

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Community Lifeline Turns 50: Health Reform Then and Now

We recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first major health care reform in our nation: the creation of Medicaid and Medicare (you can read an [OpEd](#) I authored in the Contra Costa Times).

As we celebrate this crucial legislation designed to provide health care for people at their most vulnerable, I have been reflecting on my own experiences as a physician for more than 40 years and on the similarities between that historic move and today's Affordable Care Act (ACA).



William B. Walker, MD
CCHS Director

Health Reform Then

As a first-year medical student at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 1967, my first direct contact with federal health reform issues was working in the Eastside Community Health Center in Denver, Colorado during my summer vacation. This was one of the first community health centers funded in the country. The model of care was community-based primary care with utilization of neighborhood outreach workers who were living in the community and became part of the healthcare delivery system. It's interesting that this model is what we are today talking about reinventing 50 years later.

During medical school and my internship, Medicaid and Medicare became fully implemented. I saw the relief and appreciation on the faces of the elderly and the poor when they learned that they actually had access to funded health care in a secure way for the first time. It was a remarkable beginning for a revolution that was initially opposed by the American Medical Association as a communist plot!

Same Fight Again

Fast forward to today and the second momentous event in the history of health care in the United States—the implementation of the ACA. Now again we have political and some professional opposition to the expansion of Medicaid to a broader population. Sometimes lost in the debate about the ACA and the implementation of its changes, is the fact that the greatest impact so far has been Medicaid expansion. Medicaid has moved from a more restricted population—namely moms, kids, seniors and persons with disabilities—to now the full population who simply are poor and make less than the Federal Poverty Level of \$1,354 a month.

We have many states which have refused to implement Medicaid expansion for purely political reasons. We can be proud that California was among the first states to adopt Medicaid expansion and a state insurance exchange, which we call Covered California.

In fact, one in three Californians are now insured by Medi-Cal (our state's Medicaid program). Enrollment has gone way beyond original expectations and shows the ongoing unmet needs in our society for health insurance.

One might ask why does this take so long? But one first has to realize that the overlay of government insurance on the existing employer-based insurance system in the United States has been an ongoing controversy. As a result, it has been a much more difficult discussion in the United States to consider systems that were more easily adopted in other industrialized countries like our own, such as in Canada, Great Britain and Europe.

When I came to work in Contra Costa County as a physician in 1974, our Contra Costa Health Plan (CCHP) had just started as a Medi-Cal health plan. This was part of a statewide effort to move into managed care. It gave us the opportunity to be at the forefront of the implementation of Medi-Cal managed care in California. We went on to develop the first publicly sponsored federally qualified health plan in the nation in 1980. Today, we have 175,000 CCHP members, most of whom are on Medi-Cal.

Medicaid Makes it Possible

Medicaid, and to a lesser extent Medicare, has been the primary source of funding for our entire health system over the past 40 years. We have seen variations

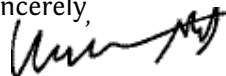
of funding under the Medicaid law, such as the Medicaid waivers, the federally qualified health center funding and disproportionate share hospital (DSH) funding. These funds are all based on Medicaid utilization so the major source of funding for our system can be traced back to that historic decision made in 1965 to establish federal Medicare and Medicaid.

In recent years, we've seen significant changes in Medicaid funding with more focus on system improvements and whole person care. Under the Medicaid waiver, we were able to make significant systems improvement through the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payments (DSRIP) program. We are hopeful that the new waiver will result in even more innovative patient-centered care.

In California, Medicaid has made our 21 public hospital systems the example of compassionate care that we can all be proud of. Funding of Medicaid has made it possible for public institutions to become much more than providers of last resort. In fact, our own Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers has just launched its own strategic plan with the goal of making Contra Costa the healthiest community in the nation.

What we are today and what we will be in the future is made possible by health care reforms like Medicaid and ACA.

Sincerely,



William B. Walker, M.D.



Dr. William Walker and CCHS clinicians in 2009 protesting AAFP's partnership with Coca-Cola.

Physician Association Ends Partnership Coca-Cola

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has announced that it will be ending its controversial "consumer alliance" partnership with Coca-Cola at the end of this year. When the partnership was announced five years ago, many in the public health community, including CCHS Director Dr. William Walker, were outraged that the organization would support a product associated with health problems, such as obesity. At the time, Dr. Walker led a protest in which he and other doctors ripped up their AAFP cards. Dr. Walker said in 2009 that the partnership was "reminiscent of when the tobacco industry enlisted doctors to endorse cigarette brands as 'mild.'" In a statement on its website, the AAFP said Coke's banners on FamilyDoctor.org will be removed Dec. 31, and the soda company will cease using the "Proud Partner of FamilyDoctor.org" tagline when the partnership ends.



