THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA HEALTH SYSTEM

Making Santa Clara County a Healthier Place



The County of Santa Clara Health System has been, and will continue to be, Santa Clara County's healthcare safety net.

But to succeed in a changing healthcare environment, transformation is needed. Our goals are to improve the patient experience of care, service and value, as well as the health of the community. There is more work to be done and the County of Santa Clara Health System is committed to reaching our goals and our vision of Better Health for All.



Over the last 6 years, the County of Santa Clara Health System has made changes and achieved a great deal. In the following pages you will see examples of the accomplishments we have achieved.

The County of Santa Clara Health System does this work for the well-being and health of patients, clients, employees, residents, and the communities we serve. Thank you for taking the time to learn about the work of the County of Santa Clara Health System.

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The County of Santa Clara Health System includes the Behavioral Health Department, Public Health Department, Emergency Medical Services Agency, Custody Health Services, Valley Health Plan, and Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Here are some of our accomplishments.













First in Nation

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center was the first hospital in nation to treat a spinal cord injury patient with 20 million stem cells. This made the Rehabilitation Center a front-runner in clinical research aimed at curing paralysis.

Life-Saving Trainings

To provide life-saving skills, the Emergency Medical Services Agency held public education sessions throughout the community. Over 775 people were trained in life-saving interventions like hands-only CPR so that more people can help save lives.

Controlling Disease Outbreaks

The Public Health Department responded to and controlled 85 infectious disease outbreaks, including measles, norovirus, and Shigella. Controlling outbreaks limits the spread of disease in our community.





VHP's Low Cost Coverage

With the lowest cost Covered California plans in our county, VHP's Covered California enrollment grew 74% last year. VHP also had a 237% enrollment growth in their Individual & Family plan. More insured people with access to care, leads to a healthier community.

VHC Downtown Opens

Valley Health Center Downtown opened and brought a wide-range of healthcare services to the downtown San Jose community. Since opening, 9,264 patients in 15,437 visits have be cared for at Valley Health Center Downtown.

Saving Lives

With the Board of Supervisors AED Matching Grant Program, the EMS Agency partnered with Racing Hearts, school districts, and other organizations to install over 300 Automated External Defibrillators.

Nutrition Services Provided

The Public Health
Department provided
nutrition education services
to 10,471 children/youth
and 20,242 adults in very
low-income neighborhoods.
The Women, Infants and
Children (WIC) Program
helped more than 16,160
pregnant women, children
and infants monthly.



Law Enforcement Trained for Crisis

In 10 cities throughout the County, over 290 law enforcement officers received Crisis Intervention Training by the Behavioral Health Services Department. Another 323 officers were trained on deescalating situations and other behavioral health issues.

High Quality Maternal Health

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center was awarded a place on the State's Honor Roll for meeting low C-section goals for low-risk first time deliveries. The hospital was also awarded some of the highest quality ratings in Santa Clara County for caring for pregnant moms

Preventing Suicide

Behavioral Health Services ran a successful campaign encouraging middle aged men (highest suicide rate in SCC) to seek help. During the campaign, the percentage of calls from men to Suicide and Crisis Hotline doubled. More men in our community got the support they needed when in crisis.

Free Prescriptions

The first surplus medication redistribution pharmacy in CA, the *Better Health Pharmacy* provided free prescriptions to over 1,450 residents this year. The program continues to grow, getting more people the medications they need.







School Linked Services

The Behavioral Health Services Department's school-linked services provided over 21,000 referrals/services to families in 11 school districts. These services help kids learn and thrive.

Stop Smoking

Public Health Department promoted 8 policies to prevent youth smoking and reduce exposure to second hand smoke, impacting 324,890 residents.

Trauma Center Turns 30

The Trauma Center at SCVMC celebrated its 30th birthday. Today's state-of-art technology to treat the most complex cases and advanced diagnostic imaging helps our medical professionals save lives.



