

Leno's bill a shot in arm to key niche of health care

Would certify peer support staff, shift service cost to feds

By MARK HEDIN

A MEASURE working its way through the Legislature promises to revolutionize behavioral health care services in California by professionalizing the growing client-driven workforce.

San Francisco state Sen. Mark Leno's Peer and Family Support Specialist Certification Program Act, introduced in February, cleared the Senate 40-0 in late May and is now in the Assembly, where it will be taken up by the Health Committee on July 14.

SB614 would set statewide standards for training, certification and regulation of peer support services, and require Medi-Cal to reimburse counties from half to

all of the costs of those services, according to Leno's office, which said it is amending the Assembly version of the bill "to reflect that much work has already been done here in California."

Peer support is the fastest-growing route to recovery in mental health and substance abuse services. S.F.'s Department of Behavioral Health Services employs several hundred peer specialists and wants to add more.

At least 6,000 people do peer support work in California, and training programs exist, for instance, at City College of San Francisco, which offers a 16-unit Community Mental Health Worker Certificate program, but "every county does it differently," Sally Zinman of the California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations told The Extra. "There's no standard curriculum."

However, more than 30 states and the Department of Veterans Affairs have established curricula and certification protocols for peer provider services, the text of SB614 notes.

The importance of peers in the recovery from addiction and mental illness is explained by Leno in a statement to The Extra:

"Peer providers utilize their lived experience to help others. So their support for people who have mental illness or substance abuse disorders is significant. Studies show that peer specialists help improve an individual's overall recovery and wellness, shorten hospital stays, alleviate depression and reach underserved populations. A statewide certification program will only enhance these services and improve the quality of care standards for Californians who live with mental illness."

"People know that it works," Zinman said. "It's happening and it's going to grow."

With the advent of the Affordable Care Act, there are about 12 million Californians newly enrolled in Medi-Cal. About a quarter of them may require mental health services, Leno's office estimates.

A February report by the California Mental Health Planning Council titled "Peer Certification: What Are We Waiting For?" dubbed peer specialists "the Sherpas of the mental health care world" and said Leno's legislation fills an urgent need because there are likely to be workforce

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA!

SAN FRANCISCO

TENDERLOIN



PHOTO: MARJORIE BEGGS

Two weeks before the Tenderloin Museum opens, it's still shrouded in a plywood parade. The museum's contents weren't available at press time, but The Blackhawk surely has a spot. In a nod to enriching the knowledge of the neighborhood and to complement the museum's opening, The Extra features a jazz expert's appreciation of the club's legacy on Pages 4-6.

Our own museum

Highlights from hood's rich past finally get venue

By MARJORIE BEGGS

RANDY SHAW, Tenderloin Housing Clinic executive director, had a dream eight years ago: a museum to highlight the neighborhood's cool past, its jazz legends, LGBT pioneers, film exchanges, rock recording studios, waves of immigrants, tea dances and much more.

"We need to preserve our past. Our history is amazing," he mused in 2007 at a Tenderloin Futures Collaborative meeting where he introduced his idea to the community. "It'll be a place with photos, artifacts, maybe oral histories on tape."

The reaction was pleased nods tempered with the knowledge that change comes to the Tenderloin slowly.

Fast forward. The Tenderloin Museum opens July 16 on the ground floor of the landmark Cadillac Hotel, 398 Eddy St. Following an invitation-only ceremony, the public's invited at 2 p.m. to see how Shaw has brought his

brainchild to life, following the hood's history from 1906 to "almost the present," he says.

Exhibition centerpieces, he says, will include recordings of music performed at The Blackhawk Jazz Club, at Turk and Hyde, where Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Dave Brubeck, Thelonious Monk and others played 14 years — 1949 to 1963. The club gave these musical giants endless creative opportunities and hugely affected the global perception of jazz.

A historic pinball machine has pride of place, and recordings done at Wally Heider Studios on Hyde Street in the 1970s feature the Grateful Dead, Santana and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.

"We'll also have a big retail presence with Tenderloin-branded items for sale," Shaw says, "T-shirts, posters and more, all done in a distinctive design."

