

Quality Care – A Right, Not a Privilege

It is alarming that in San Francisco, one of the wealthiest cities in the world, there are still neighborhoods where there is limited access to physicians. It is alarming that the people who live in these neighborhoods have greater health problems – higher rates of avoidable hospitalizations, higher rates of emergency department usage, and higher death rates from preventable diseases. This has to change.

California Pacific Medical Center is committed to leading that change and developing a partnership with the City of San Francisco to provide the best possible health care for the communities around St. Luke's.

Since the Sutter Health family accepted the leadership of St. Luke's in 2001, we have invested over \$200 million into keeping St. Luke's alive and serving the community. Yet, the health disparities in our neighborhoods South of Market continue.

On any given day, about 50 percent of the beds at St. Luke's are empty. This means that money and staff that could be used to help people in the neighborhood are being used to maintain empty beds.

Not only are these losses unsustainable, they do nothing to address the major problems affecting the community's health.

As San Franciscans, we need to change that.

A New Day for St. Luke's – Services, Physicians and Access

Our vision for St. Luke's is to make a measurable difference in the health outcomes of the residents we serve. California Pacific Medical Center envisions a city-wide approach, addressing services at all of our campuses, and expanding our services to reach those neighborhoods in San Francisco that continue to be underserved.

This will mean changes at all of our campuses.

Studies have shown that the most pressing health care needs in San Francisco's southern sectors are chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure – conditions that lead to hospitalizations that could be avoided. At St. Luke's we believe that expanding primary, ambulatory and outpatient care services can best address these shocking statistics. Emergency services, vital to every sector of our city, need to continue at St. Luke's; but with more primary care physicians in the neighborhood, we envision that emergency departments will be freed up to care for those much needed, life-threatening services.

Ensuring access to essential health services in the neighborhoods served by St. Luke's must be linked to consolidating obstetrics and acute care departments at other CPMC campuses. This is the best way to ensure high quality, sustainable care for those who must be hospitalized for care. Consolidation is not a new concept – it has been done by UCSF, Kaiser and CHW in San

Francisco for years because it focuses health care expertise at specific locations, resulting in higher quality and greater efficiency.

Free transportation for St. Luke's Mission/Bayview Hunters/Point/SOMA residents to all points in the city for specialized services at California Pacific facilities can ensure easy access to many services like they have never been available before.

St. Luke is here for you. Now, and in the future.

We recognize the important role that St. Luke's plays in San Francisco. For this reason we are continuing to invest in the St. Luke's community, with an emphasis on meeting the real needs of the Mission, Bayview/Hunters Point and SOMA neighborhoods.

There is a strong emotional community bond to St. Luke's. California Pacific Medical Center wants to share our vision with the community and begin constructive dialogue on a plan that is the best prescription for a future healthy community.

Health disparities impact the entire city. Together, we can make meaningful change and shape the future of health care so that all San Franciscans have the best chance at living healthy.

Contact Information

Judy Li, Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, St. Luke's Hospital – (415) 641-6661

Cynthia Chiarappa, Sr. Director of Communications and External Affairs – (415) 600-2980

Chris Willrich, Vice President, Business and Development – (415) 600-2991

Press Contact: Kevin McCormack, Media Relations Manager – (415) 600-2984