Dan Peddycord has more than 30 years of health care experience.

New Public Health Director Named

Dan Peddycord has been selected as our new Public Health Director. Dan started his new job on August 3. Dan has spent most of his career in the public health arena and has more than 30 years of health care experience. Most recently, he served for seven years as Director of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, where he focused on a community-based health and wellness agenda to address the needs of Santa Clara County’s diverse population. Prior to that, Dan was the Public Health Director of the Deschutes County Health Department in Bend, Oregon for 10 years. Dan also is registered nurse and has worked as a charge nurse at Providence Medical Center in Seattle, WA, and nursing director at Oregon Health Science University in Portland, OR. Dan has a Master of Public Administration/Health Administration from Portland State University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Physical Education from Washington State University. He replaces Dr. Wendel Brunner, who retired from his role as Public Health Director in June.

Hospital and Health Centers Roll Out Strategic Plan

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC) & Health Centers recently unveiled its 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. The ambitious five-year plan identifies three organizational priorities: being patient and family centered, continuous improvement and delivering value. During this first year, leadership and staff will be gathering information and developing initiatives to support the plan’s priorities and the goal of making our community the healthiest in the nation. That’s a bold goal that won’t be reached overnight, said Anna Roth, CCRMC & Health Centers’ chief executive officer. But the strategic plan provides a roadmap to reaching that and other goals, Anna said.

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center & Health Centers
A Division of Contra Costa Health Services

2015-2020
STRATEGIC PLAN
CREATING OPTIMAL HEALTH FOR ALL

“A top goal of the ambitious plan is to make Contra Costa the healthiest community in the nation.”

For more information, contact Anna Roth at anna.roth@hsd.cccounty.us.

The next Director’s Report will be the October issue. To publicize upcoming CCHS events and successes, contact Will Harper at will.harper@hsd.cccounty.us or 925-313-6903. The Director’s Report is available online at cchealth.org/newsroom and on site at <http://cchs/>

CCRMC Cancer Program Receives National Outstanding Achievement Award

The Cancer Program at our Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC) was recently presented with the 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). CCRMC's Cancer Program is one of only 20 U.S. health care facilities with accredited cancer programs to receive this national honor for surveys performed during the first six months of 2015. It is the only program in California to receive the award for that six-month period. Our Cancer Program also earned an Outstanding Achievement Award in 2009. The award acknowledges cancer programs that achieve excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients. The purpose of the award is to raise awareness on the importance of providing quality cancer care at health care institutions throughout the U.S.



Our award-winning Cancer Program staff.

For more information about the Cancer Program, visit cchealth.org/medicalcenter/cancer.php or contact Dr. Michael Gynn at michael.gynn@hsd.cccounty.us.

Zero: 2016 Campaign to End Veteran and Chronic Homelessness Ramps Up

Contra Costa Zero: 2016 has documented more than 100 permanent housing placements for homeless veterans and people who are chronically homeless since the campaign kicked off in January, and has begun posting monthly progress reports at cczero2016.org. The campaign, which includes the Homeless Program, Council on Homelessness, Contra Costa Housing Authority, Veteran's Administration, Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition and many civic leaders and organizations, has also ramped up efforts to engage landlords and identify new housing opportunities. Zero: 2016 is a national campaign coordinated by New York-based nonprofit Community Solutions to house all homeless veterans by the end of 2015, and all people who are chronically homeless by 2016. Contra Costa organizers used current, local data to determine that, in order to reach that point, 237 homeless veterans in our county must be housed, and 763 chronically homeless individuals—people with disabilities that make them unable to find or keep housing.



A Contra Costa delegation attended a Zero: 2016 action camp in southern California in May to share ideas about reducing homelessness. Front row: Jasmine Tarkoff, Louise Bourassa, Lavonna Martin; Second row: Jenny Robbins, Joseph Villarreal, Beth Williams; Third row: Tracy Cascio, Teri House, Dana Ewing, Jennifer Baha, Doug Leich.

Visit cczero2016.org to keep up to date on the effort and to learn how to get involved. For more information, contact Chief of Homeless Services Lavonna Martin at Lavonna.Martin@hsd.cccounty.us.

Findings Released for June Incident that closed Antioch Water Park

An investigation by the Environmental Health and Hazardous Materials divisions could not determine whether equipment malfunction, human error or both contributed to a June incident at the [Antioch Water Park](#) that sickened several visitors and temporarily closed the venue. A concentrated amount of pool chemicals were inadvertently pumped into one of the park's five pools while swimmers were present on June 18, leading to the transport of numerous children to area hospitals with symptoms such as shortness of breath, nausea, throat and abdominal pain. Environmental Health allowed the park's four uninvolved pools to reopen June 19. The City of Antioch, which operates the park, was allowed to reopen the involved pool on July 16 after replacing its chemical controller and demonstrating to investigators that it was developing policies and procedures to prevent similar incidents in the future. The Public Health Division, in a report to the state, found that 21 children from 6 to 17 years old and one adult were treated at two local emergency departments after the incident. Other than one child who was admitted for observation, all of the patients were released following treatment.