As a nice fit with the Tenderloin's past, the museum will be both a daytime gallery and a destination for evening events. The first, 7 p.m. opening day, celebrates the legacy of transgender activism in the 'Loin with video clips and sound from "Screaming Queens," the 2005 documentary about transgender women and drag queens who fought police harassment at Compton's Cafeteria at Turk and Taylor in 1966, called "ground zero for drugs and violence" by the Tenderloin police just two years ago.

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SUNDAY STREETS

Busy day with fun, music, creativity, helpful stuff

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

TENDERLOIN Sunday Streets, July 12, will be ubiquitous fun, none more than a new event activity at Golden Gate and Jones: Amos Gregory, founder of the S.F. Veterans Mural Project, will be designing a mural at that corner, and everyone's invited to grab a brush and help bring it to life.

Like a Tibetan sand painting, it's temporary, washed off at the end of the day, but a joy for all in the doing.

Practicality and pleasure mix at the annual event, which runs 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. along a route stretching from the corner of Ellis at Larkin to Ellis at Jones,



SVEN EBERLEIN, 2013

Gigantic, undulating bubbles were among the offerings at Tenderloin Sunday Streets in 2013. At the family fun event this year you can get your bike repaired, or help with more serious stuff from all the groups telling about their services.

down Jones to Golden Gate and back to Larkin, and from Fulton outside the Main Library up Larkin back to Ellis.

Sans cars, walking and bicycle-riding lose their frightfulness and become the safest of activities in the TL. New bike rider in the family? SF Bicycle Coalition will be there teaching kids to ride, a staple of Sunday Streets. This year, both the Yellow Bike Project and Bay Area BikeMobile will be making on-the-spot minor bike repairs.

Another great opportunity: Yellow Bike's kid's bike swap. Bring in your kid's outgrown two-wheeler and ex-

change it for one that fits.

At Boeddeker Park, picnic in the grass, then shake a leg — and more — with zumba lessons and basketball. Glide will host dancing and games (giant legos!), and arts groups will be there with interactive projects.

Community groups — Tenants Union, TNDC, St. Anthony's, Young Workers United, Tenderloin Housing Clinic, Wu Yee Children's Services, TL Boys & Girls Club, YMCA and more — will have staff to explain their offerings.

Music will be everywhere: Among the local bands: The Beauty Operators,

a string band playing bluegrass, alt-grass and punk-grass; social justice singer-songwriter Brian Belknap; folk band Alzara & Brother Spellbinder; and alternative folk rock trio Rin Tin Tiger.

Be sure to stop by the Main Library to interact with the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Bait Ball Touchscreen — users, one at a time, touch a big screen where massed "sardines" move and pulse rhythmically to the sound of classical, rock, hip hop, jazz or country music. A digital postcard of the creation, sent via email, gives the user a memento of the activity. ■



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\$3.5 million museum scrambles to open on time

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Screaming Queen Felicia Elizondo will be on hand to give her firsthand account, joined in discussion by transgender activists Tamara Ching and Veronika Fimbres.

Opening night, TL trips guru Del Seymour launches his first nighttime Tenderloin tour from the museum at 8:30 p.m.

All these plans — and the opening date — are vouched for by Shaw, but 16 days before the opening, the work was far behind schedule. The exterior was still under wraps, the interior wasn't finished and no exhibits had begun to be mounted.

The museum's first funding came in

2009, with \$35,000 from the Fifth Age of Man Foundation in the Mission District and a pledge of pro bono design from architectural firm Perkins + Will. A year later, the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development invested \$20,000.

In his MOEWD proposal, Shaw said the museum would improve the neighborhood's image, stimulate business and give the TL "what it has long lacked: a prime daytime destination that attracts tourists and others into the heart of the community."

A confident Shaw told The Extra in 2009 that he expected the museum to be a natural extension of the Uptown Tenderloin Historic District, which he had just established. It would be 6,400

square feet in the basement and ground floor of the Cadillac Hotel, include a cafe, music events and neighborhood tours, cost an estimated \$3 million and open sometime in 2012.

