What’s Ahead in 2016

We are starting 2016 with some positive developments: a new five-year Medi-Cal 1115 Waiver, the governor’s budget proposal that did not include significant cuts to health and thousands more Californians with health insurance. This brings good news for the start of a new year, but we know we have challenges and uncertainties ahead.

For instance, we face reductions in federal funding to public hospitals for the uninsured. It’s also not a given that we will reach benchmarks to receive funds under the terms of the new Waiver, which is being called Medi-Cal 2020. We have been able to make significant strides under the previous Waiver to increase access to care using innovative tools and practices, focusing on patient experience and integration of physical and behavioral health care. Even with these changes, we continue to be challenged with providing access to care for the newly insured, as are all other healthcare systems around the country.

The New Waiver—Medi-Cal 2020

While the details of Medi-Cal 2020 are still being worked out, we know the basic elements of the Waiver, which features four new programs that aim to improve care.

First, the Public Hospital Incentives and Redesign in Medi-Cal (PRIME) builds on the success of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program under the previous Waiver, which helped us improve care and safety in our hospital and health centers and make great strides toward improving access to care using a variety of innovative tools. With PRIME, we and other safety-net systems will be compensated for showing improvements in ambulatory care, targeting high-risk populations and using resources more efficiently. PRIME challenges us to meet certain agreed-upon benchmarks or risk substantial loss of funding that cannot be recovered.

The second major component of the Waiver is the “global payment program,” which retools the way county health systems like ours are compensated for treating the uninsured. The program provides financial incentives for cost-effective primary and specialty care by shifting the focus away from hospital-based inpatient care toward primary and preventive care. It includes changes in reimbursement structures that are based on health outcomes and not on process or solely on the number of visits. Successful implementation and improved health outcomes in California could provide a model for the federal government to use for the entire country.

The third component of Medi-Cal 2020 is what’s know as “whole person care,”
offered to selected counties as a pilot to better coordinate physical and behavioral health care, and providing social services and other supports to help meet needs like housing or food in a patient-centered manner.

Fourth and final is the dental transformation initiative aimed at helping children and young adults consistently and easily access high-quality dental services and maintaining good oral health. I am excited and cautiously optimistic as we enter into the new Waiver.

Addressing Health Needs of the Community

Under this new Waiver, we will be addressing all aspects of health, including disparities and inequities.

The new Waiver places a great deal of importance on addressing issues that affect health in our communities—not just those affecting the patients we serve. Because we are an integrated health system, we are ideally structured to meet these expectations. Contra Costa Regional Medical Center & Health Centers, Contra Costa Health Plan, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Contra Costa Health Plan will all be working together to fulfill the healthcare and community health obligations under the Waiver.

Beyond the Waiver, CCHS will continue its multipronged approach toward improving—and protecting—the community’s health. Our Hazardous Materials Program will remain vigilant monitoring oil refineries under our Industrial Safety Ordinance. Environmental Health will keep up its efforts to protect consumers through its various programs, including implementing a new color-coded placarding system at restaurants. EMS will be stressing a more focused use of our emergency medical system and care. And Public Health will continue its work to maintain high immunization rates, reduce tobacco and e-cigarette use, and educate the public about the importance of exercise and the health risks of consuming sugar-sweetened beverages.

I am personally excited about this opportunity and look forward to our work together. Transforming care delivery is a journey, and we know that this work doesn’t happen overnight. This Waiver will support our efforts over the next five years to innovate and improve the way we deliver care to our most vulnerable patients, so that we can focus on keeping them healthy, rather than just treating them when they’re not.

Sincerely,

William B. Walker, M.D
Hazardous Materials Program Responds to Train Derailment in Martinez

Members of the Hazardous Material team helped other emergency workers and Union Pacific officials right three tanker cars that derailed Jan. 20 on a stretch of track under the Benicia Bridge. The cars, on their way to Eco Services Operations in Martinez, contained spent sulfuric acid, but none of them leaked or spilled and there were no injuries. The derailment occurred about 7 a.m. along a frontage road near Marina Vista Avenue near Interstate 680. The cause remains under investigation. Spent sulfuric acid is mostly sulfuric acid that contains hydrocarbons and is a byproduct of refining oil. The spent sulfuric acid is regenerated to approximately 98% sulfuric acid that is used by the refineries in the processing of crude oil.

