

Dear Oakland Community,

As the country makes gains against COVID-19, I am writing to share the progress our teams are making that promise even brighter days ahead. In each update below, I am inspired by, and grateful for, the dedication of our UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals (BCH) teams to serve our young patients with the highest quality care regardless of race, immigration status or ability to pay.

#### UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals Ranked Among the Nation's Best

Earlier this week, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked [our hospitals among the nation's preeminent children's hospitals in all 10 pediatric specialties](#). I was especially pleased to see our rankings rise in almost every category in this year's survey. These gains reflect the strength of our affiliation, which enabled the addition of 85 full-time and 94 part-time UCSF faculty members in Oakland, and also extends our record of achieving top rankings in all 10 pediatric specialties, which we first achieved in 2016.

#### Ongoing Investment in Oakland

We are continuing to make significant financial and clinical investments in Oakland to strengthen and expand our services and programs. To support our goal of becoming the regional leader in pediatric care, we launched a new Benioff Children's Hospitals advertising campaign on June 11. The new ads feature our care providers and are a powerful reminder of why we work so hard to keep kids healthy. See a few of them [here](#).

#### Launching the New PICU (and More)

In FY22 we will open a renovated Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in our Oakland hospital. This state-of-the-art facility will feature 21 private patient rooms, which are critical to providing an outstanding patient experience. In addition, to meet the growing mental health needs of our patient population and to help de-stigmatize these conditions, we are upgrading BCH Oakland's outpatient services facility at 770 53rd Street. This will be the first time our Oakland campus will have a space fully dedicated to behavioral health.

We will soon begin the process of seeking approval from the Oakland City Council for the \$1 billion modernization of inpatient facilities and other systems at our Oakland hospital. This critical project will improve the experience of our patients and families while also providing our clinical teams with the facilities and tools they need and deserve to continue delivering world-class care.

We are excited that this modernization project is also an investment in the Oakland community, with plans to create good-paying jobs to strengthen the local economy. As a part of the community, we will work closely with our neighborhood and key stakeholders every step of the way to ensure the project proceeds with their input. As a part of this effort, I have been attending community meetings and will continue to collaborate closely with our BCH Oakland Community Advisory Board.

#### Labor Contract Negotiations with CNA

Our ambitious plans to continue expanding our care services in Oakland and renovate our facilities are crucial to meeting the needs of our patients and community. To successfully reach our full potential, we need the leadership and contributions of our entire BCH Oakland team, including our valued nurses. Since reaching impasse in September 2020 with CNA on non-wage issues, recent discussions with the assigned Federal Mediator by both parties may signal a way forward. We hope that a mutual

understanding will be attained, so that we can all turn our attention to our shared goal of providing the best care to the children we serve in Oakland and beyond.

I recently sat down with UCSF Health President and CEO Mark Laret for an informal [fireside chat](#) to discuss our priorities and projects for the BCH enterprise, ranging from addressing health disparities to improving access to pediatric mental health services, as well as modernizing the Oakland campus.

The past year and a half have been challenging, but we are emerging from the pandemic with momentum. We have a long-term vision to be one of the greatest children's health enterprises in the nation and the world, and are steadfast in our commitment to improving children's lives near and far for generations to come. And we are well on our way. This is a high aspiration that requires all of us—our clinicians, nurses, non-clinical staff, administrators and community partners—to work closely together. As the progress we are making shows, our future is bright.

Thank you,

Matt Cook

**Matthew Cook (he, him, his)**  
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**UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals**

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