By expanding access to care and services, passing local ordinances to reduce smoking and providing exceptional care, trainings and research, your Health System is improving the health and well-being of our community.





SCVMC Lowest Mortality Rates

SCVMC had the lowest death rates for heart attacks, stroke and pneumonia of the nine hospitals in Santa Clara County according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

New Clinical Trial Begins

SCVMC is the first public hospital in the nation designated to provide a regenerative medical treatment for newly injured spinal cord patients.

New Leaders Named

Bruce Butler was named CEO of Valley Health Plan. Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer for Santa Clara County remained in that position and was named the Director of the Public Health Department.







Trauma Center Reaches 20,000+

For 15 years the Trauma Center has participated in the "Every 15 Minutes" Program. Over 20,000 high school juniors and seniors have been challenged to think about drinking, driving, and the impact their decisions have.

Preventing Heart Attacks and Strokes

With a grant from Kaiser Permanente, SCVMC is part of an effort to prevent heart attacks and strokes among people with diabetes. Treatments are kept simple and affordable.

Valley Kids Launched

When a family is not eligible for other insurance programs, Valley Kids covers the children of low income families. More kids will be able to see their own doctor and get the healthcare services they need.









SCVMC Fetal Care Program Recognized

America's Essential Hospitals named this program a "Remarkable Project." When a birth defect is diagnosed, a genetic counselor meets with the family and arranges appropriate medical and surgical consultations.

Valley Health Plan Earned 3-year Accreditation

The National Committee for Quality Assurance accredited the plan for both Commercial HMO and Marketplace HMO plans.

Chronic Care Model Expanded

More patients with diabetes and cancer have been given Medical Homes. In a Medical Home, physicians and medical teams provide whole person and quality care.





Airport Day @ SFO

Airport Day allows SCVMC patients with limited mobility the chance to "practice" the first part of a trip. Activities like this assist patients in developing the skills, knowledge and behaviors they need to rebuild their lives. When they achieve the highest degree of independence possible, the burden of their injury is greatly reduced.

Pull to the Right for Sirens and Lights

Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Agency, with the Fire Chief's Association, Fire Departments and Sheriff's Office, introduced this public safety campaign to save lives.

Providing innovative medical treatments; preventing heart attacks and strokes; and supporting efforts to get more children, adults and families healthcare coverage, all contribute to improving the health of the communities we serve.







Give up?

Not on your life.

Community Health Improvement

Chronic Disease and Behavioral Health were identified as top priorities in the county's first Community Health Assessment Plan. The plan outlines measurable objectives, evidence-based strategies, and potential partners to achieve the goal to improve the health and well-being of residents.

Preparing for Ebola

The County of Santa Clara Health System prepared for the unlikely event that a person with Ebola might need care in our community. The Public Health Department worked with SCVMC and other local hospitals to properly train staff, monitored travelers returning from the affected countries and put systems in place for a strong public health response.

Preventing Suicides

The Behavioral Health Department ran a campaign to raise awareness about crisis and suicide prevention services. The hotline number 1-855-278-4204 was featured on bus ads, radio spots and outreach materials.









Toni Tullys, New Director, **Behavioral Health Services Department**

Ms. Tullys will lead activities to integrate the Mental Health Department and the Department of Alcohol & Drug Services into the new Behavioral Health Services Department.

Medical Respite Program Expanded

Homeless patients recently discharged from the hospital are provided a safe, clean environment to recuperate. Increased from 15 to 20 beds, more are served, hospital stays are reduced, the rate of homelessness is decreased, and health outcomes are improved.

Tobacco-Free Communities

The County of Santa Clara and 14 cities have now passed 1 or more tobacco prevention policies to protect youth from access to tobacco sales, and protect residents from exposure to second-hand smoke in workplaces, outdoor areas and multi-unit housing.

UBTs and CLTs Increase Engagement

These programs improve health, services, care, and costs. They support the growth and development of staff, the biggest asset in providing quality care and services to the community.









