



# PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

"Protecting the health of all Californians"

APRIL 7, 2016

## 2016 Beverlee A. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is excited to announce highest

public health award given by CDPH, the Beverlee A. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health to Dr. Wendel Brunner, Director of Public Health, Contra Costa County.

Dr. Brunner spent more than 30 years of his career as the director of public health for Contra Costa County. In his position, he stood boldly behind movements such as environmental justice, an effort to force government and industry to counter years of neglect suffered by poor minority neighborhoods.

In 1984, Dr. Brunner pushed efforts that made Contra Costa County the first in the nation to adopt a strict anti-smoking ordinance, and in 2000 he helped push the county to adopt a "zero tolerance" policy toward domestic violence.

He began his medical career in Richmond in 1980. It was here that Dr. Brunner saw the oppressive living conditions for the poor and minorities and how they magnified poor health outcomes. Dr. Brunner has worked to ensure that

government helps those most in need. The last two classes of nominees for the Beverlee A. Myers Award have been the largest we have ever had in the history of this award. Clearly, Dr. Brunner's public health contributions, accomplishments and outstanding leadership set him apart in a strong candidate pool. Dr. Brunner's extensive work in improving public health in California leaves a legacy for all of us in public health to emulate.

## Building a Culture of Health in California

Our health and well-being can be greatly influenced by complex social factors such as where we live and the strength of our families and communities. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has proposed a vision for a national Culture of Health enabling all in our diverse

### Culture of Health: Underlying Principles

1. Good health flourishes across geographic, demographic, and social sectors.
2. Attaining the best health possible is valued by our entire society.
3. Individuals and families have the means and the opportunity to make choices.
4. Business, government, individuals, and organizations work together to build healthy communities.
5. No one is excluded.
6. Everyone has access to affordable, quality health care.
7. Health care is efficient and equitable.
8. The economy is less burdened by excessive and unwarranted health care spending.
9. Keeping everyone as healthy as possible guides public and private decision-making.
10. Americans understand that we are all in this together.

society to lead healthier lives. It is based on 10 underlying principles. CDPH is looking to incorporate these underlying principles into our policies and procedures to help guide the work that we do on a daily basis and to achieve our goal of making California the healthiest state in the nation by 2022.

## Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Awards CDPH Employee United States Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Champion



Dr. Jennifer Flood was nationally recognized as a CDC United States TB Elimination Champion on World TB Day 2016 for her work in TB prevention. Dr. Flood is the Chief of the TB Control Branch, CDPH. She is a driving force for innovation and collaboration in a state with 22% of the nation's TB cases.

With Dr. Flood's guidance and leadership, in May 2015 the California TB Elimination Task Force convened to explore how best to address the opportunity to eliminate TB in California by 2040. This Task Force was a collaboration between CDPH, the University of California, San Francisco, and the California TB Controllers

Association, and was funded by the California Health Care Foundation.

Dr. Flood is a passionate, committed, innovative, and inspirational leader who has greatly contributed to TB control in California for nearly two decades. With her vision and stewardship, California is moving closer to TB elimination.