



City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of September 6, 2016

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Health Commission Holds Meeting in the Tenderloin

The Department of Public Health sincerely thanks GLIDE for hosting this very special Health Commission meeting in the Tenderloin. Engaging with the community is an essential part of our and the Health Commission's work, and we are delighted to be present at such an important community space. The Department would also like to extend a very special thank you to Rita Shimmin, Executive Director of GLIDE, and co-founders Reverend Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani for welcoming us and providing a space where the community's thoughts and health concerns can be heard. The Department is grateful for Glide's cooperation and assistance in organizing this meeting. For over 50 years, GLIDE has offered safe space where all San Franciscans are treated with love and dignity.

Political Activity by City Officers and Employees

In advance of the upcoming November election, the City Attorney's Office has provided its most recent outline of basic legal rules restricting political activities by City commissions, departments, officers and employees. This includes restrictions on use of City Resources, Off Duty Political Activity, Mass Mailings using City Funds, Campaign Contributions to Elected Officials from City Contractors, and Campaign Contributions Solicited or Accepted by Appointed Officials. For a complete outline of the rules please see: <http://www.sfcityattorney.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Political-Activity-2016.pdf>

Surgeon General asks for Pledge to Help Turn Tide against Opioid Crisis

In a historic first, the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy has sent a letter to 2.3 million American health professionals, asking them to lead a national movement to turn the tide on the nation's prescription opioid epidemic. "I know solving this problem will not be

easy,” Dr. Murthy writes. “We often struggle to balance reducing our patients’ pain with increasing their risk of addiction. But, as clinicians, we have the unique power to help end this epidemic.”

This marks the first time that a U.S. Surgeon General has sent a letter directly to the nation’s health professionals seeking their support in addressing a public health crisis. Since April, Dr. Murthy has been visiting American communities hardest hit by the opioid epidemic, talking to health professionals, community leaders and people who have recovered from opioid use disorder. And later this year he will release the first-ever Surgeon General’s report on alcohol, drugs and health.

This effort builds upon the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Opioid Initiative focused on tackling the nation’s opioid epidemic, as well as the National Pain Strategy, the federal government’s first coordinated plan to reduce the burden of chronic pain in the U.S. Providers can sign the pledge to “Turn the Tide” at TurnTheTideRx.org.

Electronic Health Record Update

The DPH-APeX team is currently in the due diligence phase of coming to a contract with UCSF to use their Epic Electronic Health Record. Division leaders from Clinical, Pharmacy, Anesthesia, Revenue Cycle, Technical Infrastructure and Support, Interfaces and Data Conversion, Governance, Legal and Business and Facilities are busy mapping our existing infrastructure and applications to see how they can fit with UCSF’s Epic. A go/no-go decision will be made this month, and parallel contingency plans are underway. A presentation to staff highlighting the benefits and clarifying the goals of the project has been given by workgroup leaders and presented at many management and leadership forums throughout the DPH. Overall, staff are excited about the project and are ready to do the very important work it will take to put it into place over the next 2-4 years.

Behavioral Health GROWTH Project

The GROWTH Project (Growing Recovery and Opportunities for Work Through Horticulture) is a new landscaping training and employment program created by Behavioral Health Services, the Citywide Employment Program, and Asian Neighborhood Design, and funded through an Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations grant. This exciting new program provides a three-month classroom training and six-month paid work opportunity to Behavioral Health clients to help them prepare for careers in the fast-growing field of landscaping. Program planning began in January and launched in April of 2016. To date, the GROWTH Project has trained ten clients and hired eight as paid workers. Their first project, completed in August of 2016, is a horticultural makeover of Behavioral Health headquarters at 1380 Howard Street, including a roof terrace garden of California native plants and a colorful container garden in the downstairs lobby, both of which have earned rave reviews from staff and clients. The GROWTH team will soon start work at South of Market Mental Health, installing a newly designed garden in front of the clinic. After that, the GROWTH Project will landscape the back patio area of Sunset Mental Health. The team looks forward to continuing its work to make BHS clinics around the City more welcoming and green, while providing BHS clients with valuable training and current paid experience to support their recovery and re-entry into the workforce.

Security Update

ZSFG Security Director Basil Price has started a running column in Fast Facts, the bi-weekly newsletter that goes out to all department staff on important security precautions. Topics have included safe handling of mail and how to be safe when walking on city streets. There is also a series of security briefings and trainings that will be led at ZSFG Management Forum and Staff Forum meetings. Upcoming topics include Active Shooter Trainings, and the new Mass Notification System, which will alert staff on their mobile devices in the case of an emergency. Basil can be contacted to set up security trainings at sites throughout the DPH, and can be reached at 415-206-2577.

SFDPH at Folsom Street Fair

Folsom Street Fair is a community event that takes place in San Francisco every September. Their mission is to unite alternative lifestyle communities with safe venues, encourage self-expression and exciting entertainment, and raise funds to sustain San Francisco-based and national charities. The Fair takes place on September 25.

SFDPH Population Health Division will be participating again this year by advocating for safe sex practices while providing information and outreach to the community. SFDPH is looking for volunteers to help during the hours of 11 AM - 6 PM. There are also opportunities for RNs, MDs, NPs, and EMS to volunteer throughout the day at the medical tents on-site. For more information, please contact Justin.dauterman@sfdph.org

Laguna Honda 150 Years of Service Community Celebration

Laguna Honda will be holding a community celebration honoring 150 years of service to the people of San Francisco. There will be activities, food trucks, music, and a screening of the film "States of Grace" about SFDPH Physician Grace Dammann and her heroic triumph over a head-on accident on the Golden Gate Bridge. The event will take place Saturday, October 15th from 11am to 3pm, with the screening to follow.