



### Director's Message

Happy Halloween Week! Hard to believe it's the Fall season when our temps were reading over 100 degrees just last week. We've had a busy October...yes, I say this every month! We began hosting free community flu vaccine clinics, we're working to avoid a Hepatitis A outbreak in the City, we conducted an active shooter training and exercise at Main Health, we passed an ordinance making milk, water, and low-calorie 100% fruit juice the "default" beverage for kid's meals sold in the City, we partnered with the Long Beach Rescue Mission to host a faith-based summit to address homelessness, and we opened a "Little Library" in the Main Health lobby for the many kids coming through the front door and our Equity Office began work with the City Manager's Office and community partners to craft a Sanctuary City Ordinance. I know this is just a snapshot of our work together and that we do so much more great work in our programs every day. More details about our efforts are listed below.

### Employee of the Month:

There was no newsletter published for the month of October, so the November edition contains both the October and November Employee of the month.



**October's employee of the month was Sarady Kong.** Sarady is an invaluable asset to the Physician Services Bureau and the Department as a whole. She works tirelessly to make our Bureau "go," including a great deal of the operational aspects, making sure our grants and contracts are done well and on time and providing expertise to her department colleagues. She has a "can-do" attitude and stays the distance until things get done. We couldn't do it without you, Sarady!

**November's employee of the month is Erica Valencia-Adachi.** Erica has been working as an Analyst for the Human Services Bureau for just over two years and has been an exemplary employee ever since she began her career with the DHHS. Having worked in the Non-Profit sector prior to coming to the City, Erica was new to the work of an Analyst, but from day one she has worked with enthusiasm, endurance and creativity that continues to take the Bureau to higher levels of operation and success. She is a leader amongst her peers and holds the passion for the work and community close to her heart, which reflects in her every day work ethic and dedication to the team. Erica is not only dependable, she goes above and beyond in her work as an analyst to ensure the Bureau runs smooth no matter what obstacles may appear. It is an honor to have her on the team and we look forward to many more years of opportunity and growth together.



### Welcome New Employees:

- Morgan Hamilton: Community Worker NC - Community Health Bureau
- Maher Harb: Public Health Nutritionist - Community Health Bureau
- Crystal Sanders: Bureau Secretary - Community Health Bureau
- Nida Watkins: Housing Operations Program Officer – Housing Authority
- Maria Campa: Housing Specialist III – Housing Authority
- Kennedy Lewis: Administrative Intern NC - Housing Authority
- David Thompson: Public Health Professional II - Human Services Bureau
- Pamela Bright: Clinical Services Officer - Physician Services Bureau
- Cassandra Torres: Public Health Associate II - Physician Services Bureau



### Promotions:

- Lara Turnbull: Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Officer – Community Health Bureau
- Sandy Wedgeworth: Special Projects Officer – Public Health Emergency Management
- Morgan Venter: Marijuana Education Program Coordinator – Community Health Bureau

### Upcoming Events:

- Our Community Impact Division is bringing a training forum *titled Building a Resilient and Trauma-Informed Community* sponsored by OJJDP on November 9. Please contact Ana Lopez to learn more.
- SAVE THE DATE: Our Annual Holiday Staff Appreciation Lunch will take place on Thursday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>.
- SAVE THE DATE! The 2018 Public Health Week Conference is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2018. More details will be coming as we move closer to the date.

### Highlights:

- On Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> the Long Beach Rescue Mission, in partnership with the Health Department's Homeless Services Division, convened a faith-based summit which was attended by over 80 faith-based communities located in Long Beach. The summit provided an overview of existing homeless services in the City, including a panel presentation with the street outreach network represented by the DHHS, Police and Fire Departments. Breakout sessions provided an opportunity to discuss current efforts and opportunities for partnership in five key areas: housing, mentoring, education, 24/7 services, and prevention. Summit attendees interested in continuing efforts to collaborate will meet again in January 2018 to continue strategic planning and coordination efforts.