Several people were sickened at the Antioch Water Park after an incident in June.

The Hazardous Materials and Environmental Health reports about the incident are available at cchealth.org.

Health Care for the Homeless Earns a National Award for Care at Philip Dorn Respite Center

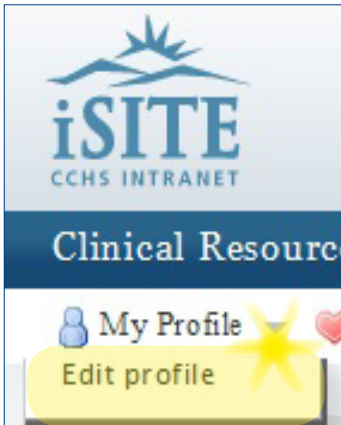
The Public Health Division's Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) program has earned a prestigious national award for its work serving homeless county residents at the Philip Dorn Respite Center in Concord. The nonprofit National Health Care for the Homeless Council recognized our program in May at its annual conference in Washington DC with the 2015 Medical Respite Award for Excellence. HCH and the Behavioral Health Division's Homeless Program provide integrated services at the center, a 26-bed facility that opened in 2010 in response to a growing need for reliable post-hospital care for homeless adults in Contra Costa County.



KCBS reporter Dave Padilla interviews Sue Dickerson, a public health nurse at the Philip Dorn Respite Center.

The center now serves more than 300 patients each year who have no place to go after their release from the hospital, but remain sick or medically vulnerable, making a return to the street even more dangerous. The annual Medical Respite Award for Excellence recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of medical respite care that improves the health and quality of life for people experiencing homelessness.

To learn more about Contra Costa Health Care for the Homeless or the Philip Dorn Respite Center, visit cchealth.org/healthcare-for-homeless.



Updating Contact Information on iSITE

One of the more popular features on iSITE, our department's intranet, is looking up contact information for other CCHS employees. But the people-finding feature isn't helpful if someone has outdated contact information. Fortunately, updating your phone numbers and other contact info is easy. Just go to the homepage of iSITE and hover your cursor over the "My Profile" tab near the top of the page and select "Edit Profile." From there, you can update your phone number, work address, personal bio and even replace your photo. We use the contact information on iSITE to reach you during an emergency or disaster.

To learn more, visit iSITE and search for the document "How to Update Your Contact Information in iSITE." By selecting "edit profile" on iSITE's home page, you can update your contact information.



Dr. Brenda Reilly

Falls Are Preventable, But Also Dangerous

Whether we slip, trip or plunge headlong, falling down can injure more than our pride. Even a garden-variety tumble can cause sprains, broken bones or head injury. Dr. Brenda Reilly, who works in the emergency department at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, advises us all to take the potential danger of such accidents seriously, especially as we grow older. Most falls are preventable, she writes in our most recent Healthy Outlook column, and devoting energy to making our homes and habits safer is a healthy idea.

To learn more about it, and tips for fall-proofing your home, read Dr. Reilly's column at cchealth.org/column. Health Services providers interested in writing about health issues for the Healthy Outlook column can contact Dr. David Pepper at theairdoctor@gmail.com.

JULY- AUGUST MILESTONES

Congratulations to these employees who have given us long years of service: Gladiola C. Harrelson, Dena L. Macklin-Bray, Nikki Robinson, Amy M. Salva, Robert J. Walton, Rajinder K. Raju, Mary J. Buscaglia, Yoko Tan, Judith M. Quittman, Esmeralda B. De La O, Janean R. Filbeck, Silvia Garcia-Magdaleno, Marta E. Rincon, Delinda M. Taylor, Phuong V. Nguyen, Ryan J. Baker, Jeffrey T. Sullins, Karen L. Castro, Stacey C. Phillips, Martha P. Wilson, Johanna Gonzalez, Michelli M. Cruz (10 years); Suzanne H. Davis, Thomas R. A. Harmon, Linda J. Arzio, Jade C. Litt, Jonathan D. Schneider, Lee A. Yarberrry, Shannon D. Martinez, Sheba L. Gorospe, Marcela Cardenas, Genivieve M. Heredia, Carol A. Pedersen, Ramganesh R. Ramlall, Cynthia J. Belon, Mary C. Bolds, Jessica L. Jones, Omar D. Adair, Candace M. Dearden (15 years); Anick Labonville, Siu W. Tong, Mary Gerrard, Diane M. Marin, Lorena G. Barajas, Trina J. Ruffin, Ericka J. Sexton, Linda S. Bartlett (20 years); and Marc H. McDaniel, Rosa M. Venegas and Monica Gallagher (25 years).



