



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 March 3, 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>

### **Covered California Special Enrollment Period**

Covered California open enrollment for 2015 ended on February 20. However, the marketplace is extending a special enrollment period, through April 30, 2015, for people who were unaware of the tax penalties for not carrying health insurance. This special enrollment period aligns with a similar one extended on the federal marketplace. Eligible persons will not be exempt from paying the 2014 penalties, but will have a chance to avoid the higher penalty rates slated for remaining uninsured in 2015.

The Affordable Care Act requires most U.S. residents to carry health insurance or pay a penalty. For the 2014 tax year, the penalty was \$95 or 1% of annual household income, whichever is higher; for 2015 it increases to \$325 or 2% of annual household income.

### **Announcing the DPH Office of Compliance and Privacy Affairs**

To coordinate privacy and compliance efforts across the department, I am announcing the formation of a new Office of Compliance and Privacy Affairs. This office will have centralized oversight for compliance and privacy throughout the Department and will report directly to me as the Director of Health.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Maria X Martinez, MA as the Director of the Office of Compliance and Privacy Affairs. She will also serve as the DPH Chief Privacy Officer. Maria brings many years of experience working on inter-agency, cross-departmental system changes. She also served as the Community Programs Privacy Officer as we implemented HIPAA.

Reporting to her as the DPH Chief Compliance Officer will be Chona Peralta, LCSW, current Compliance Officer for the Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health, Population Health, Transitions, Jail Health, and Managed Care.

In addition to maintaining central accountability and an independent perspective from our day-to-day operations, the Office of Compliance and Privacy Affairs will strive to strengthen our internal operations and give each section the support they need to accomplish their mission. Please join me in welcoming our new leadership.

### **Project Homeless Connect 58**

The first Project Homeless Connect (PHC) of 2015 is around the corner! Volunteer registration is now open for PHC's 58th event on March 11. Volunteer opportunities are available from 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. You can also help distribute flyers to potential volunteers or participants.

### **Naloxone Co-prescription Academic Detailing Project**

The Substance Use Research Unit received funding from the California Healthcare Foundation to conduct "academic detailing" of community primary care providers in San Francisco to encourage co-prescribing naloxone to patients who use opioids. Part of a larger effort by DPH to address opioid overdose in San Francisco, this project dovetails with successful naloxone prescribing efforts within the CHN. Phillip Coffin and Emily Behar lead the pilot, which has led to production of user-friendly, visually-stimulating materials for patients and providers, and are reaching out directly, in one-on-one meetings, to 40 community providers. The California State Board of Pharmacy is also considering using the patient brochure in pharmacies statewide.

### **DPH Staff Engagement Survey - *We're Ready to Listen, We're Ready to Respond***

In addition to improving the health of our communities and providing the highest quality of care for our patients, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is also committed to providing a positive workplace for our staff and providers. Understanding your values, feedback, and level of engagement is vital to our commitment and success. From March 2 through March 27, we are administering the first ever, DPH wide employee engagement survey. The survey is being administered by a third party vendor, National Research Corporation, a leader in staff and patient experience. The survey is an important step in understanding where and how we can continue to develop our organization as a great place to work.

### **Two CBHS staff to advise UCSD on Evaluation Recovery Orientation of Counties**

Gloria Frederico, MFT, and Diane Prentiss, MA MPH, attended the first meeting of a statewide advisory workgroup focused on Recovery Oriented practices in mental health services. Transforming mental health services to be more recovery oriented is a primary objective of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA – Proposition 63), which was enacted ten years ago. The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) contracted with UC San Diego to conduct evaluation research into how effectively Recovery practices are being implemented in California counties.

Ms. Frederico was recently hired as the Wellness and Recovery Coordinator for Community Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) and collaborates on many projects with Ms. Prentiss, the lead MHSA Evaluator for CBHS. Since the enactment of MHSA in 2005, CBHS has launched many initiatives to transform itself into a more recovery oriented system.

Diane and Gloria have begun to share with the advisory group many of CBHS's lessons learned, and plan to bring back to San Francisco new information about effective and impactful Recovery practices.

### **Michael Baxter Memorial Event**

The memorial for Michael Baxter is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 4:00 p.m. at San Francisco City Hall. Family and friends and others are welcome.

### **Dr. Deborah Cohan featured in SF Chronicle**

Deborah Cohan reached peak Internet fame a few days after her double mastectomy in November 2013. In the minutes leading up to her surgery, Cohan led her team of doctors and nurses in a Beyoncé dance party that was captured on video. The video went viral shortly after the surgery, and it's since been viewed more than 8 million times on YouTube. It's inspired dozens of similar festive dances.

She's the "dancing doc" on the Internet. But in San Francisco and the global public health community, Cohan, a UCSF obstetrician, has reached a different kind of fame. She's widely respected for her work in HIV care — specifically, in treating pregnant women with HIV and pioneering efforts to help HIV-affected couples have healthy families.

Her work reflects her dance. As a doctor and patient, she's never focused solely on survival, but on living with passion and joy. To her patients with HIV, she strives to offer hope of new life and a vibrant future at a time when they are often focused on the barest, hardest work of making it day to day. The article covers Cohan's medical experience, dealing with complex patients and how her cancer is now gone.

### **Michelle Long Honored**

Michelle Long was honored by Mission Neighborhood Health Center at their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event commemorating the establishment of Clinica Esperanza/HIV Clinic in December. Michelle was acknowledged for her contributions as the former DPH Director of HIV Health Services for leadership, advocacy and innovation in the development of models of HIV Care.

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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.