

## Director's Message

Dear OC Health Care Agency (HCA) Team,

I'd like to extend to you a happy and enjoyable Labor Day weekend. Our country commemorates Labor Day in recognition of the achievements of workers in America. I want you to know how much I value your efforts on behalf of the HCA and the people we serve in Orange County. The past couple of years have been a trying time for many of us and I am grateful for your dedication and commitment to serve!

On the subject of work, please join me in welcoming back **Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong** as she has already started to resume her duties as Chief Medical

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## Peer-to-Peer

# Doug Schan

"I work at one of California's best Public Health Labs (PHL) and I enjoy that what we do can make a big difference in the health of our county." It's care for the community that has motivated Peer-to-Peer recipient **Doug Schan**, Public Health Microbiologist II in his career, and he says providing that care in the PHL is what he values about working at the OC Health Care Agency (HCA). "I have worked and visited other laboratories throughout my career, and it really is great to hear the nice comments other labs say about the Orange County (OC) PHL. Over the years I've been fortunate to work with not only my lab team, but with many other HCA programs. I'm proud of the great collaboration between our County of Orange (County) programs."

Doug said he started his HCA career performing lab testing. "I liked the challenge of identifying organisms that can cause diseases of public health concern including, Botulism, Gonorrhea, Tuberculosis, HIV, Syphilis, and other organisms including those associated with food poisoning like Salmonella." In 2012 he became the Laboratory Information System (LIS) Coordinator. "Instead of testing and identifying disease causing organisms, I use lab software applications, so the lab can order tests and report results electronically."

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### FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Director's Message

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Officer. I am pleased to share with you that **Dr. CK** has been recovering nicely and I'm having to remind her to ease into all she is eager to do. I'd also like to thank our Deputy Health Officers and all of our team who covered for Dr. CK while she was out. There is no doubt in my mind that the HCA is well-served by professional and personable public servants who are ready to do whatever it takes to serve the Orange County (OC) community!

Speaking of welcoming back, our students return to school, and they do so with COVID-19 still prevalent. The California Safe Schools for All Plan provides a clear path to minimize in-school transmission of COVID-19. The Plan includes the public health prevention guidance that we have promoted during the pandemic. The guidance includes: vaccination for those eligible, the recommendation for face coverings while inside, good ventilation, handwashing and staying home when sick, as well as testing. You can find more on resources on our website at [occovid19.ochealthinfo.com](https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com).

As for monkeypox, those of you who are parents also have concerns for your school aged children. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), at this time, the risk of monkeypox to children and adolescents in the United States is low. As of August 18, six pediatric cases have been confirmed in California (0.2% of all cases). Monkeypox virus can infect anyone – including children – if they have close, personal, often skin-to-skin [contact](#) with someone who has monkeypox. The HCA recently began administering second dose vaccinations to individuals who received the first dose, to complete the two-dose vaccination series. Scheduling for monkeypox vaccine is available based on vaccine supply and appointments can be made at [Othena.com](https://Othena.com). The JYNNEOS vaccines are in short supply and being offered to those at highest risk. You can track monkeypox cases in OC and find helpful information on our website at [ochealth-info.com/monkeypox](https://ochealth-info.com/monkeypox).

As if we haven't had enough already, you might have heard of cases of polio in New York, the United Kingdom and Israel. Until these cases appeared, polio had been declared eradicated in most of the world. Polio is highly contagious which is why children should be vaccinated for it. Most adults in the US were vaccinated as children which is why additional vaccinations have not been recommended previously. If you have questions about your status, please check with your health care provider. For more on polio please visit the CDC's website at [What Is Polio](#).

We have several health and culture matters events in September. This is Suicide Prevention Awareness month. I would like to recognize the outstanding work that's been done by our Office of Suicide Prevention during this past year to increase suicide prevention awareness. Suicide is a leading cause of death in OC and this is an opportune time to remind all of us to learn the signs of suicide and find resources at [www.suicideispreventable.org](https://www.suicideispreventable.org).

We celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month in honor of the cultures, traditions and contributions of Hispanics and Latinos to the fabric of our country. You can learn more by visiting [www.hispanicheritage-month.gov](https://www.hispanicheritage-month.gov).

People are living longer, and the number of older adults in the US population is growing. To increase awareness of this and the needs of older populations, we recognize September as Healthy Aging Month. As we age, our minds and bodies change and maintaining a healthy lifestyle may help you deal with those changes. You can find resources from the National Institute on Aging at [healthy aging](https://healthyaging).

