



High Quality
Patient Centered
Cost-Effective Health Care
From Dr. Katz

FAST FACTS

A Message From the Director



All of DHS mourns the loss of Dr. Jacquelin Perry this month (see article to the right). Her commitment to excellence and her life achievements are intertwined with those of Rancho. We are sad for losing her, but as long as Rancho thrives, her presence will always be felt.

Thanks to all staff, including those at our sister agency the Department of Social Services, who have been helping us with the re-enrollment of persons in the Healthy Way L.A. program. Our hope is that this is the final re-enrollment and they flow seamlessly into Medicaid in January 2014.

I was very proud of Dr. Erin Saleeby for successfully competing for a large grant for us to improve prenatal care (see article below). This is an area where medical care can do so much good: ensuring that children start their lives well. I am equally proud of our collaboration with Leslie Acoxa and the Departments of Mental Health and Probation on the Girl's Health Screen.

My children are off from school this week, so to keep them from spending all their time playing video games, we have been hiking in Los Angeles. The most spectacular hike was the rustic trail at Will Rogers State Historic Park. Crawling under bushes and fallen trees in the park, it was hard to believe we were so close to urban Los Angeles. Another day we climbed up to see the HOLLYWOOD sign and walked through the "bat caves" that were used for the Batman television show. It was fun to see a different side of Los Angeles County.



Dr. Erin Saleeby will lead creation of maternity-centered medical homes in DHS.



Perry Legacy Celebrated

By Michael Wilson

She blazed trails in medicine for more than 50 years that brightened the hopes of patients and inspired leagues of medical students to follow her bold path. Legendary physician, surgeon, researcher, and educator Dr. Jacquelin Perry died this month at age 94.

"Dr. Perry was a remarkable physician and inspirational leader," said Rancho chief executive Jorge Orozco. "She continued to contribute and push our clinicians to practice at a very high level, even into her 90's. We move forward determined to honor her legacy by assuring that Rancho will always provide the very highest quality of clinical care."

Perry gained notoriety as the world's leading authority on human gait analysis and penned the textbook that is still required reading for physical therapy students worldwide. She was credited with numerous clinical breakthroughs, including refining the halo device that helps stabilize the spine for patients with broken necks, and was recognized as the world leader in treatment of post-polio syndrome.

The calling to medicine came early when most women chose different paths. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from UCLA and joined the U.S. Army where she trained

to be a physical therapist. She earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from UC San Francisco in 1950 and completed a residency in Orthopedic Surgery at UC San Francisco in 1955 with an interest in human function.

She joined Rancho in 1955 and built by hand many of the early rehabilitation devices she used with patients. Rancho's Pathokinesiology Laboratory, which she founded in 1968, is the research home for several of her protégés who continue to keep Rancho at the cutting edge of research. She received nearly every honor for her distinguished contributions to patients and the fields of Orthopedic Surgery and Pathokinesiology.

In recent years Perry served as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Orthopedics at the USC Keck School of Medicine and Emeritus Chief of Rancho's Polio and Gait Clinic and Pathokinesiology Program. She authored more than 400 peer reviewed publications and nearly 40 book chapters, reflecting her astonishing productivity and commitment to medical research.

A public celebration of Dr. Perry's life was held March 22 at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. Memorial contributions may be made to the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation.

New Funding to Improve Health of Mothers and Babies

By Michael Wilson

DHS has received a projected \$1.8 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement its "Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns" initiative in Los Angeles County. The funding is tied to developing innovative prenatal care strategies and spearheaded by DHS director of Women's Health Programs & Innovation, Dr. Erin Saleeby.

DHS is one of four funded agencies in California out of 27 nationwide. The goal of the initiative is to reduce the rate of preterm births, improve health outcomes of pregnant women and newborns, and decrease the cost of medical care during pregnancy, delivery, and over the first year of life for children born to mothers receiving care funded by Medicaid.

"We are going to create maternity-centered medical homes (MCMHs) as an extension of the patient-centered medical home transformation taking place across ambulatory care network sites right now," says Saleeby. Care teams will provide enhanced case (See 'Funding' on back)



National Girl's Health and Justice Institute President Leslie Acoca talks with Probation Camp youth.

Girls Health Screen Seen As National Model

By Michael Wilson

Girls entering the County's probation camps are now getting the Girls Health Screen (GHS), a comprehensive, gender-responsive health screening given during admission to better focus clinical resources and improve their health. Experts in child and adolescent health see the project as a model for the juvenile system nationally. Led by DHS with the Departments of Mental Health and Probation and with support from the National Girls' Health and Justice Institute (NGHJI), the local non-profit that developed and validated the screen, the new questionnaire assesses a range of physical and mental health concerns specific to girls. Despite 400,000 to 600,000 girls annually entering the juvenile system nationally, there is currently no validated, gender-responsive physical and mental health screening instrument in use. Los Angeles County will be the first to pilot the questionnaire.

