

Attachment: Description of FY 2023-24 STARS Awards

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Antibiotic Stewardship Program - County Health – San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC)

Description: Antimicrobial resistance is a growing threat regionally, nationally and globally. The development of resistance is accelerated by the inappropriate use of antibiotics, for example, using antibacterials which treat bacteria for viral infections like flu, or as a growth promoter in livestock. Nationally, resistant infections, known as multidrug resistant infections (MDROs) recognized during hospitalization grew at least 15% from 2019 to 2020. SMMC has seen an increase in carbapenem resistant organisms, a dangerous MDRO, in the last 5 years. SMMC's Antibiotic Stewardship Program (ASP) aims to optimize antibiotic use, improve patient outcomes and reduce antibiotic resistance.

Program Goals:

- Improve patient outcomes and safety by developing antibiotic prescribing guidelines, optimizing antibiotic selection, dosing and duration and reducing unnecessary antibiotics use.
- Promote antimicrobial best practice diagnostic testing with close surveillance for antimicrobial resistance.
- Monitor and share SMMC Annual antibiogram and promote ASP evidence-based practices.

Objectives:

- Reduce broad spectrum antibiotic use and increase the use of narrow spectrum antibiotics while not jeopardizing patient safety.
- Enhance antibiotic stewardship best practices for clinicians, pharmacists, nurses and environmental services to prevent MDRO development and transmission.
- Monitor and report antibiotic resistance trends and give timely feedback to clinicians.

Results: With our rigorous ASP, we have seen a dramatic decrease in our use of hospital broad spectrum antibiotics. In 2023-2024, we decreased overuse of perioperative antibiotics by modifying our practices (decreasing surgery prophylaxis antibiotic duration) and updating the electronic health orders to align with current national guidelines. These achievements were possible due to infrastructure building between Lab, Quality Analytics, Clinicians and Nursing.

Through multiyear Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) collaborations, we created data collection infrastructure to follow ASP outcomes and adapted staff training on ASP best practices. In 2020-2021, SMMC's Innovative Care Clinic focused on decreasing antibiotic prescriptions for viral upper respiratory infections. This foundational work improved the safety culture around antibiotic prescribing, reduced unnecessary antibiotic use, improved antibiotic decision making by frontline staff and improved compliance with the Joint Commission Antibiotic Stewardship (AS) standard. For each of these collaboratives, SMMC performance measures were at or better than national averages.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Infection Preventionist Nurse Program - County Health – Public Health, Policy and Planning (\$10,000)

Description: In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, CDPH asked Local Health departments to hire Infection Preventionist (IP) Nurses to help support the Skilled Nursing facilities (SNFs) in our County in keeping our high risk, vulnerable elderly population as safe from covid and other healthcare acquired infections (HAIs) as possible. The CD Control program hired two Infection Preventionist nurses to do this work. The goals are to help educate and support the SNF nurses who were designated by their administrators to be their infection control nurse. Our IP nurses assessed IP practices, utilizing a modified infection control assessment tool, which identified the general facility demographics and IP practices. To improve the practices, our IP nurses met with the facility's IP and leadership, emphasizing the importance of leadership support. Our IP nurses provided in-services in various IP practices and educated on MDROs. To emphasize the basics of infection prevention, monthly hand hygiene compliance and healthcare-associated infection (HAI) rates are collected. There are 14 SNFs in our County and each of our IP nurses are responsible for supporting 7 of them. They visit each SNF in person at least once a month and more frequently if they are experiencing an infectious disease outbreak. They have done in person education to all levels of SNF staff on hand hygiene, isolation precautions, cohorting of residents, proper cleaning and sanitation, what constitutes a HAI and how to measure and report results and most importantly how to prevent an HAI from occurring. The IP nurses observe hand hygiene compliance and report it to each SNF. The Infection Preventionist Nurses also track vaccination rates of SNF residents for Covid, Flu and RSV and remind administrators early and often to ensure their residents and staff are vaccinated. A recent important aspect of their work has been Candida auris mitigation education. "C auris" is now endemic in skilled nursing homes and long-term care ventilator facilities in Southern California and our IP nurses are working with all SNFs to prevent cases occurring here in our County.

Results: The Infection Preventionist nurses' work ensures increased health and safety of our high risk, vulnerable elderly in our communities' skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and hemodialysis centers. The IP nurse program also is an example of collaborative partnerships within our communities. PPHP Communicable Disease Control's IP nurses collaborate every day with the SNF staff and leadership teams to help lower their healthcare acquired infection rates and prevent outbreaks of covid, flu and RSV which are deadly for our older population. Having the IP nurses visit our county SNFs on site to assess their infection prevention protocols and offer on site education and training has improved their staff practices from the nursing staff to the environmental services staff. They now understand "the why" behind infection control regulations. They now understand how their work impacts residents' health and safety.