The 72-hour report about the incident submitted to Hazardous Materials by Eco Services is available at cchealth.org/hazmat.

Celebration for New Antioch Health Center Later This Month

A celebration will take place on Wednesday, February 17 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the new Antioch Health Center, which will open in the next month or so. Speakers will include Congressman Jerry McNerney, CCHS Director Dr. William Walker, Contra Costa Regional Medical Center & Health Centers CEO Anna Roth and Behavioral Health Director Cynthia Belon.

Service capacity will significantly expand in the new building, located at 2335 Country Hills Drive. The health center will have expanded hours, almost twice as many exam rooms, mammography and ultrasound services, group medical visits, and integrated medical services and children's behavioral healthcare.

Relocation from the current sites of the Antioch Health Center and East County Child and Adolescent Services—both located on the 3500 block of Lone Tree Way—is expected within the next one to two months after licensing is finalized.
Ebola Monitoring in State to be Replaced by More General Travel Screening

With the World Health Organization recently announcing the end of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has called an end to monitoring of travelers from the area.

Monitoring and screening of travelers from West Africa began in the United States in October 2014 after an Ebola-infected patient was treated at a local hospital in Texas. In order to prevent transmission of the Ebola virus to health workers and first responders in the U.S., public health departments around the country actively monitored travelers from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone for 21 days after arrival to ensure they did not have Ebola-like symptoms. Contra Costa Public Health kept track of 73 travelers from Ebola-affected countries; 1,295 travelers were monitored statewide during the outbreak. California did not see any cases of Ebola during that time.

Health care facilities around the country, including our Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers, have been asking patients several screening questions specifically about travel in West Africa. CDPH is expected to issue revised screening guidelines for asking patients more generally about their recent travel, information useful to clinicians when considering possible diagnoses such as measles, malaria or Zika virus.

For more information, contact Communicable Disease Chief Erika Jenssen at Erika.Jenssen@hsd.cccounty.us.

Behavioral Health Begins Screening for Laura’s Law Patients this Month

A new program from the Behavioral Health Division provides Contra Costa County with new options for helping community members with severe mental illness. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment program (AOT), developed with Contra Costa Superior Court, the Public Defender’s Office, and other partners in accordance with Laura’s Law, began screening prospective patients Feb. 1.

Laura’s Law allows California counties to use the civil court system to supervise care for people with mental illness who meet specific legal criteria, which include a history of hospitalization or violence and of declining offered treatment. AOT creates both a treatment program and a process for referring prospective patients that includes clinical evaluation, emphasis on voluntary participation, and respectful and fair court representation if needed. Mental Health Systems, a nonprofit, provides services to patients including mental health treatment, access to primary healthcare, substance abuse counseling and vocational rehabilitation.

The program will have capacity for 75 patients in its first 12 months. AOT is funded this year with $2.25 million in Mental Health Services Act funding and about $400,000 from the county’s General Fund.

For more information, contact David Seidner at David.Seidner@hsd.cccounty.us
Health Care Internship Program for High School Students Expanding

A successful and innovative internship program managed by our Public Health staff recently expanded to a second high school in West Contra Costa County. In January 2016, the Richmond Public Health Solutions (RPHS) program started being offered to Health Academy students at Richmond High School in addition to De Anza High School. RPHS, which is funded by the California Endowment and overseen by our Community Wellness & Prevention Program (CWPP), exposes students to the principles of public health and careers in the field.

Since its inception in 2013, RPHS has provided classroom education to 140 De Anza students, and placed over 30 students in paid summer internships with health-related employers, including Health Leads (West County Health Center and Kaiser Richmond sites), the RYSE Center, Lifelong Medical Care and the Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative. Within the CCHS system, RPHS students have interned with Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, the HIV/AIDS and STD Program, Communicable Disease Program and in a special project focused on public health and climate change. As the program expands, RPHS will be looking to place a minimum of 50 high school students into summer internships.

If your program is interested in hosting an intern or you would like to learn more about the project, please contact Shannon Ladner-Beasley at sladner-beasley@hsd.cccounty.us.

