance abuse prevention and treatment services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals continuously for over 25 years. Dr. Cabaj was selected by the NALGAP Board as the second awardee in the organization's history--a group that was founded in 1979 by Dana Finnegan and Emily McNally. The award emphasizes the continuing need to address one of the greatest health problems facing LGBT people.



MFAC Awarded to Sue Currin, RN

Chief Nursing Officer for San Francisco General Hospital, Sue Currin, RN, was named a recipient of the 2006 Municipal Fiscal Advisory Committee, (MFAC) Public Managerial Excellence Award. The MFAC Public Managerial Excellence Awards are dedicated to recognizing outstanding leadership, creativity, and managerial excellence in San Francisco government. Over the last 25 years, more than 100 City employees have been commended for their innovation, imagination and dedication to public service.

**Crystal Heart Award**

Jim Soos, Assistant Director of Policy & Planning, was a recipient of the 2006 Crystal Heart Award at the San Francisco Health Plan's 5th Annual Healthy Kids & Young Adults Appreciation Night. The Health Plan noted Mr. Soos's role as "an invaluable collaborator, handling every situation with a sympathetic ear, a keen analytical mind, and a pragmatic response." Mr. Soos was also singled out as exemplary public servant: "someone who is dedicated to improving life for others." residents.

**State Of California Excellence Award**

Master Sergeant Steve R. Sigman, IT Support Services Supervisor at 1380 Howard, was presented a State Of California Acknowledgment Plaque from the Commander of the California National Guard. Governor Schwarzenegger presented Sergeant Sigman with an Excellence Award for his continued service of 30 years of which 10 years were in the position of First Sergeant of the 129th Medical Group.

**Chinese New Year Grand Marshal**

Lisa O'Malley, Principal Environmental Health Inspector, was asked by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce to serve as the Grand Marshall in the 2007 Chinese New Year Festival and Parade. Ms. O'Malley and her staff work closely within the Chinatown community to help restaurant owners raise their level of awareness and compliance with the City's health and sanitation codes. As a result, health inspection scores in Chinatown are higher and a number of restaurants received the new Symbol of Excellence.

**National Health Resources and Services Administration Award**

Michelle Long, HIV Health Services Director, received the HRSA "Hank" Carde award. Michelle was recognized for her dedicated service as the San Francisco Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) grantee and her outstanding leadership in adapting the service system to the needs of a changing epidemic. Ms. Long has worked in HIV/AIDS since 1991.





California Community Choices Advisory Committee

Mivic Hirose, Chief Nursing Officer of Laguna Honda Hospital & Rehabilitation Center, was selected to sit on the California Community Choices Advisory Committee, the advisory committee that will be responsible for overseeing implementation of the 2006 Real Choices Grant. The purpose of the grant is to help build the state's long-term care system infrastructure and to increase the capacity of the home and community-based services system.

UCSF Wall of Fame Awards

The UCSF School of Nursing and the Nursing Alumni Association Board commemorated the UCSF Nursing Centennial by establishing a "Wall of Fame," recognizing 100 outstanding alumni and faculty. Three notable nurses within the DPH family were honored: Pat Underwood, RN, DNSc, UCSF faculty, the first registered nurse to serve on the Health Commission; Catherine Dodd, RN, MS, Ph.D., a current member of the Health Commission; and Gene O'Connell, RN, MS the Executive Administrator of SFGH.



National Council on Alcoholism and other Drug Addictions-Bay Area Bronze Key Award

James Stillwell, Designated County Alcohol and Drug Administrator, received the 2006 Bronze Key Award by the National Council on Alcoholism and other Drug Addictions-Bay Area (NCADA-BA). The Bronze Key Award is presented to a member of the community who has made a significant contribution to the field of Alcoholism. Arthur Bosse, Executive Director of NCADA-BA, announced that "Jim has been instrumental in assuring that the prevention and treatment of alcoholism and other addictions are a part of every discussion concerning the integration process of CBHS", and has been "a calm presence during a challenging period of transition."



Special Recognition Award

SEXINFO, an innovative text messaging service for at risk, sexually active youth in San Francisco won a technology award from Grassroots.org for using innovative technology for health information. A national review committee, comprised of leaders chosen from both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, selected the winners from a pool of applicants. Dr. Klausner, the Section Director, was awarded the UCSF Special Recognition Teaching Award for clinical medicine in 2006.



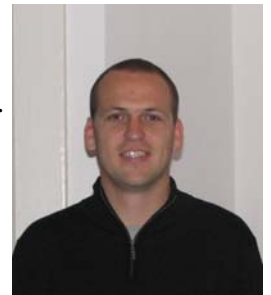


Eastern Neighborhoods Community Health Impact Assessment - Award

The Eastern Neighborhoods Community Health Impact Assessment (ENCHIA) project received a 2007 Model Practice Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The program received the award for “demonstrating exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need” under the leadership of Environmental Health Director, Rajiv Bhatia, MD.

