



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 March 7, 2017

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

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

#### ACA Repeal and Replace Legislation Introduced

Yesterday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) released legislation as part of House Republicans’ effort to repeal and replace Obamacare through a budget process known as reconciliation. Called the American Health Care Act (AHCA), the bill is expected to be concurrently marked up by two committees tomorrow. If these committees successfully agree to legislation this week, the Budget Committee is expected to act the following week, then the Rules Committee the week after that with potential House floor action the week of March 27. Following are some of the key elements of the bill:

ACA component repealed	House Replacement (aka reduction)
<b>Individual Mandate</b> to carry insurance, effective January 2016	<b><i>Continuous Health Insurance Coverage Incentive</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurers may charge 30% more for individuals who were uninsured for more than 63 days in past year</li> </ul>
<b>Employer Penalty</b> for not offering employee coverage, effective January 2016	<b><i>Delays the “Cadillac Tax”</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delays from 2019 to 2024 the effective date for the 40 percent excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage, also known as Cadillac plans</li> </ul>
<b>Medicaid Expansion</b> , effective 2020	Allows states the option to continue the Medicaid Expansion through 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminates enhanced federal funding for new enrollees, effective 2020 (CA would go back to 50% federal match rather than 90%)</li> <li>Requires semi-annual eligibility reconfirmations</li> </ul>

<b>ACA component repealed</b>	<b>House Replacement (aka reduction)</b>
N/A	<p><b><i>Medicaid Per-Capita Cap</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significantly alters Medicaid financing, by limiting federal support via a mechanism based on states' FY2016 costs</li> <li>• As of 2020, states with costs exceeding the cap would lose federal funding the following year</li> <li>• per-capita caps based on categories: elderly, blind and disabled, children, non-expansion adults, and Expansion adults</li> <li>• reporting requirements added for all categories</li> </ul>
<b>Income-based tax credits</b> for purchasing insurance on the exchanges, effective 2020	<p><b><i>Age-based tax credits</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ranging from \$2000 to \$4000, increasing with age</li> <li>• capped at \$14,000 per year for family</li> <li>• phase out with incomes greater than \$75,000</li> </ul>
<b>Cost-sharing subsidies</b> for out-of-pocket costs, effective 2020	<p><b><i>Patient and State Stability Fund</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States may use for: high-risk pools; payments to insurers or providers; out-of-pocket costs</li> <li>• available at 85% of current funding through 2018 and 2019</li> </ul>
<b>Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) cuts</b> , effective 2020	<b><i>DSH funding restored</i></b> as of 2018 in non-Expansion states and as of 2020 in Expansion states
<b>Essential Health Benefits</b> setting minimum coverage effective 2020	<p><b><i>"increased benefit flexibility" for states</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retains protections for pre-existing conditions, allowing young adults to remain on their parents' plans (lifetime bans not addressed)</li> </ul>

### **Mayor Lee and San Francisco Interfaith Council announce new Immigration Defense Fund**

Mayor Edwin M. Lee announced on Thursday, March 2, 2017 that the City and County of San Francisco in partnership with the San Francisco Interfaith Council will launch a new funding program that will provide resources and support to non-profit and community-based organizations serving immigrant communities. The new Immigration Defense Fund will bolster San Francisco's frontline immigrant-support organizations. These non-profit and community groups provide legal representation at deportation hearings, citizenship and asylum services, and legal counsel for unaccompanied minors, among a bevy of other services.

"San Francisco, is and always will be, a Sanctuary City for all residents," said Mayor Edwin M. Lee. "If our citizens live in fear of being deported, they are not visiting hospitals, going to their jobs, or even sending their children to school. When we support our residents, San Francisco is a healthier, safer, and more productive place to live. These organizations fulfill crucial roles for our immigrant communities and we are committed to upholding their mission. San Francisco will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our immigrant communities and fight for the progress we've achieved in this City."

The Fund is the result of a collaboration between the Mayor's Office, members of the Board of Supervisors, the philanthropic and business communities, and the Interfaith Council, a coalition comprised of more than 800 local congregations representing various faiths. The City will promote and encourage philanthropic institutions and individuals to support the Fund, which will be managed and overseen by the Interfaith Council.

### **State Leaders requesting Immigration and Customs Enforcement policies**

On January 25th, the President signed an executive order greatly expanding the pool of undocumented immigrants considered "enforcement priorities" by ICE. On Thursday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, the President celebrated what he called a successful "military operation" having rounded up over 678 undocumented immigrants across 12 states. ICE raids have also recently been conducted here in our own Sanctuary City (Good Samaritan in the Mission on January 26th, and in the Outer Sunset on March 1st). State leaders are saying they are having difficulty getting information from ICE and have filed requests with the federal government through the Freedom of Information Act. They are seeking information on ICE policies on actions at churches, schools and other public places. They especially want to know how ICE is treating so-called Dreamers, people brought here illegally as children by their parents.

"We're getting reports from the community that Dreamers are being stopped. We're getting reports that mothers are being taken from hospitals who have no criminal records," said Senator Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) "So we need to have clarity in order for public officials in California to move policies that will protect the values and people of California." Lawmakers also want to know how ICE is responding to the recent executive order expanding immigration actions. De León said it appears all undocumented Californians are being targeted, not just those with criminal records.