Deboura Penetti

Clerk-Experienced Level
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
and Health Centers

For delivering a patient’s special item that was left at the hospital to the patient’s family. For demonstrating compassion to this grieving family.

◆Nominated by Sally Reader

Steve Huck

Emergency Preparedness Manager
Emergency Medical Services

For his leadership in supporting the county’s first-ever integrated, fire, AMR, network ambulance providers, hospital surge transport and triage functional multi-casualty exercise.

◆Nominated by Patricia Frost

Amanda Dold

Mental Health Clinical Specialist
Behavioral Health Services

Griselda Garibay
Community Health Worker I
Public Health

For providing excellent, genuine care and support to their patients.

◆Patients

Guy Buechler, RN

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
and Health Centers

For his supportive role in motivating staff to do their best and for promoting teamwork.

◆Nominated by Zohra Akbari

Leigh Pierson-Brown, FNP

Public Health

For her loving care to her patients. For going above and beyond to help my teenage son receive the healthcare he needed.

◆Nominated by Patient’s Mother

Steele Colby

Medical Staff Coordinator
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
and Health Centers

For his outstanding integrity and work ethic. For being invaluable to the Residency program.

◆Nominated by Tami Sloan

James Pehling, MD

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
and Health Centers

For his wonderful professionalism and for treating patients and staff with excellence.

◆Nominated by Sue Meltzer

Linda Thomas

Medical Staff Coordinator
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
and Health Centers

For going above and beyond and for always being willing to help.

◆Nominated by Tami Sloan

Marcela Cardenas

Care Coordinator
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
and Health Centers

For having a wealth of knowledge and her willingness to share her knowledge with staff. For being an exemplary employee.

◆Nominated by Zohra Akbari

Lino Ancheta

Environmental Health Specialist II
Environmental Health

For his forethought, passion, and dedication. For working diligently and selflessly to create an electronic Pool Official Inspection Report and a notification form for pool operators’ use.

◆Nominated by Michele DiMaggio

Service Excellence

You're a GEM for Going the Extra Mile

Erika Hoffe, RN
Jenny Blackman, RN
 Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
 and Health Centers

For going above and beyond to ensure that patients taking Coumadin understand its proper use and for their diligent documentation of patients education.

◆Nominated by Holly Longmuir

Sylvia Rodriguez
 Account Clerk Supervisor
 Contra Costa Health Plan

For going above and beyond to help with our 2014 billing. For being considerate, polite, helpful, and always willing to help no matter what the billing issue.

◆Nominated by Maria Garcia

Carol Raymond
 Library Assistant-Advanced Level
 Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
 and Health Centers

For her consistent and quick response to requests for relevant professional articles/resources. For truly making a difference.

◆Nominated by Mahsa Modarres

Mithos Huab, RN
 Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
 and Health Services Centers

For helping staff understand the importance of registered nurses as an integral part of the home health teams.

◆Nominated by Zohra Akbari

Rachel Bailey, RN
 Contra Costa Health Plan

For going above and beyond in assisting a CCHP member obtain his medications and needed food items.

◆Nominated by Vanessa Wilson

Linda Russell
 Medical Social Worker II
 Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
 and Health Centers

For her excellent care, concern and respect for her patients. For going above and beyond to connect her patients to all needed services and ensure that they receive quality care throughout their treatment.

◆Nominated by Benet Moody

Shahrzad Klingner
 Program Analyst
 Information Technology

For always being there to help and go the extra mile to assist with policies on iSite. For her patience, understanding and support.

◆Nominated by Tami Simmering

Erika Villalobos
 Community Health Worker II
 Public Health

For going above and beyond to ensure that patients are well cared for and co-workers receive the assistance they need to manage school based clinic flow. For helping everyone she works with have a good day.

◆Nominated by Natalie Koch

Sally Barnett-Echevarria
 Secretary-Advanced Level
 Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
 and Health Centers

For always going above and beyond to answer my questions and for your willingness to always help me if needed.

◆Nominated by Juliette Manry

Jesus Dominguez Omar Adair
 Orthopedic Technicians
 Contra Costa Regional Medical Center
 and Health Centers

For their excellent service to patients and for being personable, kind, patient, knowledgeable and accommodating to everyone.

◆Nominated by Martin Garro, RN

To recognize a CCHS employee, vendor or volunteer for outstanding Service Excellence performance, submit the commendation form by email to wanda.session@hds.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.