- In October, the State of California declared a state of emergency to help control the hepatitis A outbreak, and to increase the supply of vaccines to meet current needs. Outbreaks have been confirmed in Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Cruz and are associated with persons who are experiencing homelessness and/or using illicit drugs. Although there is no current outbreak in Long Beach, much planning has been done to ensure a coordinated response to prevent an outbreak among the local homeless population. The Homeless Services Division, Public Health Emergency Management team and other key DHHS staff held three Hepatitis A clinics at Mental Health America's Drop-In-Center, the Long Beach Rescue Mission and at the Multi-Services Center during the last week of September and successfully vaccinated 324 individuals. Street outreach teams, in partnership with The Children's Clinic nursing team, also provided vaccinations to individuals living in encampments along the LA River Corridor. Public education and coordinated efforts will continue over the coming weeks to ensure the community is well informed and at-risk populations are provided access to vaccinations. For more information on hepatitis A, please visit the DHHS information site at <http://www.longbeach.gov/health/diseases-and-condition/information-on/hepatitis-a/>.



- The Early Childhood Education Program is happy to announce that the Department of Health and Human Service's Little Library is up and running. A Little Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. The Little Library is open to the both DHHS employees and community members. We want to thank everyone for supporting our fundraiser to make this community resource a reality.



- On October 19<sup>th</sup>, The Health Department held its first ever drive-up free flu clinic at the Health Department. Over 600 flu vaccines were given. Some of the clients included a UPS driver, pizza delivery driver and taxi cab driver. It went so quickly, some families went home to pick up the rest of the family members to bring them over.



- RUN, HIDE, FIGHT! The three key things to remember in the case of an active shooter. Our Public Health Emergency Management team planned and hosted an Active Shooter Training and Exercise involving nearly 100 employees. Employees were trained in what to do in the case of an active shooter and how to be aware of their surroundings for increased safety. If possible, RUN away first. If this isn't an option, HIDE. If there is nowhere to hide, then FIGHT with everything you've got. Thank you to all who participated in this important training. We will continue to follow-up to ensure our employees are safe in all our facilities across the City.
- On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the City Council unanimously passed a motion in support of healthy beverages offered as the default with "bundled" kid's meals, which means all kid's meals that include a drink as part of the price will be required to offer water, milk or 100% juice that is less than 40 calories as the default. The ordinance will be heard on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Long Beach is the largest California city to pass this type of ordinance.
- The Health Department is participating in PH WINS (Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey) 2017, a survey conducted by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) with support from the de Beaumont Foundation. PH WINS were sent to all staff at the agency, and provides each staff person with the opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions about their workplace and job on a national survey of the governmental public health workforce at state and local health departments. The survey launched in early October, and staff in roles specific to public health received an email inviting them to participate. If you have not done so already, please be on the lookout for this email and encourage your fellow staff to participate! The link is unique to you. Your support is critical! For more information about PH WINS please visit their website at <http://www.astho.org/phwins/>.
- On Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the American Planning Association's California Chapter Annual Conference in Sacramento, Lara Turnbull, from the Healthy Active Long Beach Program, joined staff from Development Services Planning Division and Non-Profit Design Firm City Fabrick to accept the award for Excellence in Transportation Planning for the CX3 Pedestrian Plan. The award was selected for its focus on health and equity as well as the demonstrated efforts to include community participation and input into the development of the plan. The CX3 Pedestrian Plan, adopted by City Council earlier this year as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element of the General Plan, provides policies, guidelines and standards to ensure that infrastructure projects in the area incorporate best practices for pedestrian design and will help to promote walking and





the development of safe routes to schools, parks and community gardens and/or food stores within each of the CX3 neighborhoods.

- Three staff members from the Housing Authority (and a number more from the Department) participated in the Long Beach Marathon on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Armando Cervantes, Jose Aguilar and Donnell Russell-Jauregui (and her husband) ran the 13.1-mile half-marathon. All three were first timers and all three finished!

