



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 April 4, 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>

Effort to Repeal the Affordable Care Act Stalled

On Friday, March 24th, Speaker Paul Ryan pulled the American Health Care Act (AHCA), the bill that would have repealed and replaced the Affordable Health Act (ACA), from the House floor just before a scheduled vote. The failure to vote on this bill today means that Affordable Care Act, enacted seven years ago, continues to remain in place and efforts to repeal it have stalled. Today was an important victory for everyone who has worked over the years to assure that everyone has access to affordable, quality healthcare. The defeat of this bill is a great win for the 93,000 San Franciscans who receive insurance through the ACA's Medicaid expansion program and the 40,000 San Franciscans who purchased insurance through Covered California.

There are no clear next steps on the effort to repeal the ACA, but we will continue to monitor activity at the federal level. As always, at the Department of Public Health, our mission has not changed, we will continue to serve all those in need of care, without regard to immigration or insurance status and monitor any changes to the ACA and potential impacts to San Francisco.

SFDPH announces Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

San Francisco announced Friday, March 31st, a new program to reduce the number of people with substance use disorder and mental illness who are incarcerated, by redirecting them into treatment before they are arrested. The Health Department will lead this effort, and has received preliminary notice of a \$5.9 million grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to support the work. San Francisco's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD SF) is a pre-booking diversion program that is a collaboration between the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the Police Department, BART Police, the District Attorney, the

Public Defender, Sheriff's Department, Adult Probation, and community partners Glide, Felton Institute and Drug Policy Alliance. LEAD SF will refer repeat, low-level drug offenders, at the earliest contact with law enforcement, to community-based health and social services as an alternative to jail and prosecution. LEAD SF is based on a successful Seattle program by the same name. It will begin in late April in two parts of the city with a large number of drug-possession arrests: the Tenderloin/Civic Center BART Station and the Mission/16th Street BART Station.

SFQuits! Campaign doubles efforts to help SF Smokers Quit

April 1st marked the rollout of a statewide \$2 tobacco tax. In response, SFDPH is launching SFQuits! on April 3, 2017 to provide free Quit Smoking kits to help people to cut down and quit smoking. The SFQuits! campaign will provide the free Kits to people who live in San Francisco. The kits contain supportive anti-smoking aids, guidance, and referrals to free classes and counseling for those who wish to reduce and break the habit, and is the only campaign of its kind statewide.

“There has never been a better time for San Franciscans to quit smoking” notes Dr. Tomás Aragón, Health Officer for the City and County of San Francisco. “The price for cigarettes and other tobacco products is going way up, but the price to quit is totally free!”

People can receive the free Quit Smoking Kit by calling 628-206-7668 or visiting SFQuits.org. A city-wide ad campaign including outdoor, TV, radio and newspaper will be running April through June.

SFDPH releases Service and Support Animals Policy

DPH recognizes the importance of providing equitable access to its facilities and services to individuals with disabilities. The new DPH Service and Support Animals policy provides guidance to our facilities, clinics, and hospitals, including those operated by DPH contractors, on allowing service and support animals. The policy covers both day-to-day access and long-term residential situations, and ensures our compliance with related Americans with Disability Act and other federal, state, and San Francisco disability access laws, and the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Disability policies. This policy covers all clients/patients and visitors of our DPH and DPH-contracted sites, but does not apply to employees. Here's a link to the policy: https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/PoliciesProcedures/ServiceSupportAnimalsDPHpolicy_Final.pdf

National Public Health Week

April 3-9 is National Public Health Week and the department will be once again be active on social media to connect with other Public Health Departments across the nation. This year's theme is “Healthiest Nation by 2030.” SFDPH will post about many of the NPHW themes including Healthy Communities, Social Justice & Health Equity, Healthy Food, Climate Change & Health and Quality Health Care. Follow us [@SF DPH](#)

Priscilla Chan wins 2017 Visionary of the Year award

Priscilla Chan, born in the U.S. to Chinese refugees from Vietnam, former tutor, then science teacher, and now pediatrician at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, and also wife of Mark Zuckerberg, has won the SF Chronicle's 2017 Visionary of the Year Award. Chan trained at Zuckerberg San Francisco General, and she and husband Mark Zuckerberg gave \$75 Million dollars to ZSFG. Now they are pledging to give \$3 billion over the next 10 years to cure, treat, or prevent all known human diseases. San Francisco, she said, "gave me the technical skills to do my work," as well as "the culture where we have the audacity to see that anything's possible."

Honoring Samuel Ammons

Mr. Samuel G. Ammons, a current employee at Mission Mental Health, will retire on May 1, 2017 after working 63 years for the City and County of San Francisco. Mr. Ammons, a Korean War Veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart, celebrated his 87th birthday on April 3rd. He's been a San Francisco resident for 65 years and began working for the department in 1953, first as a psych orderly at San Francisco General and then at Laguna Honda. Sam has many memorable moments in his career, here's what he had to say in an article in "The Bridge" the newsletter of the SF Health Network: "I'm 86 years of age. I like to see people. I like to help people. Some clients I've known for 25 or 30 years. They always tell me, 'Mr. Ammons, you're so nice.' That's one of the things that keeps me going." Mr. Ammons' retirement party will be held on April 19th from 12-2pm at Mission Mental Health Center, 2712 Mission Street. All are invited.

SFDPH in the News:

City offers quitting help before tobacco tax kicks in Saturday

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/City-offers-quitting-help-before-new-tobacco-tax-11034445.php>

Panel passes injection bill

<http://www.ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=72465>

Fighting Children's Cavities in Chinatown: It Takes a Coalition

<https://ww2.kqed.org/stateofhealth/2017/03/29/fighting-childrens-cavities-in-chinatown-it-takes-a-coalition/>

City Considering First Official Sponsor For Long-Unofficial '4/20 Day'

<http://hoodline.com/2017/03/city-considering-first-official-sponsor-for-long-unofficial-4-20-day>

With reliance on federal funding, SF budget hangs in the balance

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/reliance-federal-funding-sf-budget-hangs-balance/>

Public Health Accreditation Board's Rigorous National Standards Now Benefiting 178 Million U.S. Residents

<http://www.chron.com/business/press-releases/article/Public-Health-Accreditation-Board-s-Rigorous-11023240.php>

Partnership Develops Ambitious Public Health Policies on Sugar, Alcohol and Children's Dental Health

<https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2017/03/406186/partnership-develops-ambitious-public-health-policies-sugar-alcohol-and>

Health Impact Assessment Can Inform Community Development Decisions

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2017/03/health-impact-assessment-can-inform-community-development-decisions>

Family of SF woman who died after drinking toxic tea sues herbalist

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Herbal-shop-sued-by-family-SF-woman-who-died-11021132.php>

Critics: GOP health plan risky for mental health, addiction progress

<http://www.lakecountrynow.com/story/news/politics/2017/03/22/critics-gop-health-plan-risky-mental-health-addiction-progress/99432896/>

Library Staff May Be Trained To Intervene In Drug Overdoses

<http://hoodline.com/2017/03/library-staff-may-be-trained-to-intervene-in-drug-overdoses>