

**South Central Family Health Center
Board of Directors
CEO Report**

September 9, 2014
(for August 26, Bd. Meeting)

SCFHC Health Center Overview for the month:

The following CEO Report includes a summary of the August, 2014. Additional attachments support key issues for this meeting's report:

- **RFSQ-LA County My Health LA:** LA County's Department of Health Services (DHS) new program for enrollment of uninsured patients will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors for approval on Tuesday, September 9, with implementation to begin on October 1, 2014. Currently we are not part of the new contract. I have continued to be in contact with DHS as well as our elected officials who have expressed to me their support for our participation soon after the contracts are finalized. As part of our advocacy efforts we have sent over 500 letters to our County Board of Supervisors from our patients who will be affected if we are not part of the new contracts. My understanding from the DHS is that once the new contracts are approved a new Healthy Way L.A. contract will be issued within two or three months. At that time we will be able to apply. Assuming we will not be part of the initial My Health L.A. contract, we have met with staff and providers to adjust schedules and staff so that patient access will not be affected.
- **Interviewing Providers:** As reported last month we have continued to interview for providers and other staff. We have been short four providers which has placed an extra burden on us and our providers to ensure that our patients continue to have access without delay. I'm happy to report that we have been able to hire two new providers, one to start in late September and the other in October. In the meantime we are in the process of interviewing others and I am hopeful that we will be fully staffed within the next few months.
- **Electronic Health Record NextGen upgrade:** As reported last month we have EHR (Electronic Health Record) NextGen upgrades in September and October. The first will be a practice management upgrade on September 22, which will prepare us for ICD-10, Meaningful Use, and the Patient Portal. This shouldn't require extensive training and should not affect our patient access process. The other upgrade will take place in late October, which will require additional staff training. This upgrade will enhance provider and staff ability to track and chart patient progress with new EHR templates. Training should take no more than a few days with patient schedules adjusted to accommodate any loss in productivity.

- **Managed Care Members:** We continue to increase patients who are Managed Care eligible, both for physical and dental health. We are now closer to 10,000 enrollees in total Medi-Cal Managed Care. In the last 7 months this has been an increase of over 700 new patients. In addition, with the new Access Dental contract and our USC Champ dental partnership we have the possibility of enrolling an additional 1300 new dental managed care patients.
- **Capital Campaign update:** Proposals to the Weingart Foundation for \$300,000, and the Ahmanson Foundation for \$300,000 have been submitted. The Ahmanson Foundation has requested a site visit on September 17, at 10:00am. We are meeting at our SCFHC administration office and the will have a walkthrough of our main clinic and the proposed Vernon building site. All Board Members who can attend are invited to the meeting.

Other :

- **House Funding Cliff Letter:** In Fiscal Year 2015 Health Center funding will take a drastic cut, up to sixty percent of operational funding if what is called the Health Center fund that was approved through the Affordable Care Act is not renewed. There is a bipartisan House Funding Cliff Letter led by Representatives Kay Granger (R-TX), Gene Green (D-TX), Leonard Lance (R-NJ), and David Price (D-NC) circulating to Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi asking Congressmembers to publicly state their support for the health center program by signing on to a bipartisan letter to House leadership. The letter does not contain specific funding numbers or prescribe specifics in terms of how the cliff should be fixed, but rather is a general letter of support recognizing health centers and the importance of addressing the Health Center Funding Cliff (see attached). The following LA Representatives have not yet signed on:

- Kevin McCarthy (CD-23)
- Howard Buck McKeon (CD-25)
- Adam Schiff (CD-28)
- Brad Sherman (CD-30)
- Grace Napolitano (CD-32)
- Henry Waxman (CD-33)
- Xavier Becerra (CD-34)
- Karen Bass (CD-37)
- Linda Sanchez (CD-38)

□ Maxine Waters (CD-43)

Please contact your Representatives immediately to request that they co-sign the House Health Center Funding Cliff letter before September 12! Call the Toll-Free Advocacy Hotline at (866) 456-3949 and select your representative.

- **Vaccination Rates in LA County Fall to 88 Percent:** This week's LA Times article, highlighting an analysis by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), shows that vaccination rates across LA County have steadily declined over the past 10 years. For the 2013-14 school year, 88 percent of kindergarten students in LA County obtained required vaccinations, a drop from 92 percent in the 2003-04 school year. Statewide, parents are deciding against vaccinating their kindergarten-age children at twice the rate they did seven years ago, reflecting a decline of more parents deciding not to vaccinate their children. Though state law requires children entering kindergarten to obtain a range of vaccinations, parents can obtain exemptions to those requirements for personal belief, medical or temporary exemption reasons. Public health officials state the decrease contributes to the reemergence of measles and whooping cough across the state and may lead to outbreaks of other serious diseases. Experts say that epidemics can become a risk when 8 percent or more of kindergarteners do not obtain vaccinations.

Vaccination exemption rates vary greatly by area and school. The LA Times analysis shows that the rise in personal belief exemptions is most prominent in wealthy coastal and mountain communities in LA County. The more than 150 schools with exemption rates of 8 percent or higher for at least one vaccine were located in census tracts where the incomes averaged \$94,500 — nearly 60 percent higher than the county median. Statewide, the percentage of kindergartens in which at least 8 percent of students are not fully vaccinated because of personal beliefs has more than doubled as well.

- **LADPH Confirms First LA County West Nile Death in 2014:** Last Friday, LA County Department of Public Health officials confirmed LA County's first 2014 death from West Nile virus, transmitted to humans via infected mosquitoes. A San Fernando Valley man died as a result of infection with the mosquito-borne virus. The victim, who was in his 60s and suffered from other underlying health conditions, was in a hospital at the time he died, according to LADPH. Thus far this year, 20 people in LA County are known to have contracted West Nile virus. This number is modest, considering last year 165 human cases were reported — "among the highest counts documented since 2004." Statewide, CDPH disclosed that 129 human cases of West Nile have been reported in 36 counties. Also last week, Orange County's public health department reported two West Nile deaths. LADPH Director Dr. Jonathan Fielding advises residents to reduce their risk of mosquito bites by removing standing water around their homes and using an insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors, especially during dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.