Finally to our Jewish colleagues and community, may you have a good year as Rosh Hashanah arrives at sundown on September 25. This year will mark the Hebrew Year 5783. This is a time of self-examination

for the past year and of evaluation for going forward into the new year. For more on OC's diverse Jewish community, please visit [www.jewishorangecounty.org](http://www.jewishorangecounty.org).

Stay Well,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clayton Chau MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Dr. Clayton Chau**  
MD, PhD, MASL  
HCA Director

## Peer-to-Peer

*continued from page 1*

This role comes with a huge learning curve and although this may not sound as exciting as my previous role, the reward comes by combining my microbiology knowledge and working with the lab departments to build a more robust lab testing environment. My role involves a lot of collaboration and would not be possible without the rest of my lab team and other HCA programs especially the HCA Information Technology team."

Doug said he enjoys all of the tasks he faces each day. "My purpose at the PHL is part of a team effort to quickly identify organisms that can cause disease and outbreaks in the community." He said over the years there have been many examples of collaboration between the HCA, OCPHL and County Agencies. "I remember a specific instance when the Communicable Disease Control Division, Environmental Health and the OCPHL received ground beef for testing. The sample was provided by a county resident. This was a great example of programs working together and the Lab was able to identify an organism in the ground beef that had the potential to cause severe illness. Tons of ground beef needed to be destroyed to prevent the possibility of consumers getting sick. Identifying the organism was important, but so was the collection and chain of custody prior to the sample coming to the Lab as well as any notifications and follow up with residents as needed."

Now with his focus on Client Services, Doug said that gives him the opportunity to work with other County programs, hospitals, and the public. "I want every interaction to be a positive experience. This is especially true with calls from the public when this brief interaction may form the caller's lasting impression about the OCPHL and possibly all County programs."

When not at work, Doug said he and his wife enjoy hiking the many trails throughout OC. He also credits his wife with his decision to work at the HCA. "The woman of my dreams lived in Orange County. I was living in Rancho Cucamonga and commuting to the Los Angeles PHL as a Microbiologist Trainee and frequently driving to OC. I had the opportunity to apply for the Microbiologist position at the HCA after completing training. I got the job and got the woman who became my wife!" (Note: Doug said she's still the woman of his dreams.)



# At the Forefront from COVID-19 to **Monkeypox**

Contributors: **Daniele Jaramillo**, Administrative Manager II, CDCD, **Sammy Petrich**, Public Health Services Communications Specialist

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The OC Health Care Agency (HCA) Public Health Services (PHS) Communicable Disease Control Division (CDCD) has never stopped its efforts to continue to give our community members access and education on vaccinations from COVID-19, and now, Monkeypox. The team continues working at the forefront of taking initiative of establishing a presence of the HCA in the community by collocating vaccination clinics within high-risk populations. The CDCD established the Super Point of Dispensing Sites (PODS) during the initial COVID-19 vaccination distribution at Disneyland, and they continue to offer smaller PODS every week to those in need at:

- Latino Health Access Headquarters on Mondays from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Anaheim Central Library on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Social Services Agency Central Regional Office on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Due to the convenience of these locations, just in 2022, the CDCD administered 38,012 COVID-19 boosters to the Orange County community.

## January 1, 2022 - Present

Total Vaccinations	38,012
1st Booster	29,231
2nd Booster	2,238

When the COVID-19 infant vaccine was approved and made available to infants and children, the CDCD quickly collaborated with Orange County's pediatric hospital, CHOC, to form a COVID-19 clinic. The clinic launched July 7 at CHOC in the City of Orange and has vaccinated 236 children from 6 months to 5 years old.

**ochhealth**  
CARE AGENCY

# Monkeypox Vaccine

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022**  
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Aug 3, 2022**  
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Social Services Agency  
Central Regional Office  
2020 W. Walnut St.  
Santa Ana, CA 92703**

We are holding a Monkeypox (Jynneos) vaccine clinic by *appointment only*. Due to limited vaccine supply, this clinic is limited to those who meet the CDC criteria below and are 18 years or older. More dates and appointments will open as more vaccines become available.