In the end, its square footage was halved — the basement renovation was too costly — and the cafe was nixed for the same reason, he says.

"I haven't tabulated the final cost, but it's likely closer to \$3.5 million," Shaw says today. "Most funding came from private donations — the Indian American SRO-owner community has been particularly generous — and Perkins + Will has been with us since day one." During a one-month Indiegogo campaign in December, the museum also added \$11,515 to its kitty, a little

more than half its crowdfunding goal.

The museum remains Shaw's baby, but day-to-day operations will be the bailiwick of newly named Executive Director Bill Fricker, who has worked with nonprofits serving youth, seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco. Uptown Tenderloin, the nonprofit Shaw established in 2008 to oversee the creation of the historic district, serves as the museum's fiscal sponsor.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed Monday. Adults pay \$10, seniors, students and youth 12 to 21 \$6. Kids under 12: zip. Memberships, from \$35 to \$250, include various admission and event perks. ■

Safe Passage runs into pothole on Eddy Street Cadillac Hotel owner lodges complaint

By TOM CARTER

The 11 blocks of fading yellow bricks that schoolkids follow in the Tenderloin — criticized by a major property owner as a "botched" Safe Passage project lacking maintenance — were being erased by the Department of Public Works in June for repainting in July.

Kathy Looper, owner of the Cadillac Hotel that is on the route, says she wants out of the project, calling it an eyesore in a neighborhood on the rise.

"I've lost faith in it," she told The Extra. "It was never really good in the beginning, and it got worse. Maybe when they work out the kinks, I'll reconsider."

Dina Hilliard, Safe Passage executive director, says Looper is the first property owner to drop away from the four-year project that is generally seen as a symbol of safety in the rough neighborhood.

"But the repainting will just skip her property lines," Hilliard said. "We do that with certain other properties, like garages that have cars going in and out."

Hilliard said Safe Passage is committed to making a mural that is attractive to kids and will add value to properties and please the owners.

In April, Looper wrote Supervisor Jane Kim, complaining that the repainting then was substandard and that Safe Passage had not asked her permission to redo the sidewalk next to the Cadillac Hotel on Leavenworth and Eddy. (See May Extra.)

Looper, as a Community Benefit District board member, had previously supported Safe Passage. But, as a property owner, she said the mural project hadn't been properly maintained since it was first painted on Martin Luther King Day in 2012. She said it was "rapidly becom-

ing bad graffiti on a public sidewalk."

She asked Kim to consult DPW to see if Safe Passage had done proper outreach for the repainting.

Hilliard admitted there were maintenance issues with the gaudy, oversized, yellow bricks, as in road. Early on, she explained, there was no money for maintenance.

After Looper's complaint, newly funded Safe Passage decided to start over and put a total cleanup job up for bid. DPW won it for \$2,700 to \$2,900.