Homeless Program Conducts Annual Count of Residents Who Need Housing

Our Homeless Program and its partners, including more than 60 community volunteers, spent two days in January documenting all Contra Costa residents they could find who need housing. Data from this effort help government agencies, service providers and community advocates develop effective local responses to homelessness, and are also a required part of the county’s requests for federal and state funding for homeless services. The program expects to release detailed demographic data this spring. This year’s count was held on January 28 and January 29 and included people in emergency or temporary housing as well as those who were without shelter. Outreach teams conducted surveys at encampments, shelters, soup kitchens and other service providers. This year, the Homeless Program also partnered with 211 to enable call-in access for survey-takers. During the 2015 count, 3,715 people were identified as homeless in Contra Costa County.

For more information, contact Homeless Program Chief Lavonna Martin at Lavonna.Martin@hsd.cccounty.us.
A Bit of History on Display in the Miller Wellness Center

Visitors to CCHS’ George & Cynthia Miller Wellness Center in Martinez can now see one of the pens President Barack Obama used to sign the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well a letter from Obama to retired Congressman George Miller. The president added a handwritten note to the letter saying “Couldn’t have done it without you.” Miller played an instrumental role in the passage of the ACA. Miller donated the pen and other ACA documentation to display in the Miller Wellness Center, which the county named after the former congressman and his wife.

Testing Urged for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

As part of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, our HIV/AIDS & STD Program is urging all county residents, especially African Americans, to get tested. In Contra Costa County, African Americans comprise about 30% of the all new HIV diagnoses.

The majority of the new cases are men and most were infected by having sex with another man, said Obiel Leyva, Manager of Education, Prevention and Testing with the HIV/AIDS & STD Program. “National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an important reminder to act,” Obiel said.

HIV testing is a covered service by most health insurance plans. For those without health insurance coverage, Contra Costa Health Services offers free rapid HIV testing and outreach (see infobox).

Contra Costa Public Health HIV Testing Locations

**Richmond**
Every 2nd and 4th Friday, 1–4 p.m.
Native American Health Center
2566 MacDonald Ave. @ 26th St.

**Concord**
Every Tuesday, 4–8 p.m.
Rainbow Community Center
2118 Willow Pass Rd. Suite 500
Call 925-692-0090

**Concord**
Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 10 a.m–2:30 p.m.
Todos Santos Plaza
Call 925-313-6771

**Antioch**
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 1–4 p.m.
18th at A Street (next to Starbucks)

Personal Belief Exemptions No Longer Allowed for School Immunizations

In recent years, the increasing number of families opting out of vaccines for their children made some communities more vulnerable to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. As of January 1, parents may no longer refuse school-required vaccines for their children with a personal belief exemption. Under a new state law, only medical exemptions will be allowed for children in childcare and students in public and private schools who don’t have all the required vaccinations. In recent years, the increasing number of families opting out of vaccines for their children made some communities more vulnerable to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. The new law will provide added protection to the most vulnerable members of our community who can’t get fully vaccinated, including infants. Our Immunization Program has been doing outreach to schools and health providers about the law change.

For more information, visit [Shots For School](#) or contact Immunization Coordinator Paul Leung at [Paul.Leung@hsd.cccounty.us](mailto:Paul.Leung@hsd.cccounty.us).
You’re a GEM for Going the Extra Mile

Kristin Manuel
Mental Health Clinical Specialist
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers
For her care and dedication to her clients and teammates. For her attention to detail and thoughtful, detailed client assessments for John Muir Behavioral Health and Katie A Programs.
♦ Nominated by Charlene Bianchi

Agustina Berrocal
Clinical Specialist, Mental Health
For going above and beyond to serve Katie A clients. For her hard work, care and dedication to her team members and clients, and for always giving her very best in challenging situations and never giving up.
♦ Nominated by Charlene Bianchi

Sybil Meyer
Clinical Specialist
Mental Health
For her hard work and dedication to her clients and teammates. For her ability to handle ever changing processes and going the extra mile with Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) and Katie A clients.
♦ Nominated by Charlene Bianchi

Phillip Clarke
Ultrasound Technologist II
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers
For consistently bringing his patients back on the floor after their procedure. For always performing his job with a smile.
♦ Anonymous Nominator

Mike Pereira
Mental Health Specialist II
Mental Health
For helping as needed without hesitation and creating a positive work environment. For his help during our move and making the stressful move fun. For going above and beyond to maintain a positive attitude and continually showing his unconditional regard for his patients’ well-being.
♦ Nominated by Christine Madruga

