



## From Our Managing Director

In June, CCHE published the hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), which covers Alameda and Contra Costa

Counties. Hospitals are required to conduct a CHNA every three years.

For the CHNA, an external firm conducted interviews with 97 public health professionals, led focus groups with scores of local residents, and created over 100 population-level health indicators from local data sets. Mental health was identified as the biggest public health problem for East Bay children, and issues related to poverty (food insecurity, access to care, living wages, etc.) were identified as the top risk factors for poor health. Asthma, pertussis, obesity, oral health, substance abuse, and injuries were also identified as pressing public health issues.

The good news is that CCHE and many of the services provided by the hospital's community benefits programs are well-aligned with our area's biggest public health issues, helping to position the hospital for value-based care.

Also I'm happy to report that the CCHE Internal Advisory Committee had its first meeting in July. The committee is comprised of 17 hospital staff who are dedicated to CCHE's mission. We were overwhelmed by the high interest from staff to be on this voluntary committee and we are extremely grateful for their passion and expertise.

The committee will help us identify priorities based on the results of the CHNA.

Adam Davis  
Managing Director

## CCHE Initiates Center for Nature and Health

### REI provides \$200,000 grant for program; CCHE pediatrician does TED Talk, receives award

Pediatrician Dr. Nooshin Razani first noticed the healing effects of nature in her own life and with her own children. Indeed, recent research has shown that being in nature has positive physiological effects on people and is associated with improved physical and mental health outcomes ranging from myopia to depression to longevity. However, access to nature can be difficult for those in urban areas.

Dr. Razani worked with CCHE leadership and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland Foundation to secure a \$200,000 grant from REI to develop a Center for Nature and Health, which will serve as a resource for people around the country as well as a platform to conduct novel research.

Previously, Dr. Razani was the principal investigator for the SHINE (Stay Healthy In Nature Everyday) study, funded by the East Bay Regional Parks District, East Bay Regional Parks Foundation, and the National Recreation and Parks Administrations. Through her work, Dr. Razani showed that families who were "prescribed" time in nature by their pediatricians had improvements in stress levels. She will present her findings at the upcoming American Public Health Association and National Recreation and Parks Administration conferences this fall. The SHINE program continues to operate at the Claremont Primary Care Clinic in partnership with East Bay Regional Parks District. In 2015, Dr. Razani received the Champion of the Community Award from the California Parks & Recreation Society for her work.



Dr. Razani gave a TED Talk on the importance of nature and health (pictured here). You can view her inspiring presentation at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ouk0QriYYws>.

# Recent News

## CCHE Helps Secure a \$4,300,000 NIH Grant for Sickle Cell Services and Research

CCHE leadership provided crucial writing assistance in the preparation of a successful proposal to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The six-year project, titled *SC-Links, Linking the Sickle Cell Community, Providers and Systems to Improve Sickle Cell Disease Care*, will be led by Marsha Treadwell, PhD and Elliot Vichinsky, MD at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland.

Youth and adults with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) have dramatically more Emergency Department (ED) use than their peers, and report that their ED providers often do not have the expertise necessary to help them prevent complications. SC-Links bridges the gap between standards of care and actual practice for youth and adults with SCD. SC-Links engages communities to learn what works for them, so that preventive care is delivered more routinely, thereby saving lives, and improving health and health-related quality of life for this vulnerable population.

## CCHE Wins Pediatric Academic Association Conference Award

CCHE and UCSF Department of Family Medicine received the *Best Abstract in Underserved Medicine Award* at the 2016 Pediatric Academic Association Conference. The study, which was conducted at Benioff Children's Oakland's and San Francisco General's primary care and urgent care clinics, evaluated the impact of an intervention to address social determinants of health. Compared to a control group, this intervention significantly improved parent-reported child health within four months. The findings support both the feasibility and potential impact of addressing social needs in the context of pediatric healthcare delivery.

## CHAMPS Graduation

The Community Health & Adolescent Mentoring Program for Success (CHAMPS) at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland supports high school students from underserved and low-income communities by providing academic guidance, social and emotional support, clinical internships, life skills training and professional development, and encouraging CHAMPS participants to explore career opportunities in the health field. On May 25th, 2016, the CHAMPS Program was honored to celebrate the accomplishments of their graduating Class of 2016, comprised of 31 amazing young people, who collectively received 120 acceptances to 42 different 4-year institutions and over \$275,000 in scholarship awards. They have dedicated 2.5 years of their high school experience to serve others and develop incredible resiliency. The CHAMPS graduates hope to be future agents of change to improve the health outcomes for Oakland.



CHAMPS Class of 2016 at Graduation Ceremony.  
Photo by Abdurhman Shemsu

## New Program Distributes Food to Patients Facing Food Insecurity

Health is more than the absence of disease. Having enough healthy food is integral for children's health and development. Surveys have found that a surprising number of children at our hospital are "food insecure". As part of CCHE's Food As Medicine program, 300 bags of food per month are distributed to families-in-need at outpatient and inpatient locations throughout the hospital.

## New Software Tool Goes Live

### FINDconnect© AIMS TO HELP ADDRESS SOCIAL RISK FACTORS IN PEDIATRIC PRACTICE

Many of our families struggle to meet basic needs such as stable housing and sufficient food. These “social determinants of health” can have a profound impact on a child’s health. Yet, our healthcare system does not routinely ask families about these determinants, nor do we have a systematic way to address these issues.