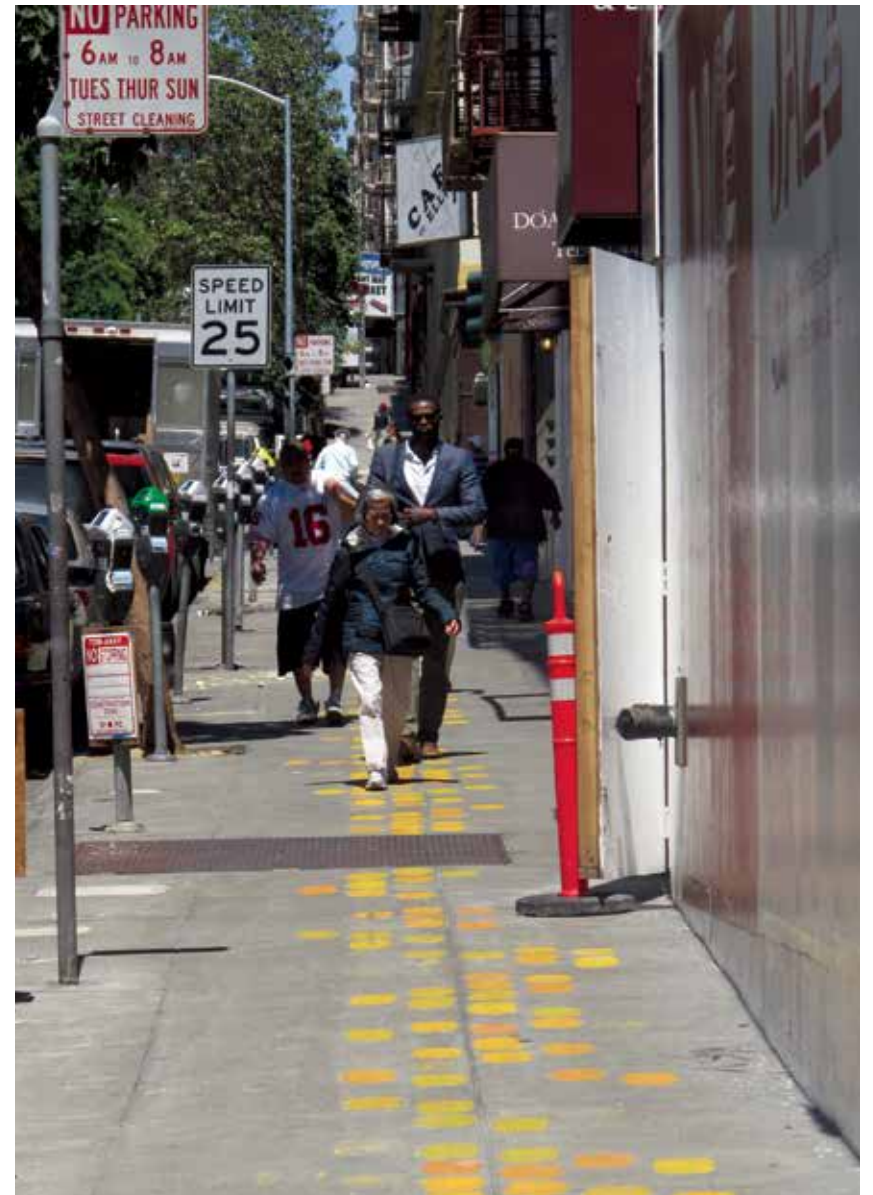
The permit to create and maintain Safe Passage as an "art installation" was held by Safe Passage's previous fiscal sponsor, the Tenderloin CBD.

Safe Passage had been one of the CBD's minimally funded programs until it spun off to another fiscal sponsor — Community Initiatives — last year and soon received two grants totaling \$350,000.

Hilliard said she has applied to DPW to switch the repainting permit to Safe Passage and expects to do the job in July. A permit condition DPW attached, she said, is removal of the current mural. The original mural artist and volunteers had repainted four blocks before the job was suspended and put out to bid.

The job has plenty of paint, thanks to donations from Twitter and DPW. But the pattern will have "less density," meaning fewer yellow bricks, and they'll skip the east side of Leavenworth next to the Cadillac, Hilliard said.

Looper and her late husband Leroy, who was an iconic figure in the neighborhood, bought the hotel in 1977 and turned it into the TL's first supportive housing SRO. The Cadillac is also home to the soon-to-open Tenderloin Museum on the ground floor. ■



MARK HEDIN

The Safe Passage sidewalk route is marked by a progression of colorful "bricks" from yellow to light orange. The project calls it a mural, and Public Works is repainting its 11-block length.

Legislation a boost for peer services

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shortages, "particularly in the area of rehabilitative services."

Since 2007, federal policy has qualified credentialed peer support services for at least 50% funding.

"Because of that," Zinman said, "many states have found a way for credentialing services." But California, with no state-wide credential program in place, has not been eligible for those federal funds. SB614 would fix that.

Leno's measure directs the state Department of Health Care Services, which administers Medi-Cal, to establish a state-wide peer and family support specialist certification program by next July 1 that includes three categories of peer support specialists: adult, family and parent,

"defining responsibilities, practice guidelines, determining curriculum and core competencies, specifying training and continuing education requirements and establishing a code of ethics and certification revocation processes."