GREEN

Jobs for Youth Program Redesign – Human Resources Department (\$5,000)

Description: Jobs for Youth (JFY), a program for youth ages 14-21, is centered around three pillars of success: career and professional development workshops, connecting youth members to employment and volunteer opportunities within the county, and access to an annual scholarship fund for postsecondary education. Each year, JFY serves roughly 2,000+ youth across the County through the career readiness workshops and participating in career fairs and community events. Historically, JFY purchased professionally printed copies of the program's career development workbooks for youth to use during workshop sessions. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the JFY program fully transitioned from printing workbooks to providing fillable PDFs. In order to make this transition, the JFY team worked to revamp the workbooks to lend themselves to a digital format. Specific workbook activities are only printed out today when youth who have barriers to learning in a digital format need an alternative. The result is a reduction in printed materials by nearly 100%. Additionally, when representing JFY at various career, community, and resource fairs, JFY does not print flyers or handouts. Instead, QR codes are presented on an iPad for folks to learn about program offerings from their own devices. JFY staff also created digital scannable business "cards" to reduce waste while still easily sharing contact information. Lastly, JFY had historically mailed physical invitations to the annual Scholar Celebration to community members and partners. Hundreds of individuals are invited each year, so this was not only a lot of paper, but a large cost to the program as well. The Scholars would also receive their Scholar documentation in the mail and the JFY program would pay for the documents to be returned. All of these materials were completely digitized by the JFY team, further reducing financial costs to the program, while also drastically reducing the amount of paper being used each year.

Results:

Previously, JFY would spend over \$4,240 on the two sets of workbooks each year. Factoring in an additional \$700 for Scholar Celebration save-the-dates and invitations, Scholar packets, postage, and career fair materials, JFY saves roughly \$5,000 annually, today. By utilizing the Environmental Paper Network's Paper Calculator, JFY has saved 2.4 U.S. short tons of wood, which is roughly equivalent to 14.2 trees. This conservation also represents a reduction of 5.07 million BTUs of energy—enough to power 17.9 residential refrigerators. Additionally, JFY has cut down 10,629.2 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, comparable to the output of one car over the course of a year, and has prevented 696.05 pounds of solid waste, equivalent to the daily waste generated by 158.6 people. In terms of benefits for the youth, the digital workbooks allow for a much more streamlined approach for students to work on the activities during JFY workshops. Providing fillable PDF workbooks enables us to publish them on the Jobs for Youth website, making them accessible for all community members to utilize. Additionally, by digitizing the JFY invitations, the program can extend more invitations to the annual Scholar Celebration without the limitations of printing or mailing costs.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) On-Call Support for Outreach and Project Support– Sustainability Department (\$5,000)

Description: Climate change poses significant risks to communities, infrastructure, and natural resources in San Mateo County, including increased coastal erosion, flooding, heightened wildfire intensity, and extreme weather events. Traditionally underserved and vulnerable populations have been disproportionately affected by climate change impacts and often face barriers in participating in conversations about policies or accessing services. To respond to the disproportionate challenges faced by vulnerable populations, the Sustainability Department established on-call contracts with local CBOs to strengthen community engagement with, and access to, the Department's program offerings and resources. This approach supports meaningful partnership with trusted ambassadors across the diverse cultural and racial communities in the County in order to ensure all community members have equitable access to program resources, such as rebates, incentives, and pilot projects, and to provide program input where possible. The Department piloted this approach in 2021 with six on-call contracts for CBO support in promoting and educating community members in disadvantaged communities on available Sustainability program resources. The initial contract was quickly utilized by a broad range of programs and showed success in reaching historically under-represented communities participating in Sustainability programs. Therefore, in January 2024, on-call contracts were established with ten local CBOs and nonprofits. The selected CBOs serve a diverse range of communities across all the geographical areas of the county and have experience providing inclusive, multilingual services. The project work includes supporting culturally responsive community outreach and engagement related to greenhouse gas reduction, climate change resilience, waste reduction, and youth education efforts.

Results: These on-call contracts allow for responsive community engagement that can accommodate varying and emerging needs quickly, and more efficiently develop and implement programs with community involvement. For example, staff collaborated with El Concilio to develop a targeted outreach plan for small businesses defined as hard-to-reach by the California Public Utilities Commission. They visited small businesses to engage owners and managers and share information about the Department's Small Business Resource Center, which offers cost-saving energy efficiency programs. The in-person engagement ensured that hard-to-reach businesses had access to these programs, despite facing barriers. The Department is also engaging students in unincorporated North Fair Oaks (NFO) with CBOs to teach them about the importance of preserving water quality and sharing opportunities to protect the environment. According to CalEnviroScreen 4.0, NFO is disproportionately burdened by exposure to pollution, which is exacerbated by socioeconomic stressors and health conditions. This project includes an education and outreach effort in collaboration with CBOs to deliver curriculum and hands-on opportunities to NFO middle and high school students. These efforts will help reduce trash generation and promote community awareness and action around environmental impacts of trash and other stormwater issues.