"Many of these girls are pregnant or have been sexually abused or run away from traumatic environments and have medical issues that need to be addressed quickly," says National Girl's Health and Justice Institute president Leslie Acoca. "We tend to compartmentalize physical and mental health and that does a disservice to improving the long term, overall health prospects of these girls." Acoca also points out that because the juvenile justice system was traditionally designed to meet the needs of the larger population of young males, the needs of girls have been under-identified. DHS Community Health director Dr. Mark Ghaly says a major goal of the project is to

ask the right questions early and create a formal medical record. "We want to create a medical passport for these girls so they will have continuity of care after they are released." All three departments plan to use the survey to identify areas to best resource allocation.

L.A. County arrests, detains, and incarcerates more youth annually than any other jurisdiction in the country, with approximately 20,000 entering the local system each year. There are roughly 1.5 million children between 10 and 18 years of age who enter lock up juvenile justice residential facilities, like a camp, detention center, or jail. Girls are the fastest growing segment of the juvenile health justice system nationally and are more likely to be arrested due to changes in law enforcement practices. They are entering the system younger, for less serious offenses, and with more serious physical and mental health issues. To date, 76 girls have participated in the GHS at the two Probation Department camps and plans are underway to create a health screen app to better reach girls in a format they are comfortable sharing information in.

Acoca says the value of the GHS is typified by a recent detainee who was diagnosed with an early, serious form of arthritis. "We're hoping to move the health assessment to the front of the system rather than the back end, so that as soon as kids come into the system their health needs can be identified and met. Improving access to quality health services early can improve girls' long term health."

Wellsoft Second Phase Planned

By Kathleen Dinsmore

Wellsoft, the Emergency Department Information System, transformed DHS Emergency Room operations by enabling providers to track a patient's movement electronically. Providers receive real-time access to patient information and can print out detailed discharge instructions. DHS hospitals are now gearing up for a Phase 2 upgrade which will computerize patient documentation from admission through discharge.

Wellsoft was first implemented in 2009 at LAC+USC Medical Center and rolled out to Olive View-UCLA and Harbor-UCLA Medical Centers in 2012. Although the transition from paper to electronic triage documentation and discharge instructions was seamless, the first phase offered documentation of only the beginning and end of the patient's experience, leaving the middle portion on paper and creating a hybrid model.

Last year Emergency Department teams were formed at all three facilities to begin the planning for Phase 2, in which all documentation will be completed using Wellsoft which fully eliminates the paper record. The project incorporates teams of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, lab, radiology and information systems personnel working together to standardize an integrated system.

The system is being built to work optimally with the current work flow and documentation standards of the three Emergency Departments. LAC+USC will be the first to "go live" with Phase 2 in April, with Olive View-UCLA going up in July and Harbor-UCLA going live after it moves into its new Emergency Department facility.

The Wellsoft project serves as a prototype for ORCHID, the department's new elec-

Vote Today for Orchid Logo

The 10 semi-finalist ORCHID logo entries are now available for viewing. Cast your vote online for your favorite logo by April 26th. The five finalists with the most employee votes will enjoy lunch with the DHS executive leadership team. The Grand Prize winner with the most votes will receive an Apple iPad. Look for a weekly email blast with a voting link and details.

Humphrey Expansion Completed

Last month staff and patients celebrated the opening of the newly remodeled Urgent Care Center at the Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center. The addition includes a 2,000 square-foot expansion of the waiting room, a remodel of existing exam room space to improve patient flow, and seven new exam rooms and phlebotomy stations. Clinic leaders say the new space will improve care delivery and better meet the needs of community residents needing unscheduled visits. The \$7 Million project was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2010.

Photos Needed

Get Good Photos? DHS needs images for its annual report. Photos from June 2012 to June 2013 of staff, news events, capital projects, grand openings, VIP visits, or facility "happenings" are welcome. Photos can be emailed to Lisa Finkelstein at lfinkelstein@dhs.lacounty.gov. The annual report showcases DHS programs and services and is sent to legislators, policy influencers, and other stakeholders.

('Funding')

management services to high-risk women and use continuous quality improvement processes to track outcome measures and support rapid-cycle improvements. A key goal is to move beyond the walls of the clinic and engage a community-based referral network of services, or 'neighborhood' of care for women. In combination with the MCMH's care coordination and integration, this neighborhood for health will expand reach and services, strengthen social networks, and provide a level of service synergy not yet realized in traditional maternity care. For example, in partnership with the RAND/UCLA center for Health Services and Society, DHS will focus on evidence-based community-partnered strategies to address stress, anxiety, and depression. Substance abuse, food insecurity and housing instability, mental health, and partner violence that disproportionately affect low-income women will also be examined.

A Wellsoft screenshot displaying fictitious names and medical complaints illustrates the tracking of patients within the Emergency Department.

electronic medical record system, which will further enhance and standardize processes and work flow across the entire DHS system.