A California Legislative Information analysis of SB614 explains that adding parents in certified peer support training expands services to the minors for whom the peer parents are responsible.

Funding for the development and administration of the certification program would come via the Mental Health Services Act established through 2004's Proposition 63 and the Office of State-wide Health Planning and Development. Half of those administrative costs are also eligible for federal reimbursement, Leno's office said. ■

CENTRAL CITY
EXTRA!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST, SUNRU

Artist Sunru fuses ancient rituals with hip hop at SOMArts' *Night Light* event.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tenderloin Sunday Streets, July 12, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. See story page 2. Info: sundaystreetsf.com.

Banking Office Hours, free financial advice for small business owners, July 15, 4-6 p.m., 1167 Mission St., 2nd fl. Urban Solutions-sponsored 30-minute, one-on-one sessions with banking professionals. Space is limited. Signup: steve@urbansolutionsSF.org.

Bridging the Small Business Tech Divide, 8 free sessions beginning in August, Impact Hub, 901 Mission St., Suite 105. For small business owners, current and future, and job-seekers 18-25; take 1 session or all 8. Signup and info: info@urbansolutionsf.org or 415-553-4433 x101.

ARTS EVENTS

Cool Don't Live Here No More: A Letter to San Francisco by Tony Robles, book launch, July

8, 7 p.m., Green Arcade Bookstore, 1680 Market St. Housing rights advocate Robles is co-editor of *Poor Magazine*. Info: thegreenarcade.com.

On Location: The Golden Gate Bridge on the Silver Screen, July 14, 7:30 p.m., Milton Marks Auditorium, 455 Golden Gate Ave. SF Museum and Historical Society's clip-filled program of the bridge in films. Admission \$10, \$5 for students, k-12 teachers, seniors, persons with disabilities. Info: sfhistory.org.

Night Light: Multimedia Garden Party, July 18, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. Fifth annual light-in-art event: art installations and audiovisual performances by 27 artists, and digital and cinematic projections by 30 artists. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Tix: nightlightparty.eventbrite.com. Info: somarts.org/nightlight2015.

Ronnie Goodman — Soul Journey, paintings and prints of Ronnie Goodman, a self-taught homeless artist and distance runner, through Sept. 22, Main Library, Art, Music and Recreation Center. Info: sfpl.org.

REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of each month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Client Council, 3rd Tuesday of month, 3-5 p.m., 1380 Howard, Room 515. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 255-3695. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarding and Cluttering Support Groups, weekly meetings at various times, conducted by Mental Health

Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 928. Info: 421-2926 or mentalhealthsf.org/group-search.

Legal clinic, 4th Thursday of the month, 507 Polk St., 10 a.m.-noon. Legal help for people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities who need help with an SSA work review, sponsored by People with Disabilities Foundation. Sliding-scale fee. By appointment only: 931-3070. Info: pwdf.org.

Mental Health Board, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday of the month, 3 p.m., Kelly Cullen Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium or 5th floor gym. Public meetings to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica.healthytetail@gmail.com, 581-2483.

SAFETY

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x202.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com.

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Info: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., park clubhouse, Eddy and Jones. Info: Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory

Board, 3rd Thursday of month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 5 p.m., 55 Taylor St. Info: 292-4812.

Safe Haven Project, 4th Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m., 519 Ellis St. (Senator Hotel). Contact: 563-3205, x115, or centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario, 701-5580.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Info: 820-1412.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor's Disability Council, 3rd Friday of month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior & Disability Action (formerly Planning for Elders/Senior Action Network), general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1010 Mission St., (Bayanihan Community Center). For info about SDA's Survival School, University and computer class schedules: 546-1333, www.sdaction.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim, member, Land Use Committee, School District, Transportation Authority; chair, Transbay Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors; vice-chair Transportation Authority Plans & Programs Committee. Legislative aides: Sunny Angulo, Ivy Lee and April Veneracion.

Jane.Kim@sfgov.org, 554-7970.

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