Partnership for Patients

SCVMC was given an award by the Institute for Health Improvement and America's Essential Hospitals. By improving the quality of care and promoting safety, the hospital has shown a reduction in re-admissions of patients with a physical illness and a chronic mental health condition.

Low-Income Health Program Success

19,000 of the 20,000 low-income Santa Clara County residents enrolled in Valley Care Program were successfully transitioned into Medi-Cal on 1/1/2014 as part of the Affordable Care Act.

Women & Children's Center

SCVMC pediatric, birthing, and postnatal services will be moved into a single facility. Through a public-private partnership, this new center will enhance the maternity experience and continue to provide the best care to newborns, moms, and families.

Number of Uninsured Reduced

In December, 2013 there were 35,141 patients without any health coverage or insurance. That number was reduced to 9,237 in October, 2014.







Behavioral Health Services Department Integration

The Mental Health Department and the Department of Alcohol & Drug Services began to merge. The new department will offer better coordination of services, key to improving the health and well-being of the community.

We All Play A Role in a Safe and Peaceful Community

The Violence Prevention Program launched awareness efforts to increase knowledge and skills for building healthy, non-violent relationships with young people ages 11-17.

SCVMC Named One of the Best & Receives 5 Star Award

US News & World Report ranked SCVMC one of the best hospitals in the San Jose area in 2013-14. The Rehabilitation Center was also ranked a high performing specialty. The Burn Center received a 5 Star Excellence Award from PRC for providing exemplary care, demonstrating their commitment to compassionate care at the highest level.



The Medical Respite Program has saved over 2,500 hospital bed days and \$6 million in costs to area hospitals. It plays a critical role in breaking the cycle of homelessness.





Sobrato Cancer Center Recognized

The Quality Oncology Practice Initiative Certification Program certified SCVMC, the only public/government hospital in California to receive this recognition for demonstrating a commitment to excellence and ongoing quality improvement.

National Public Health Accreditation

In preparing for national accreditation, the Public Health Department is demonstrating performance excellence by delivering exceptional programs and services to the residents of Santa Clara County.



Burn Center Re-Verified

The American College of Surgeons and the American Burn Association agreed the Burn Center met rigorous standards in staff qualifications, resources and medical care. Verification shows that the Burn Center provides high quality patient care.

Community Health Assessment

By compiling new and existing quantitative and qualitative data sources, a comprehensive picture of the health of county residents was completed. This information guides decisions so that the health and wellbeing of the community can continue to improve.

Burn Center Honored

For the third year in a row the Burn Center was named a PRC 5 Star Excellence Award winner. The Burn Center scored in the top 10% nationally in overall quality of care and being rated as excellent by their patients.







Pharmacy Services Expanded

Community Health
Partnership clinics joined the
SCVMC network. Now more
people can pick up their
prescriptions at a number of
clinic sites.

Valley Health Plan Selected

Selected as 1 of 13 Covered CA health insurance plans, VHP offers residents affordable, high-quality healthcare. Santa Clara County's local plan has a diverse network of providers with extensive cultural and language capacity.

Groundbreaking for Downtown Health Center

After the closure of a San Jose hospital, the voters of Santa Clara County approved funding for this site when they voted "yes" on Measure A. This state-of-the-art facility will provide primary and urgent care services, expanding access to healthcare in downtown San Jose.





Top Hospital in Breastfeeding Rates

Breastfeeding is a crucial first step in protecting the health of mothers and infants, nourishing infants and building a foundation for a healthy immune system. SCVMC ranked one of the top hospitals in the state for breastfeeding rates.

"Water to Go" Program

The Public Health Department partnered with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to bring water bottle filling stations to schools, community centers, parks, and other public gathering spaces. Over the next three years, 100 stations will be installed.



Increasing access to care, treating and healing patients, and starting programs like "Water to Go" demonstrate our commitment to helping residents live healthier and longer lives.





Electronic Health Records Launched

The new electronic medical record system started with providers getting information about patients across the health system and to help ensure the delivery of safe, timely and effective care.