**Gay, bisexual, and other men (including cisgender and transgender men) who have sex with men (MSM) or transgender women who meet at least one of the following criteria:**

- Have been diagnosed with a bacterial sexually transmitted disease (e.g., chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis) in the past 3 months, OR
- Have engaged in chemsex or group sex with other men, OR
- Have had sex recently with anonymous male partners, OR
- Have attended sex-on-premises venues (e.g., saunas, bathhouses, sex clubs), OR
- Have engaged in survival and/or transactional sex, OR
- Are part of other populations who are at high risk of monkeypox exposure, as identified through local epidemiological investigations. Among this group, persons who are living with HIV (particularly those with CD4 count <200/mm3 or an opportunistic infection) or other conditions that cause immunocompromise.

**Book an appointment by visiting [www.othena.com](http://www.othena.com).**  
For more information, visit [OCHHealthInfo.com/monkeypox](http://OCHHealthInfo.com/monkeypox), or call our Health Referral Line at (800) 564-8448.

Logos: APAIT, Radiant Health Centers, LGBTQ CENTER, Shanti, VROC

As schools welcomed hundreds of children back from summer, CalOptima and CDCD partnered in August and September to provide full-service family events at two elementary schools in Anaheim where families could get vaccinated for COVID-19 and receive a \$25 gift card. Families also had access to information on CalOptima, Social Services Agency, CalFresh and CHOC Community Education.

The CDCD immediately managed the unexpected arrival of Monkeypox in California and quickly informed the high-risk population in Orange County. It was new to the community; therefore, many community members and providers were unfamiliar with the virus. To offer education on the topic, CDCD, in partnership with the Orange County Medical Association, co-hosted a clinical presentation for medical providers in mid-August. The presentation consisted of diagnosis and treatment of Monkeypox and the available resources in Orange County. **Dr. Matthew Zahn**, Deputy Health

Officer and Medical Director of Communicable Disease Control Division and **Dr. Christopher Ried**, Medical Director of HIV/STD Testing, Treatment and Care, conducted the presentation to almost 200 individuals at the virtual event. From July 27 until August 10, four Monkeypox vaccination clinics were held in Orange County in partnership with multiple LGBTQ community-based organizations. The clinics were well received, appointments quickly filled, and 1,642 vaccines were distributed to high-risk community members. Despite being offered as an appointment only clinic, due to the limited supply of vaccines, the clinic was able to accommodate walk-ins who met the eligibility criteria. Mental Health and Recovery Services staff have been present at every clinic for consultation and support as needed by attendees. The CDCD department remains on the pulse of infectious diseases in our Orange County community.



# The Youth Center Learning

Contributor: *Carolyn Secrist, Administrative Manager I*

Staff with the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT) showed their creativity and shared their expertise while teaching leadership and communication skills to high school students during a Leadership Academy at The Youth Center (TYC) in Los Alamitos this summer. "Our goal was to create an interactive way for the students to communicate and work together," said **Meyri Kroell**, Mental Health Specialist, "So we facilitated an activity using Mr. Potato Head toys. We gave the students photos of a finished Mr. Potato Head with the challenge of putting together the toy according to the photo."

"The challenge in this," said **Sherryl Ramos**, Health Educator, "each of the students was given a photo of what Mr. Potato Head should look like, but they had a short amount of time (30 seconds!) and no instructions on how to work together in order to make him look like the photo. It took a couple of rounds before the students were able to improve their efficiency."



# Leadership Academy

**Cheryl Seitter**, Health Education Associate said, "Even though it was a fun and engaging activity with a well-known toy, the students had to learn to communicate with each other and how to designate members to achieve a specific task."

"Overall, the goal was achieved, and the main message became evident that working as a team is not always easy but necessary," said **Pauline Stauder**, Program Supervisor I. "Also, a lesson learned was that through proper communication and utilizing each other's strengths and leadership skills they can build something as a team even if under pressure."

"The students did gain insight," said **Lina Lumme**, Chief Executive Officer of TYC, "The students were able to grasp the purpose of this activity and congrats to the ADEPT staff for a creative way to teach these valuable life skill lessons to the next generation."

ADEPT has been providing substance use prevention services within the HCA for more than 30 years. Services include educating youth, parents and families on risk/protective factors and best practice prevention strategies, coordinating youth-led activities in schools and most recently, implementing social media campaigns.



# 20 YEARS — AND — GROWING!

Contributors: **Maria Minaglia**, Health Educator, Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator  
**Kelly Soemantoro**, Injury Prevention Program Supervisor

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It was October 2003. The OC Health Care Agency (HCA) team was gearing up to launch Orange County's (OC) first Walk to School Day event. Joined by our OC Safe Kids Coalition, we had convinced a brave Santa Ana elementary school principal to give this new idea a shot. Students hung hand-painted signs along school fences. Volunteers showed up to walk with students and offer high-fives. It was highly organic and decidedly special. Little did we know that 20 years later, the Walk to School Day Campaign would become a cornerstone of our program's work to encourage and celebrate safe walking.