California Community Transitions Advisory Committee

Dustin Harper with the Department's Health at Home program was appointed through a competitive selection process to the California Community Transitions Advisory Committee. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) created the Committee in FY 2006-07 and is related to the State's Community Transitions project (funded through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration" grants). Mr. Harper's appointment reflects his expertise in home care services, as well as the Department's commitment to community placement.



Staff Selected to Represent DPH for Project Homeless Connect Award

Project Homeless Connect was selected by the National Association of Counties (NACo) as a winner in the 2007 Acts of Caring Awards Program. The Acts of Caring Awards recognize the top county volunteer programs in the country. Barbara Garcia and Judith Klain traveled to Washington, DC in April to accept this award on behalf of the role that DPH staff and volunteers have played in this extraordinary program.



John F. Murray Award *(photo unavailable- retired)*

Dr. “Dan” Wlodarczyk received the 2006 John F. Murray Award. This annual award, established in 2003, recognizes a member of the UCSF faculty for academic excellence and dedication to the humanitarian mission of San Francisco General Hospital. Among the many accolades from his colleagues, Dr. Wlodarczyk was noted for his compassion, his gift as a teacher and healer, and his reputation as a role model for young.

Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee *(photo unavailable- retired)*

Tina Yee, CBHS Director of Cultural Competency and Client Relations, and Al Gaw, MD, CBHS Medical Director of Quality Improvement, were appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger to serve on the Advisory Committee to the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) for Developing the California Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention. Governor Schwarzenegger has requested that the DMH develop a Plan by May 1, 2008.

It All Started at DPH

San Franciscans enjoy a unique reputation around the country and are quick to remind visitors to our fair City that many things happen “Only in San Francisco.” It turns out that the San Francisco Department of Public Health has a lot to be proud of – being the first public health department in the country to create numerous cutting edge programs. Here are just a few of the Model Programs and “Firsts” from the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

- **Anti-Retroviral Adherence Support for HIV Infected Homeless People.** First health department to provide anti-retroviral adherence support to homeless people infected with HIV.
- **Asian American Recovery Services.** Began in San Francisco and still recognized as an international leader in model substance abuse treatment services for Asian-Americans.
- **Balboa Teen Health Center, 1986.** First school-based health center established in California
- **Between Friends HIV/AIDS Education.** A video drama to educate middle school youth about HIV/AIDS. The film featured Latino youth from the community (non-actors) and won several national Film Festival medals. It is still being shown throughout the United States today.
- **Charity Care Ordinance.** First county to require nonprofit hospitals to have and post charity care policies.
- **Direct Access to Housing.** The first health department to provide housing for homeless patients.
- **Healthy and Sustainable Food Policy.** First health department to adopt a Healthy and Sustainable Food Policy that directs public health employees to offer healthy food choices when serving food, and also directs the hospital systems, and eventually DPH contractors, to incorporate sustainable produced food.
- **HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis.** First health department to provide post exposure prophylaxis after sexual exposure and sexual assault.
- **InSpot.** Electronic Partner Notification Program has become national model. Users send their sexual partners an electronic postcard informing them of their exposure to STD, including HIV. Recipients download a prescription for preventive treatment for STD.

- **Jelani House Family Substance Abuse Residential Treatment.** First model allowing an entire family to be in treatment together, which produces a higher rate of success.
- **Mandatory Harm Reduction.** First health department to make harm reduction mandatory for all contractors of HIV, STD and substance abuse providers.
- **Medical Cannabis Identification Cards.** First County/City in the United States to issue medical cannabis ID cards which became a model program for the State of California.
- **Medical Clinic for Supportive Housing.** First health department to open a medical clinic only for people in supportive housing.
- **Needle Exchange.** San Francisco was the first county to publicly fund needle exchange.
- **On-Line Syphilis Testing Program.** Allows concerned individuals to download a lab slip and take to private lab in San Francisco for free syphilis testing with results available electronically. The program is expanding to include gonorrhea and Chlamydia in 2007.
- **Project Homeless Connect Medical Services.** First city in the United States to provide medical services to homeless through the Project Homeless Connect model.
- **PROP (Positive Reinforcement Opportunity Project).** A Methamphetamine Contingency Management program designed to encourage methamphetamine abstinence among men who have sex with men and who are methamphetamine users.
- **SEXINFO.** An STD and sexual health cell phone text messaging service for sexually active, high risk San Francisco youth between 18-24 designed to increase awareness of Chlamydia and other STD's among African American youth. Also provides wide range of topics on sexual health.
- **Single Room Occupancy Health & Stabilization Project.** First city to look at health, stabilization and safety of SRO residents in a coordinated fashion.
- **WEDGE Program.** First HIV educational program in existence that brought people with AIDS into classrooms. The WEDGE Program ran from 1988 -2002.