

CPMC: Our commitment to San Francisco's underserved

During the holiday season, we are often reminded of the growing number of San Franciscans who need help finding shelter, food, and clothing. As community volunteers involved with San Francisco's largest private provider of health care, California Pacific Medical Center, we are acutely aware there are more than 80,000 San Franciscans who don't have health insurance.

We care deeply about this community, and as Board Members, have a personal commitment to ensuring all San Franciscans receive quality health care. We are passionate about CPMC's role in San Francisco's healthcare.

CPMC has been part of this city's fabric for over 150 years. Since 2007, in addition to the three existing campuses, Pacific, California, Davies, we integrated St. Luke's into our system of care. Together, we provide patient care ranging from delivering babies to liver transplants and hospice care throughout the City. Thousands of families consider CPMC "their hospital." Many of these are under- and uninsured.

Notably, in 2010, CPMC was the largest private provider of charity care in San Francisco. Charity care patients are served on all four campuses. Our Pacific Campus provides the lion share serving those in need.

*In 2010, we provided \$15.3 million in charity care. That has tripled since 2007. You can see more of this information in an abstract of the [San Francisco Hospital Charity Care Report FY 2010](#).

* In 2010, we served 24,000 Medi-Cal patients at unpaid costs of more than \$75 million – an amount greater than all the other private San Francisco hospital providers combined.

*We also partner with key organizations to improve access to care as well as outcomes, working with groups as diverse as Kimochi Senior Services, North East Medical Services, Latina Breast Cancer Agency and DeMarillac Academy.

The integration of St. Luke's into CPMC is an important aspect of our commitment to expanding access for all. We are now better able to serve medically underserved areas of the City including the Mission, Excelsior and Bayview. This commitment will be further solidified through the rebuild of a state-of-art hospital costing more than \$275 million.

The delivery of quality and cost-effective healthcare is one of the great challenges facing San Francisco. Those of us in healthcare hear a lot about "National Health Care Reform." We don't yet know many of the details, but do know this: more than 30,000 San Franciscans will become

newly eligible to receive Medi-Cal services. This is an important step forward and at the same time will have a tremendous impact on our City's healthcare system.

Luckily, we live in a city willing to embrace whatever Health Care Reform brings and work together to tackle these challenges. Right now, CPMC is seeking approval from the City of San Francisco to build two new, earthquake-safe hospitals to better serve San Francisco residents – including those who live in underserved areas such as the Tenderloin and Western Addition. (This \$2.1 billion project has another important benefit – it will serve as a catalyst for our local economy, creating 1,500 construction jobs and preserving 6,200 health care jobs.)

We have been working closely with Mayor Ed Lee to reach an agreement to ensure our project does its fair share to care for the needs of San Franciscans. A core part of this is CPMC's commitment to providing medical care to the large number of the newly eligible Medi-Cal enrollees that will come through Health Care Reform.

We are pleased to report we are getting closer with the City on what investments are appropriate to make for healthcare as well as affordable housing, transportation, and pedestrian improvements. We look forward to the day when we break ground on two new hospitals for San Francisco that will serve the community for generations to come.

Robert Tomasello is the chairman of the Sutter Health West Bay Region Board of Directors, which oversees CPMC. Anthony Wagner, former CEO of Laguna Honda Hospital, is also a member of the Board.