



Employee of the Month:



June's employee of the month is Gerlanda Larry. Gerlanda, better known as Gigi to her housing authority family, began her employment as a Housing Specialist with the City of Long Beach in December of 1994. Through her hard work and dedication, she now leads and supervises the Program Integrity Unit. On any given day, Gigi can be seen supporting the works of others by assisting to resolve complex issues, improving efficiencies with innovative ideas, and making sound decisions. She is respected by her peers for her experience and knowledge of not only the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, but for her analytical and accounting skills as well. Gigi has demonstrated her ability to add value to the Housing Authority Bureau by leading her unit and ensuring compliance with program rules and regulations. She is always willing to assist, train or cover for anyone that needs a helping hand. Some of her duties include processing over 5 million dollars monthly in payments to owners who participate in the HACLB HCV Program, conducting file audits to ensure accuracy, representing the agency's interest in hearings, as well as fraud investigations. Gigi is an exemplary employee, and she is always willing to "Lend a Helping Hand" in support of the mission

and work of the organization. For her commitment to excellence, strong work ethic and tireless efforts, we commend her and we are proud to announce that Gerlanda Larry is the Health Department's Employee of the Month.

Welcome New Employees:

- Evangeline Evangelista: Public Health Nurse II, Community Health Bureau, Nursing Services
- Jennifer Chavarriaga: Health Educator I, Community Health Bureau, Nutrition Services
- Elsa Reyes: Outreach Worker I, Human Services Bureau, Homeless Services
- Marcina Riley: Public Health Associate I, Collective Impact and Operations Bureau
- Martha Islas: Registered Nurse II, Physician Services Bureau, Clinical Services
- Dan Kato: Community Worker-NC, Community Health Bureau, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Highlights:

- On May 3rd Lara Turnbull, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division Officer joined staff from Public Works, Planning, and Parks, Recreation and Marine at the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) Annual Meeting to accept the award for "Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability" for the City of Long Beach's 2017 Bicycle Master Plan, Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (CX3) and Willow Springs Wetland Restoration Project. This year's award for Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability recognizes the City of Long Beach for their overall excellence in two distinct plans and one project. Combined, these three efforts demonstrate the City's holistic approach to sustainability that includes improvements in mobility, public health and natural lands restoration.



- On April 30, 2018, the Multi-Service Center had special visit from St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Volunteers Katie Kasprzyk, Patti Brunter, Luis Arroyo, and Brian Katz distributed fifty hygiene kits and lunches to those who had come in to receive services. The mission of St. Joseph Catholic Church homeless ministry is to comfort, assist, and provide hope and encouragement to people experiencing homelessness. Outreach to the Long Beach community, which is their home, is a fundamental part of their ministry. The ministry had been looking for ways to better serve the community and was invited by the staff at the Multi-Service Center to collaborate on this project. Through this project, the ministry came together with donations from the church as a whole and made hygiene kits and lunches. St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Multi-Service Center are confident that through this partnership and future opportunities, we will have a more meaningful impact on the lives of those experiencing homelessness in Long Beach.



The Multi-Service Center would like to extend its gratitude to the homeless ministry of St. Joseph Catholic Church and all the volunteers that assisted to make this event happen. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness benefit not only from receiving something to meet their needs but it allowed them to have positive interactions with other community members, receive and give kindness and gratitude, and feel loved. THANK YOU, St. Joseph Catholic Church!!!

- To further efforts to effectively and efficiently address foodborne illness in Long Beach, the Health Department has launched a new online reporting system that makes it more convenient for residents to report foodborne illness in Long Beach. The [Foodborne Illness Incident Report](#) is now available on the Health Department website for the public to file a complaint when they believe that they have become sick after eating food or drinking a beverage from a food establishment in Long Beach. While platforms such as Yelp and IwasPoisoned.com already exist as avenues to report complaints or leave reviews, this report will collect more detailed information, allowing health inspectors to promptly investigate, take action, and make corrections if needed to prevent further illnesses or outbreaks. Any complaints received will be investigated both by the Epidemiology and Environmental Health Programs to prevent and detect foodborne outbreaks.
- On May 1st, the Health and Human Services Department and Parks, Recreation and Marine co-hosted "Aging Reimagined 2.0" with SCAN Health Plan, where over 80 attendees from senior service organizations and senior advocacy groups gathered at El Dorado Park. Congressman Alan Lowenthal kicked off the event, reflecting on the community services offered in Long Beach and on his own ability to age-in-place in this city. The event was an opportunity to showcase the work of the FUSE Fellow, Karen Doolittle, on the Gap Analysis of Senior Services in the City that she has been working on for the past six months. The event also announced the opening of the new Long Beach Healthy Aging Center (formerly referred to as the "Office of Aging"), which is staffed by Health Department personnel, physically located





at the 4th Street Senior Center. In addition to Ms. Doolittle, Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services, and Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Community Health Bureau Manager, also shared the City's direction for creating an age-friendly community, which supports health and wellness for people of all ages and abilities. SCAN Health Plan shared its research on decreasing senior isolation and on the programs it provides to the community. California State University Long Beach (CSULB) introduced their new Archstone-endowed Chair of the Gerontology Program, Dr. Iveris Martinez, and shared the re-opening of the CSULB Center for Successful Aging. The Gap Analysis and Presentation slides are available for viewing and downloading at <http://www.longbeach.gov/health/long-beach-healthy-aging/>.

- The HIV/STD Surveillance Program attended this year's Long Beach Pride Festival to engage with the community. Matthew Franco and Belinda Prado from HIV/STD Surveillance along with Kerry Brown (HIV Prevention) and Shu Ou (Fellow from Pasadena Design School) distributed over 1,000 condoms packaged and designed with the City's "KnowMore" STD/HIV campaign, set to roll out soon. The KnowMore campaign is an attempt to decrease rising STD rates in the City of Long Beach. The LBDHHS partnered with the LGBTQ Center during Pride weekend to preview the KnowMore campaign intended to decrease the number of new infections in Long Beach. Visitors were able to view the campaign materials at the art gallery room at The Center. Part of the exhibit allowed observers to share their own stories or provide input on the campaign.



- The Tobacco Education Program shared a table with the HIV/STD Surveillance Program at the Pride Festival distributing educational materials to festival attendees on the "GreenlightLB" Program. GreenlightLB serves those who live, work, and play in Long Beach through being an unbiased and trusted resource for health and safety information related to cannabis, and by ensuring that everyone can make informed decisions about cannabis use. The GreenlightLB Program's primary roles are to educate the community on what we know about cannabis and its effects on health, inform cannabis policy development and implementation by serving as an equitable public health lens and to advocate for critically needed research and data collecting surrounding cannabis legalization and its effects on community and individual health. Hailey Porter, Sara Hem, and Morgan Venter from the Cannabis Education Program shared information about cannabis health and safety as well as what's legal in Long Beach. Richard Nuñez provided smoking cessation resources and information about the tobacco industry focusing on the LGBTQ community with marketing strategies, leading to higher rates of tobacco use in the population.
- Dr. Anissa Davis and members of the clinical team attended the National TB Conference, May 21-24, 2018 in Palm Springs. Attendees learned about cutting edge studies regarding diagnosing and treating active TB and TB infection in adults, children, and the elderly, as well as screening and control guidelines for healthcare personnel and control programs. In California alone there are over 2,000 TB cases per year. Statistically speaking, one case of TB is diagnosed every four hours. One child is diagnosed with TB every week. One TB death occurs every other day. \$75 million is spent annually on direct care.