**WALK TO SCHOOL DAY 2022 WILL TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 5. JOIN US IN REMINISCING HOW WALK TO SCHOOL DAY HAS EVOLVED OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS!**

**THEN:** Following a successful kickoff, we created a planning tool kit to support even more schools. It was four pieces of paper stapled together with tips and resources. A handful of schools jumped on board.

**NOW:** 20 years later, more than 100 schools sign up each year to receive [tool kits](#). These impressive kits include vinyl banners, yard signs, stickers, and wristbands for students. Promotional tools include [YouTube videos](#), social media templates, and more. Staff offer coordinator trainings to help [plan](#) events.

**THEN:** Within the HCA, Walk to School Day was a modest, unfunded initiative spearheaded by a part-time pedestrian safety project coordinator.

**NOW:** It is part of an overall Safe Routes and Active Transportation Program. It's staffed by [two Health Educators](#), with funding to support the work. Our team encourages families to walk or bike safely to school by supporting schools with programming. We work with cities toward making infrastructure changes that enhance safety. We've forged bonds with our Nutrition Services partners, as physical activity is another puzzle piece in solving the childhood obesity epidemic.







Fremont Elementary School in Santa Ana celebrates Walk to School Day.



Students from Lincoln Elementary School in Santa Ana parade to school on Walk to School Day.



The Safe Routes to School Program provides training and resources for schools to start Walking School Bus Programs. Resources include materials for students to create decorated bus-shaped banners to walk with to school.



The Health Promotion team is joined by community partners to assemble Walk to School Day Tool Kits. Pictured: Amy Frias, CHOC, Community Educator/Safe Kids Orange County Coordinator; Ruth Aguilar, HCA; Kristin Alix, HCA, Quality Improvement Specialist; Alaine Fajayan, HCA, Injury Prevention Intern; Megan Beard, HCA, Health Educator, Injury Prevention; Rebecca Marsille, HCA, Health Educator, Injury Prevention; Erica Baca, Santa Ana Police Service Officer; Nancy Lopez, Police Service Officer; Annie Tran-Luong, HCA, Health Education Assistant

**THEN:** Walk to School Day was a one-day event to promote and celebrate walking and highlight pedestrian safety.

**NOW:** It's so much more! Walk to School Day is a catalyst for supporting walking all year long. Our team provides resources and training on initiatives such as [Walking School Bus Programs](#). If a school expresses safety concerns about the students' walking routes, we can help. Our team works with the school and students to elevate those concerns to city and community stakeholders. These collaborations have led to successful outcomes, including physical improvements that increased safety and walkability.

**THEN:** Walk to School Day and the evolving Safe Routes to School (SRTS) work intuitively seemed like a great idea.

**NOW:** 20 years later, the body of scientific evidence, shows that SRTS programs work. SRTS is one of the Centers for Disease Control [Health Impact in 5 Years Initiative](#). SRTS is associated with:

- More students walking and biking to and from school.
- A reduced risk for bike and pedestrian injuries.

**THEN:** Walking to school was celebrated as one of the easiest ways for families to get daily physical activity.

**NOW:** This is still true! Moreover, walking to school builds community, encourages safety, and is good for the environment. It reduces school traffic congestion, can improve academics, and most of all is FUN.

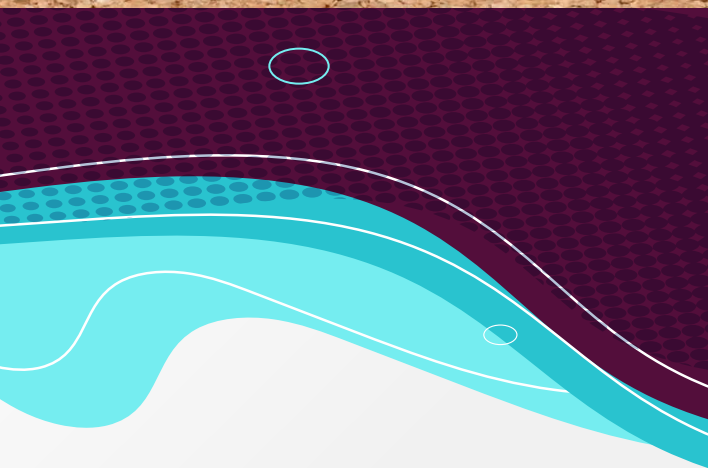


## Dr. B's Bulletin Board

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**Dr. Margaret Bredehoft**  
Chief, Public Health Services

