



### Directors Message:

Happy Public Health Week and Happy April! Spring is here! Our public health week team has been busy planning for the activities. We have hula-hooping, yoga, our HILL walk, the conference, and funky farm fresh potluck. We've attached the calendar. Our Conference on Thursday will feature two incredible keynote speakers as well as fabulous panels covering so many aspects of public health, and, of course, many fun activities. I'd like to give a big shout-out of THANKS! to the planning team. They have been working so hard, paying attention to every detail, to make this conference the best ever! They are so creative, smart, energetic, caring and fun. THANK YOU! Looking forward to seeing you all there!

### Employee of the Month:

April's employee of the month is Dr. Mauro Torno. Dr. Torno has been with the Health Department for over sixteen years. Throughout his tenure, he has diligently worked and supported various programs. His unwavering dedication is demonstrated through his **Service, Teamwork and Respect for his patients** – He is patient, attentive and communicates effectively. These characteristics have allowed him to establish an excellent rapport with patients, as well as his colleagues. He also is an important member of our team. He is very inclusive with his decision making and process changes. He invites feedback and is always receptive to taking on new tasks, just as he has done with overseeing Retention of Medical Records, HIPAA Privacy, supervision for some past and present programs, and taking on the roles as our City Health Officer in the past.

He continues to do a phenomenal job facilitating/linking services for the total care of his patients. He often deals with difficult and challenging matters with empathy and compassion. To him, **Every Person Matters**.



Overall, Dr. Torno is a highly skilled professional with an array of clinical knowledge. For his outstanding service to our department, commitment to his patients and amazing work ethic, Dr. Torno was selected as Employee of the Month.

### Welcome New Employees:

- Abeo Valdez: Public Health Nutritionist I, Community Health Bureau, Nutrition Services.
- Ilenia Moran: Maintenance Assistant I-NC, Collective Impact and Operations, Administration
- Shaton Anderson: Bureau Secretary, Human Services Bureau
- Lupe Barragan: Public Health Associate I, Human Services Bureau
- Kyle Yomogida: Public Health Associate I, Physician Services Bureau

### Upcoming Events:

- **April 5, 2018 – Public Health Week Conference, Long Beach Airport Marriott**



### Highlights:

- The HIV/STD Surveillance Program participated in the Long Beach Poly High School Health Fair that took place on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The health fair was a great avenue for the Health and Human Services Department to reach high school students and get their reaction towards the Department's STD campaign. We showcased some of our STD campaign materials and the students had positive things to say about the material displayed. Students were surprised to hear that 7 out of 10 individuals diagnosed with an STD have no physical symptoms. The health fair was a great way to promote the STD campaign, as well as the other services provided by the Health Department.
- On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the LBDHHS Mobile Unit participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Touch a Truck Event. This interactive event took place from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm in the parking lot at 1 Granada Avenue. This free event was co-sponsored by Councilwoman Suzie Price and Justin Rudd's nonprofit Community Action Team (CAT). This was a great opportunity for our staff to expose the community to our services and represent the Health Department. There were hundreds of children and families on hand who came on board the Mobile Unit and experience other trucks from the Fire Department, Police Department, construction, metro, refuse and others.
- The Department is continuing to work on updating the Strategic Plan and would like to thank staff for their participation so far in helping to develop the goals, strategies and activities in the Strategic Plan. After staff gave input and helped develop the framework, we conducted meetings with eight different community groups in the City to get community feedback on the Strategic Plan focus areas. The community feedback is being integrated into the plan. To align the Strategic Plan with other Department plans, we are taking the time to integrate two other sources of community input: 1) Focus groups conducted by the Early Childhood Education team, and 2) a series of community engagement meetings to establish equity indicators for the City being conducted by the Office of Equity. After this phase is completed we will reconvene the planning committees to finalize the language and ensure that the goals, strategies, and activities are feasible, relevant and likely to have the desired impact. Stay tuned, more to come!





- We are pleased to announce the Housing Authority is now implementing the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP) in Long Beach. The intent of HIP is to provide additional resources to assist those in search of housing, while encouraging landlords to accept subsidized tenants who have been issued vouchers. There are three components of the HIP Program:
  - **Holding Fees** - Provided to landlords for holding an available unit vacant while eligible homeless families are being referred to them. Owners must determine suitability, not the Housing Authority.
  - **Move-In Assistance** - Provided to HCV participants in the form of security deposits, utility assistance, application fees and furniture essentials.
  - **Damage Claims** - Financial assistance to landlords to mitigate damages by tenants during their occupancy in subsidized units, not to exceed \$2,000 over the security deposit.



We are happy to congratulate owner Brad Johnson as the first recipient of our HIP incentives! Brad will also be recognized by Supervisor Janice Hahn at the upcoming HouseLA event on April 4<sup>th</sup>. He is well known as an owner who is always willing to work with the Housing Authority and partner agencies to house homeless families. Go Brad!

The HouseLA event is a roving event sponsored by LA County and Supervisor Janice Hahn. It is coming to Long Beach Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at The Salvation Army, 3000 Long Beach Blvd. The event is focused on owners to increase participation in the program. Seating is limited, an RSVP is required.

For more information about the Homeless Incentive Program or the HouseLA event, please contact Kari Faithful at (562) 570-6033.

- Our annual Black History Month Celebration focused this year on our veterans. We were honored to have an esteemed panel of veterans, Lloyd Cahn, Charles J. Walker and Nevon Watson who shared their enlightening stories. As usual, our potluck was a delicious variety of items from greens, chicken and a Jamaican dish to tasty desserts. Many thanks to our committee members for all their hard work and dedication as well as those who assisted that day. We are grateful to all who attended and those who supported our breakfast fundraiser which allowed us to gift a veteran and his family through the U.S. Veterans Long Beach. Think about joining the Black History Month Committee next year...all are welcome.



- Many of you may have seen these brightly colored wedge-its hanging on the walls next to doors throughout Main Health and some of our other facilities. Do you know what they are and how to use them?

The wedge-it is a deterrent door stopper that should be used in the event of a lockdown or emergency where you want to prevent someone from entering a room. The wedge-it, works just like a door stopper- place the black rubber side against the floor and push/kick the wedge-it under the door, aligned below the door handle. Again, the wedge-it serves as deterrent if someone tries to enter a room, especially an unlocked room. Most of the wedge-its are located next to the door and are brightly colored so they can be located easily in case of an emergency. Next time you see one, try it out—practice makes perfect.



If you have any questions on how to use the wedge-it, please contact Mabel Goss or Tom Papademetriou.





- The Clinical Services Division participated in Justin Rudd's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation Easter Basket event. Twenty Easter baskets were secured for the young children, clients/patients served here at the Health Department. The children receiving these baskets have experienced such issues as homelessness, substance abuse issues, financial hardships and communicable disease illnesses. These Easter baskets brought joy and hope to our children and their families. Anytime we have an opportunity to help our clients/patients and patient's families we are more than happy to do it. The Clinical Services Division doesn't just focus on our client's/patient's physical health, but also on their overall well-being. We are very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this event.