### **CDPH Terminates AIDS Drug Assistance Program Contract**

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program, overseen by the California Public Health Department, helps nearly 30,000 low-income HIV and AIDS patients in California pay for medications, insurance premiums and medical care. The state announced recently it has terminated their contract with A.J. Boggs & Company, the contractor who has been responsible for enrolling patients in the program, because of several "material breaches," including the failure to keep an online enrollment portal working properly. The termination of the company's enrollment contract followed a report in January by California Healthline and Kaiser Health News that patients were unable to get necessary drugs and timely care. California public health department officials said they planned to determine eligibility and enroll patients directly rather than contract with a new company to do so. It wasn't clear how long the state will manage these services in-house, but the department's statement said it was "exploring all long-term options."

### **San Francisco Files Amicus Brief in Support of Transgender Students' Rights**

San Francisco, together with 30 other cities, counties, and mayors, filed a brief on Thursday, March 2, 2017, with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of transgender students' right to be free from discrimination at school, including the right to use restrooms and other sex-segregated facilities consistent with their gender identity. The brief was prepared by San Francisco and New York City. It was joined by Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle, Salt Lake City and two

dozen other cities, counties and mayors. The brief argues that Title IX — a federal law forbidding discrimination in schools on the basis of sex — protects transgender students from discrimination.

Antidiscrimination laws are also necessary to guarantee transgender people the ability to fully participate in public life. Without them, transgender people can suffer serious barriers to obtaining education and working, including health consequences. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, in 2015 alone, 59 percent of transgender individuals reported avoiding bathrooms at work, at school, and in public places for fear of confrontation. Without bathroom access, many transgender people avoid eating and drinking, or avoid using bathrooms when they need to, which can cause them to contract infections. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments on March 28, 2017.

### **Interrupt, Predict and Organize (IPO) Participants Complete Year-Long Placement**

In June, the first cohort of IPO participants will conclude their year-long placement with DPH, which is one of the host sites for the program. IPO, “Interrupt, Predict, and Organize for a safer San Francisco,” was created in 2012 as part of Mayor Ed Lee’s Violence Prevention and Intervention initiative. It provides job readiness training, paid employment opportunities, and community-based services for high-risk youth who have shown a desire and readiness to build job skills and secure stable employment.

DPH is pleased to partner with this program, and participants have been working as Public Service Trainees at ZSFG, Laguna Honda Hospital, and throughout DPH. Their time here has provided them with opportunities to learn skills that will help them prepare to enter the workforce while also exposing them to many different career paths that exist here at DPH.

The program is designed to help the participants remove barriers that make it difficult to enter the workforce and put them on a path to success. Previous cohorts have had high success rates and Citywide over 60 percent have secured long-term employment after exiting the program. Their site supervisors, who provide meaningful mentorship and training opportunities, are essential to that goal. Our next cohort will be forming soon, and we will be looking for managers and supervisors who would like to participate. Here’s a link to a short film about the program: <http://violenceprevention.sfgov.org/employment.html>

### **Laguna Honda Hosts popular Black History Event**

Patients, families, staff from all over the DPH, and community members came together at Laguna Honda on Friday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Black History Month. The event, featuring Dr. Joy DeGruy, Dr. Ken Hardy, and Harriet Washington, focused on the aftermath of historical trauma and today’s societal need for racial humility.

### **Beautiful Patient Story Featured on WBUR, Boston’s NPR News Station**

Dr. Shieva Khayam-Bashi and her team at Zuckerberg San Francisco General are featured in a beautiful story about the staff working to unite a dying patient with his estranged daughter and the grandson he’d never met. Click here for the story: <http://www.wbur.org/kindworld/2017/02/28/kind-world-34-so-much-more>

## **Maria X. Martinez on panel to discuss the Geography of Homelessness**

Maria will be joined by health leaders, researchers and educators to discuss innovative projects addressing the intersections of place, technology and Health. The panel also features Dr. Margaret Handley from the Center for Vulnerable Population at Zuckerberg San Francisco General. The event takes place on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at the SF State Library, Rm 286.

### **SFDPH in the news:**

#### **Calif. To Step up Scrutiny Of Hospitals With High Rates Of Patient Infections**

<http://khn.org/morning-breakout/state-highlights-calif-to-step-up-scrutiny-of-hospitals-with-high-rates-of-pateint-infections-fla-lawmakers-poised-take-on-hospital-deregulation-funding/>

#### **California health officials fire contractor in HIV drug program**

<http://www.sfgate.com/health/article/California-health-officials-fire-contractor-in-10970071.php>

#### **Science closing in on polio-like virus that paralyzed children**

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Science-closing-in-on-polio-like-virus-that-10961180.php?cmpid=gsa-sfgate-result>

#### **Bay Area Cannasseur: Spicer throws cold water on legal pot**

<http://www.ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=72399>

#### **World Conference Showcases Advances in Precision Medicine**

<https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2017/03/405876/world-conference-showcases-advances-precision-medicine>

#### **SF set to pay millions to settle suit in crash that killed woman**

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/SF-set-to-pay-millions-to-settle-suit-in-crash-10963680.php>

#### **Why Deadly Chemicals May Linger in Cities Under the EPA's New Administrator**

<https://www.citylab.com/politics/2017/02/why-deadly-chemicals-may-linger-in-cities-under-the-epas-new-administrator/517494/>

#### **SF has bold proposal to protect Muslims**

<http://trueviralnews.com/sf-has-bold-proposal-to-protect-muslims/>

#### **S.F. General spreads the love at annual Heroes & Hearts fete**

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/style/article/S-F-General-spreads-the-love-at-annual-Heroes-10954311.php>

#### **Researchers explore link between substance abuse and HIV**

<http://www.healio.com/infectious-disease/hiv-aids/news/online/%7B8b2c68f9-311c-4f53-8223-d77215c1b552%7D/researchers-explore-link-between-substance-abuse-and-hiv>