Public Health Services (PHS) is strategically focusing on: Organizational Realignment and Capacity Building, Technology Development, and New Campus Construction which are all vital to a sustainable and thriving whole-system health solution. This month we are highlighting a few of the investments in Technology Development:

- The OC Health Care Agency's (HCA) Enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping platform has been deployed to enable Agency staff to make maps, analyze geospatial data, and share results to solve problems. This platform enables teams to visualize, analyze, and understand data patterns and relationships more easily. For example, HCA Research and Communicable Disease Control Division Epidemiology staff analyze and map COVID-19 testing, case, hospitalization, death, and vaccination data and share this pandemic information with the public, media, and policymakers to facilitate decisions informed by geographic location. To date, the Agency's COVID-19 data and map dashboards have received tens of millions of views by the residents of Orange County (OC), helping to keep them informed about the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic.
- Family Health Clinic (FHC) - which provides immunization, children's health, and family planning services for low income and uninsured among the vulnerable populations we serve - underwent an exciting enhancement as well. On August 1, PHS expanded its use of the Agency's Electronic Medical Records (EMR) by converting the FHC away from physical medical records to increase operational efficiencies and align transportability of information to improve quality of care and streamline our processes. As an added benefit, the EMR will interface with the online California Immunization Registry (CAIR) so that medical records will be accessible for those individuals benefiting from the Vaccines for Children program and our Travel Clinic services.
- Additionally, the Emergency Medical Services Division (OCEMS) is working on the planning



and implementation of a grant funded project which will strengthen and enhance the existing countywide EMS data system (OC-MEDS) by enabling bi-directional health care data exchange between Fire/ Ambulance Services and local hospitals. This project will establish secure connections between OC-MEDS and each respective hospital's Electronic Health Records (EHR) system(s) to ensure near-real time availability of EMS patient care and hospital outcome information for continuity of care and aid with countywide medical/health situational awareness and emergency response.

These are just some of the solutions that the inter-disciplinary teams are employing to improve patient care and public health outcomes and to strengthen our data analytic capacities throughout the Agency. Public health investments and use of digital technology and modern solutions will not only advance health equity but ultimately drive greater patient engagement and self-management and prevention of disease.

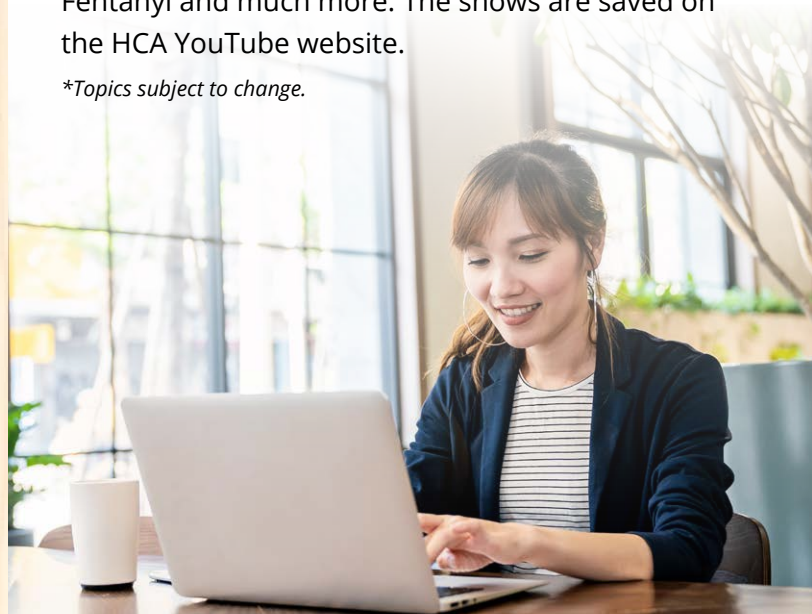


The OC Health Care Agency's (HCA) live stream talk show *Your Health Matters OC*\* focuses on Recovery Month in our September 6 show with substance use prevention and treatment the topics our experts will discuss. On September 20 the focus will be Suicide Prevention Awareness in recognition of suicide prevention awareness month. The talk show can be seen every other Tuesday at 6 p.m. on the HCA's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ochealth-info> or YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/c/OrangeCountyHealthCareAgency>.

