



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

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Dear Team DPH,

There is no question that DPH's top priorities include serving San Francisco's population of individuals who suffer from severe mental illness and to help them get the care they need. In partnership with **UCSF**, the **Division of Citywide Case Management Programs** is the city's largest provider of intensive case management under the direction of the **Department of Psychiatry at ZSFG**.

On a recent visit, I learned how they support our mission by facilitating the recovery of the city's highest risk adults suffering from mental illness, helping to optimize their ability to maintain stable, productive, fulfilling lives in the community and reducing their need for institutional and acute care (psychiatric emergency services, hospital care).



From L to R: Gregory Jarasitis, Grant Colfax, Fumi Mitsuishi, and Mark Leary

At any given point in time, Citywide could be serving 1,200 clients. As a result, **Fumi Mitsuishi** and Dr. **Carrie Cunningham**, Director and Medical Director, ensure that the program services include medication assessment and management, crisis intervention, outreach and case management, and individual, group and family therapy, which continue as long as clients need an intensive level of intervention. **Gregory Jarasitis** leads the Employment Services program. Last year, the program fostered 130 successful placements with clients making minimum wage or more. In addition, **Alison Livingston, Kathleen Lacey, Alison Murphy** and **Valerie Gruber**, directors for four different Citywide programs, coordinate together to serve individuals who suffer from severe mental illness and experience homelessness, trauma and institutionalization, are high users of the acute services, and increasingly have a history of touching on the criminal justice system.

Citywide exemplifies the highest level of outpatient mental health treatment and provides intensive case management services to the city's hard-to-reach population. During my visit, I witnessed the "milieu" in action. The open area is a therapeutic setting where clients can engage in volunteer activities, play bingo, spend time with the peer counselors, or sit in peace during the day. Daily lunch is served here to more than 60 clients a day. This welcoming space is also where they have large cultural celebrations and annual coat drives. Like their motto, Citywide truly does whatever it takes to meet their clients where they are.

Every day, I am impressed by our staff's motivation and hard work to reach our city's most vulnerable people. I am inspired to continue our department's momentum in providing our populations suffering from mental illness with the health care services they need and deserve.

With gratitude,

Grant