



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Mitchell H. Katz, MD
Director of Health

Appendix A

Draft 2005 State Legislative Plan

In accordance with the vision and mission statements of the Department of Public Health (DPH), this Legislative Plan is intended to serve as a guide to the City's policy positions on legislative, regulatory and budget issues which impact DPH and the health of San Franciscans. To implement its Legislative Plan, DPH works in collaboration with the Mayor's office, the Board of Supervisors, other City departments, the City's State lobbyist, community partners in both the public and private sectors and in coalition with issue-based and industry-based advocacy groups.

1. Emergency Medical Services

- a. Support legislation that would provide funding for State and local health departments to address public health threats from the use of chemical, biological and radioactive agents by terrorists.
- b. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that clarify the regulation of inter-facility emergency medical transportation and ensure coordination with local emergency medical services agencies.
- c. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that support local oversight over diversion policies and policy coordination with local emergency medical services agencies.
- d. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that will enhance the provision of emergency medical services and ensure coordination with local emergency medical services agencies.
- e. Support legislation that will enhance the provision of emergency and/or trauma services and increase funding for the various components of emergency and trauma care and systems, including operations, equipment, infrastructure, ancillary services, public health interventions, and physician reimbursements.
- f. Support legislation that would ensure that hospitals are able to appropriately respond in the event of emergency or disaster, including supporting the development of disaster hospitals, hospital membership in the national disaster medical system, and conversion of current non-acute beds into disaster beds in time of emergency.

2. Environmental Health

- a. Support legislation that promotes safe and healthy living and working environments, including:
 - i. Protecting children from asthma and lead poisoning;
 - ii. Addressing socio-economic/social equality issues, such as food access, livable neighborhoods, and family support policies;
 - iii. Protecting occupational health, including occupational health advocacy and prevention programs for garment workers, sex workers and day laborers;
 - iv. Investigating public health nuisances;
 - v. Regulating restaurants and other establishments that sell food;

- vi. Protecting drinking and recreational water; and
- vii. Monitoring businesses involved in hazardous materials and/or hazardous waste.
- b. Oppose legislation that would preempt local San Francisco lead abatement laws or impose insufficiently-funded new requirements.

3. HIV/AIDS

- a. Oppose legislation that would implement names-based reporting of HIV.
- b. Support legislation that promotes voluntary HIV testing with informed consent, effective HIV prevention, and access to health care and treatment for persons living with HIV.
- c. Oppose legislation that would impose mandatory testing for HIV.
- d. Oppose legislation that could have an adverse effect on HIV prevention and treatment programs.

4. Hospitals

- a. Support legislation to provide funding or financing for costs associated with compliance with hospital seismic safety standards (SB 1953).
- b. Pursue legislation or other authority to facilitate regional planning for compliance with SB 1953 seismic safety requirements.
- c. Monitor legislation relating to charity care and adopt positions that are consistent with the City's charity care ordinance.

5. Health Insurance Expansion / Uninsured

- a. Support legislation that expands health care coverage to uninsured California residents in accordance with San Francisco's goal of providing universal health care coverage.
- b. Support legislation that expands access to purchasing pools for small employers.

6. Healthy Families

- a. Support legislation that would implement the approved Healthy Families parent expansion, including legislation that would:
 - i. establish a seamless system of coverage between Medi-Cal and Healthy Families to ensure that all members of a family have equal access to the same provider networks and benefits;
 - ii. reduce the monthly premium and co-payment maximums for parents and establish a premium scale that is based on income level and household size;
 - iii. provide discounts for parents who choose the community provider plan that are proportional to the discounts they receive for enrolling their children in the community provider plan;
 - iv. provide for targeted outreach at the local level;
 - v. extend coverage to all legal immigrant parents; and
 - vi. ensure that a broad definition of parent includes non-biological parents who are primary caregivers.
- b. Support expansion of eligibility to include parents of eligible children in families with income levels between 250% and 300% of the federal poverty level.
- c. Support continued expansion of eligibility to include:

- i. legal permanent residents who arrived after the passage of federal welfare reform (8/22/96) beyond the 1999-2000 fiscal year; and
 - ii. undocumented residents (State-only funds).
- d. Support legislation to simplify and improve consistency and coordination of the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs.
- e. Support legislation that would maximize federal financial participation from the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).
- f. Oppose legislation that would reduce eligibility or benefits.

7. Homeless

- a. Sponsor legislation that would make supportive housing services a Medi-Cal eligible service.
- b. Support legislation that would enhance DPH's ability to provide coordinated and integrated services to provide appropriate and quality care for the homeless population.
- c. Support increased funding for the Supportive Housing Initiative Act (SHIA) and oppose reductions in SHIA funding.
- d. Support legislation to increase federal financial participation for the development and/or provision of supported housing for special needs populations.

8. Immigrant Access to Health Care

- a. Support legislation to ensure continued eligibility of undocumented residents for:
 - i. community mental health services;
 - ii. long-term care;
 - iii. California Children's Services; and
 - iv. other health care and supportive services.
- b. Support elimination of the cap on State funds that can be used to provide skilled nursing care to undocumented residents.
- c. Oppose legislation that would attempt to limit or deny health care services for undocumented residents.

9. Immunizations

- a. Support legislation that would advance the creation of a regional and/or statewide immunization registry.
- b. Support legislation that would increase access to and provide funding for adult immunizations.
- c. Monitor legislation relating to immunization and adopt positions as appropriate to ensure that the public health benefits to San Franciscans are maximized.
- d. Pursue new State funding to support the infrastructure for core immunization programs.