Viewers are invited to submit questions on the show's topics before and during each show at [yourhealthmatters@ochca.com](mailto:yourhealthmatters@ochca.com). You can also submit topics for consideration on future shows.

*Your Health Matters OC* features experts from the HCA, and the community, who discuss a variety of topics that affect us all. Previous episodes include discussions on Nursing, Water Safety, Colorectal Cancer, Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness, Fentanyl and much more. The shows are saved on the HCA YouTube website.

*\*Topics subject to change.*



# Get ready Orange County, the EQUITY IMPROVEMENT TEAMS are ready and raring to go!

Contributor: **Wesley Shain**, Equity Staff Specialist, Office of Population Health and Equity

In June 2022, the Office of Population Health and Equity (OPHE) hosted the first Equity in OC (EiOC) Community Health and Improvement Leadership Academy (CHILA). By participating in the CHILAs, community partners will sharpen their leadership and change improvement skills through Equity Improvement Teams that will focus on addressing and improving health equity throughout Orange County (OC).

OC community partners selected three social determinants of health (SDoH) priority action areas at the May 2022 EiOC Taskforce meeting:

1. Housing is Health
2. Food as Medicine
3. Health and Healing

The EiOC Taskforce consists of community members, community-based organizations, and OC Health Care Agency (HCA) partners collaborating to advance health equity in Orange County.

In concert with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), HCA Equity Improvement Teams are now paired with IHI equity coaches and advisors who are trained in quality improvement (QI) with a focus on equity building and community power sharing.

HCA Equity Improvement Teams are comprised of staff members from Procurement and Contract Services (PCS), the Office of the Public Guardian, Office of Project

Management and Quality Improvement (PMQI), OPHE, Outreach and Engagement Services, Office of Suicide Prevention, Correctional Health Services, and Public Health Services.

Here is a snapshot of EiOC milestones and achievements:

- 210+ attendees for First CHILA
- 150+ Community Partner Profiles completed
- 6 Population Health Equity Collectives formed
- 26 Community Equity Improvement Teams in the works
- 8 HCA Equity Improvement Teams formed

Interested in learning more about Equity Improvement Teams? Contact the OPHE at [ophe@ochca.com](mailto:ophe@ochca.com) for more information. Also, visit [www.equityinoc.com/](http://www.equityinoc.com/) for more information on the Equity in OC Initiative.



## Amazing Fruit Salad (Serves 4)

[Champions for Change Amazing Fruit Salad](#)

Use these tips to help you feel energized between meals. **Prep ahead** – Wash and portion fresh vegetables into reusable containers so they are ready to grab-and-go. **Choose vibrant vegetables** – Colorful and crunchy raw vegetables are a healthy choice. Try dipping broccoli, zucchini sticks, or baby carrots in hummus, guacamole, or a low-fat yogurt sauce. **Wash and enjoy** – Fresh fruit makes a great go-to snack when you are looking for a quick sweet treat. **Keep healthy options handy** – Keep fruits and vegetables visible and within reach in the fridge or on the counter for a convenient snack. [Personal Recipe Finder](#) helps you find healthy recipes with flavors you and your family will love.

### Ingredients

- 2 cups washed and torn lettuce leaves
- 1 cup drained, canned pineapple chunks (save 3 tablespoons of juice for the yogurt mixture)
- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 3 kiwifruit, peeled and sliced
- ½ cup low-fat, fruit-flavored yogurt
- 3 tablespoons pineapple juice
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice

### Preparation

1. Place torn lettuce leaves into a large salad bowl.
2. Add pineapple chunks, strawberries, and kiwifruit.
3. In a small bowl, stir together yogurt, pineapple juice, and lemon juice.
4. Drizzle yogurt mixture over salad. Serve.



## VISION

Quality health for all.



## MISSION

In partnership with the community, deliver sustainable and responsive services that promote population health and equity.



## GOALS

Promote quality, equity, and value. Ensure the HCA's sustainability. Offer relevant services to the community.



## CONNECT WITH US

The **What's Up newsletter** is created and distributed monthly by HCA Communications. We welcome your ideas, input and/or insight into HCA people and programs. To contribute, comment or connect please email us at [hcacomm@ochca.com](mailto:hcacomm@ochca.com) or call **(714) 834-2178**. The HCA is now on Instagram! You can follow us on social media by clicking below.



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**NEW**