Lee Schugar
Information Systems Technician II
Information Technology
For keeping our computers and other equipment running like a top. For being accessible, efficient, and always so gracious about helping us and answering our computer questions.
♦ Nominated by Sally Reader-Matthews

Guenter Hofstadler, MD
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers
For being a diligent leader and always with a smile on his face.
♦ Nominated by the Credentials Team

Malou Lyttle
Account Clerk-Advanced Level
Public Health
For going above and beyond to assist the Family Maternal and Child Health (FMCH) programs with purchasing materials and travel arrangements. For being an effective advocate for our staff and the families we serve.
♦ Nominated by Rusty Keilch

Maycheal Julian, LVN
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers
For exceeding her peer’s expectations and learning her new role at a remarkable rate. For going the extra mile to assist me and others. For her work ethic, setting a good example, and demonstrating excellent teamwork with a positive attitude.
♦ Nominated by Reggie Olivar

Claudia Sanchez
Program Specialist I
Public Health
For being a great asset to Public Health programs. For her knowledge, understanding, and for creating a stupendous work environment.
♦ Nominated by Alma Arias

Lisa Vajgrt-Smith
Administrative Intern-Deep Class
Emergency Medical Services
For extending the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) capabilities, and for being recognized as the second highest achiever in the State using MRC Connect. For helping to give our County’s MRC the recognition of being capable of deploying to other jurisdictions to support health emergencies.
♦ Nominated by Steve Huck

Cristina Jaurigui
Community Health Worker I
Public Health
For all the hard work she does for the Women, Infants and Children’s Program when we are short staffed.
♦ Nominated by Angelica Barragan
Service Excellence
You’re a GEM for Going the Extra Mile

Matt Kosta
Systems Analyst II
Information Technology
For always being courteous, responsive and thorough when dealing with ccLink tickets and issues. For having a wide breadth of knowledge about ccLink and being proactive when planning for our department’s needs.
†Nominated by Rachael Birch

Do YOU KNOW SOMEONE
Going the Extra Mile?
To recognize a CCHS employee, vendor or volunteer for outstanding Service Excellence performance, submit the commendation form by email to wanda.session@hsd.cccounty.us or fax to 925-957-5401. Forms are on our website (cchealth.org on the About Us page) or iSITE, our intranet, at http://cchs/ Nominations are subject to approval by Division Directors.

5D Night Shift
Archiebal Ginez, RN
Rabbert Bala, RN
Connie Hsiao, RN
Jennifer Rubio, RN
Susan Salazar, RN
Sinju Kawk, RN
Ramon Garcia, RN
Liwayway Cook, RN
Neysa Ramos, RN
Maribeth Dalit, RN
Sinju Kawk, RN
Belaynesh Biworta, RN
Maria Cortez, RN
Jomil Bayot, RN
Remi Daodu, RN
Ulysha Redic, RN
Kristine Endow, RN
Janice Prado, RN
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
and Health Centers
For the great support for each other to ensure patient safety especially during the many nights we are very busy with high acuities and short of staff. For your amazing teamwork.
†Nominated by Eddie Mendoza Ong

Angelica Barragan
Community Health Worker II
Public Health
For helping a client when their child was in distress by remaining calm and providing assistance.
†Nominated by Cristina Jaurigui

Maria Regina Panaligan, RN
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers
For going above and beyond in the performance of her duties as a night shift charge nurse. For ensuring that patients and staff are safe especially during busy times.
†Nominated by Eddie Mendoza Ong

James Ham
Clerk-Senior Level
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers
For responding quickly and accurately when we call on him for stat assistance. For making staff feel that he will be there to help with whatever we may need.
†Nominated by bsimm5

Caroline Killough
Clinical Services Manager
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers
For being a great manager and for her work at the West County Health Center.
†Nominated by Melissa Murphy

Gabriella Galucci
Mental Health Clinical Specialist
Esteban Quintana
Medical Health Clinical Specialist
Behavioral Health
For their excellent leadership in developing outreach and culturally relevant services for the Hispanic community to access the First Hope Clinic. For completion of the first two-year Multi-Family group, and for the incredible growth in all of the participants through their group facilitation.
†Nominated by Phyllis Mace