10. Incarcerated

- a. Support legislation that would expand access to health care for the incarcerated and increase funding for forensic health.
- b. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that remove barriers and increase access to care, housing and services for parolees.
- c. Support legislation that assures that incarcerated individuals are eligible for Medi-Cal immediately upon discharge.

11. Long-Term Care

- a. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on legislation that would impact the provision and/or reimbursement of services in skilled nursing facilities.
- b. Support legislation that would expand access to community-based services that would enable persons to receive appropriate levels of care in the community as an alternative to inpatient care. This includes pilot programs to develop Residential Care facilities as an alternative to psychiatric hospital and long term care.
- c. Support legislation that would move responsibility for payment of long term care placement for Murphy Conservatees back to the State.

12. Medi-Cal Funding and Program Change

- a. Monitor Medi-Cal redesign process and support legislation that would:
 - i. Protect eligibility for individuals who are currently eligible;
 - ii. Simplify the program for beneficiaries and providers;
 - iii. Improve quality of and access to healthcare services;
 - iv. Maintain the health care safety net;
 - v. Ensure that the financing for the health care safety net is, at a minimum, funded at current levels and is sufficiently flexible to address the needs of Medi-Cal eligibles into the future;
- b. Oppose legislation that would create disincentives to enrollment and service utilization, such as co-payments and premiums, for low-income beneficiaries.
- c. Support legislation that efficiently and cost-effectively addresses the health care needs of populations in the least restrictive settings and avoid costly inpatient services.
- d. Support legislation that would remove barriers and increase access of disabled individuals in returning to work.
- e. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate to ensure that State-implemented managed care achieves its goal of improving access for the Medi-Cal population and does not adversely affect beneficiaries or revenues.
- f. Support legislation that would maximize federal financial participation from Medicaid.

13. Mental Health

- a. Support legislation that would provide additional funding for delivery of mental health services to indigent and low-income individuals based on local needs.
- b. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate to ensure that implementation of Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) is consistent with the intent of the Act and will enable San Francisco to advance its Housing First model for homeless mentally ill residents.
- c. Support full retroactive and prospective reimbursement of costs incurred by county mental health departments for providing eligible mental health treatment services to Special Education Program (SEP) pupils (AB 3632).
- d. Support legislation to clarify language in SB 1895 (Burton) and previous legislation to simplify the SB 90 mandate claims process for the AB 3632 program.
- e. Protect Realignment funding, including vehicle license fee resources.
- f. Support efforts to increase the recruitment and training of the public mental health workforce.

- g. Support policies that make the mental health and alcohol and drug treatment systems better able to provide treatment to individuals with co-occurring disorders.
- h. Oppose legislation that would adversely impact delivery of mental health services and restrict availability of funding for these services.

14. Multicultural Health

- a. Support legislation that would reduce disparities in health care access and services.
- b. Support legislation that would increase resources to target health care services to underserved populations.

15. Prevention and Health Promotion

- a. Support legislation that address prevention and health promotion in the following areas:
 - i. tobacco control;
 - ii. behavioral risk factor reduction, including smoking cessation, exercise, and nutrition;
 - iii. violence and injury prevention, such as controls for firearms and pedestrian safety; and
 - iv. supporting alternatives to violence for young people in their schools and their community settings.

16. Proposition 10

- a. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on legislation to amend or clarify Proposition 10 to ensure that funds may be utilized for health promotion and access to health care programs for children.
- b. Develop alternative revenue sources to backfill reductions in Proposition 99 revenues resulting from Proposition 10 implementation.

17. Public Health

- a. Support legislation that would increase funding and program support for core public health activities, including:
 - i. Epidemiology and disease control;
 - ii. Tuberculosis prevention and control;
 - iii. Public health laboratory services; and
 - iv. STD prevention and control.
- b. Support legislation that would provide funding for public hospitals and health systems to support infrastructure enhancements, such as information systems, state of the art medical technology, and quality management data systems.

18. Realignment

- a. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on legislation that would modify the current realignment funding system to ensure adequate, consistent and flexible funding for indigent health, public health, and mental health services.
- b. Oppose legislation that would alter the allocation formula in the current realignment program.
- c. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate to ensure that any county responsibility for enhanced health data collection is adequately funded.

- d. Support legislation to maintain the General Fund backfill for Vehicle License Fee reductions.

19. State Budget

- a. Support budget initiatives that maintain or improve the Department's ability to address the health care and prevention needs of San Franciscans.
- b. Support legislation to ensure new programs and mandates include sufficient funding and oppose unreimbursed state mandates.
- c. Oppose budget initiatives that reduce funding to the Department's health care and prevention services.

20. Substance Abuse

- a. Sponsor legislation to create a category of State licensure for mobile methadone treatment.
- b. Support policies that make the mental health and alcohol and drug treatment systems better able to provide treatment to individuals with co-occurring disorders.
- c. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate in accordance with San Francisco's Treatment on Demand efforts.
- d. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that support local drug courts.

21. Other Health-Related Issues

- a. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that support DPH's mission to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans, including:
 - i. Ensuring access to affordable prescription drugs;
 - ii. Increasing the health care work force through programs that recruit, train and retain individuals for employment in the health care field;
 - iii. Maximizing federal financial participation for the cost of HIPAA implementation at the local level.
 - iv. Supporting efforts to implement Proposition 215 for distribution of marijuana for medicinal purposes.
 - v. Supporting DPH's vital records-related services.