Over the course of her career, CCHE Medical Director Dr. Dayna Long had regularly worked with families with unmet daily needs but did not have the expertise or the resources to address these problems. Due to these experiences, she came to believe that healthcare providers should adapt to address the social determinants of health and set out to develop a solution.

### CCHE Helps Secure Additional \$262,000 for Summer Research Program

CCHE leadership worked closely with Ellen Fung, PhD, at Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI) to write two successful grant proposals to support the growth of the CHORI Summer Research Program. The grants are from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the Alameda County Health Pipeline Partnership. This new funding helps bolster the program’s core funding from an existing NIH grant, which CCHE leadership also spearheaded. The CHORI Summer Research Program’s main goal is to provide research experiences to high school and college students from groups underrepresented in research. Over 600 students have graduated from the program to date.

### CCHE Publishes *Community Health Needs Assessment* and *Community Benefit Report*

Both reports can be found at:

[www.childrenshospitaloakland.org/main/community-benefit-reports.aspx](http://www.childrenshospitaloakland.org/main/community-benefit-reports.aspx).



**FIND Team members (L-R): Maoya Alqassari, Shola Shodiya-Zeumault, Dayna Long, Rigo Del Toro, Suhani Chhatrapati, and Christine Schudel.**

With funding from private donors, and input and assistance from numerous professionals and patients, she spearheaded the creation of FINDconnect. FINDconnect is a mobile software application that empowers patients and their care teams to address determinants of health. It is user-friendly, can be accessed from anywhere there’s an internet connection, and comes in six languages.

There are five main elements in FINDconnect:

1. A **Needs Assessment** each family completes.
2. An **Action Plan**, which is generated based on the needs assessment.
3. A **Knowledge Base** comprised of accurate information on hundreds of local resources.
4. A **Case Management** feature, which prompts the provider to follow-up with families and referral destinations.
5. An **Analytics Dashboard** for quality improvement.

We are currently seeking beta testers for the app. In addition, CCHE can identify volunteers to work within your program or department to implement FINDConnect with patients. There is no cost to use it. If you or your program or department might be interested in FINDConnect, please email Dr. Long at [dlong@mail.cho.org](mailto:dlong@mail.cho.org).



## CCHE Policy Corner

Much activity took place in the State Capitol in August to move legislative bills onto the Governor's Desk for consideration. Two bills of importance to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland are:

### BILL TO EXPAND GENETIC TESTING OF NEWBORNS

Senate Bill 1095 (Pan-Democrat, Sacramento) is a measure that UCSF Benioff Children's supports because it will require the California Department of Public Health to expand genetic disease screening of newborns to include any additional diseases adopted as part of the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel, as soon as the disease is adopted. This expansion of newborn screening would be powerful for the health of our communities.

The bill has moved out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and should be on the Governor's desk by September for consideration of signature into law. Senator Pan, the author of the bill, is a pediatrician serving in the CA State Senate representing District 6.

### BILL TO REDESIGN CCS

A broad-based coalition of children's health care advocates, patient groups and providers collaborated this year to support SB 586, sponsored by Senator Ed Hernandez, Chair of the Senate Health Committee.

The bill includes additional protections for children with Cystic Fibrosis, Sickle Cell Disease, Hemophilia, pediatric cancers, and other chronic conditions as the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) moves toward a new "CCS Whole Child Model of Care."

The CCS redesign proposal will move a subset of the 180,000 eligible children statewide into existing Medi-Cal County Organized Health Systems in 2017. Advocates worked diligently to ensure key "patient centered care" provisions would be maintained in the proposal. Those provisions include: 1) CCS standards and physician credentialing; 2) continuity of care for patients with their specialists; 3) an evaluation process; 4) a separate rate for CCS; and 5) patient and family input through an advisory group process.

Alameda County will not undergo the CCS modification and we therefore anticipate a minimal impact to patients living in Alameda County. However, this bill will be a benefit to patients we serve who live in smaller Northern California counties.



## Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS SPOTLIGHT

Although kindergarten preparedness is recognized as a leading indicator for a child's future health and success, studies show that over half of Alameda County

children are unprepared to begin kindergarten. Nutrition, sleep, stress, parent involvement, early play, and preschool experiences all influence school readiness.

One of the ways that UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland addresses school readiness is through mental health consultations at early care and education sites.

The SPARK program (Successful Preschool Adjustment and Readiness for Kindergarten), run by

the hospital's Center for the Vulnerable Child, provides classroom intervention and staff development to state-funded preschools, Head Start sites, and child development centers.

The hospital's Early Intervention Services provides consultation to the City of Oakland and YMCA of the Central Bay Area Early Head Start Programs, and partners with Jewish Family and Community Services to place developmental specialists in many Oakland Unified School District preschool sites.

Both programs strengthen the capacity of pre-schools, childcare centers, and families to promote positive social and emotional development in young children.

**About the Center for Community Health and Engagement (CCHE):** CCHE is a department at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland that bridges pediatric health and community needs. For more information please call 510-428-5816 or visit our website at [www.childrenshospitaloakland.org/ccche](http://www.childrenshospitaloakland.org/ccche).