SCVMC Ranked a Best Hospital

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center was ranked a best hospital in the San Jose metro area in U.S. News & World Report's 2011-12 Best Hospitals publication.

New Leaders Named

René G. Santiago, Deputy County Executive; Dr. Jeffrey Arnold, Chief Medical Officer; and Paul Lorenz, CEO of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.





BRIDGE Program

After being discharged from the hospital, moms and their premature babies get home visits to provide care, access and support to improve the health of these high-risk babies.

Community Health Improvement

The Public Health Department and the Community Health Partnership began to identify the most pressing health priorities facing County residents. They developed a common set of strategies to improve health and well-being.

Excellence in Family/Maternity Care

The California Health Care Safety Net Institute Patient Experience Collaborative showed that SCVMC had a 29% growth in its "Excellent" ratings for its Family Maternity Center care.











Gage Patient Safety Award

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit's project on "Eliminating Hypothermia on Admission in Very Low Birth Weight Infants" not only helps save infant lives, it also won a patient safety Honorable Mention from the National Association of Public Hospitals.

Diabetes Center Part of National Research Study

SCVMC was 1 of about 200 screening sites in the United States to conduct new tests to identify diabetes as much as 10 years before symptoms start.

School-Linked Services

This system of coordinated and effective health and social services on school campuses and in the community help children thrive at home, in school, and in their communities.





World Leaders in Rehabilitation

The Rehabilitation Center at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center presented at the Spinal Cord Injury and Regenerative Medicine conference at Stanford University. This collaborative conference was an essential step in translating regeneration research into clinical treatments.

Volunteers Celebrate 75 Years of Dedication and Service

Over the years, thousands of volunteers have been part of our team making patients their top priority. In the last 10 years alone, over 2,000 volunteers have given 450,000 hours of service to patients, visitors and staff.



Our electronic medical record system gives physicians and medical staff immediate information about their patients. More timely and effective care is provided, and healthcare costs can be reduced.



New Nutritional Standards

The Public Health Department, based on national best practices, develops standards that apply to food and beverages offered, purchased, or served at Santa Clara County facilities, or by the County's departments or agencies.

Burn Center Nationally Verified

The American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma congratulated the center for its commitment to excellence and for providing quality burn care to both adult and pediatric patients.



Stem Cell Therapy Trial

SCVMC enrolled the fourth participant, and the first in the Western United States, in the nation's first stem cell trial for spinal cord injuries.

Secondhand Smoke Campaign Launched

A public awareness campaign developed by the Public Health Department drew attention to the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Led Way for Newborn Screening

SCVMC was one of the first hospitals in the nation to screen newborns at 24 hours after birth for possible heart disease and led the way in having this screening added to the Universal Screening Panel for newborns.



Ecstasy Drug Prevention

The Department of Alcohol & Drug Services launched outreach to schools. This included lesson plans for teachers and a Train-the-Trainer program to educate youth and their parents about the risks.

Diabetes Center Recognized

The prestigious American Diabetes Association awarded the Education Recognition Certificate to the Diabetes Program for having excellent diabetes self-management education programs.

New Technology Piloted

eLEGS, a wearable robot used by patients with paralysis or weakness in the lower extremities, was tested at SCVMC. The hospital was 1 of 10 rehabilitation centers in the nation to pilot this new technology.



5 Star Excellence Awards

The Burn Center and Rehabilitation Center each received a "5 Star Excellence Award" for inpatient services and quality of care. The Professional Research Consultants (PRC) conducts confidential surveys to measure patient's perception of their care.

Medical School Residents Recognize Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

Two Resident Training Programs of Stanford University, School of Medicine awarded three "Best Service" Awards to SCVMC and gave the Pediatric Department inpatient and intensive care units the "Best Overall" rotation.



The Diabetes Center's recognition, and patients rating SCVMC as excellent, are just two examples that show we are improving the patient experience.

