



The San Francisco Department of Public Health

# Post-Election

Supporting DPH patients, clients, and staff

Update #3, January 23, 2017

1/24/2017



# Overview of this update

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# Current Situation

To date, no changes have been implemented.

Our patients and clients should be encouraged to access health and insurance services as they have been.

We are not certain what changes are coming.

There is speculation about potential changes that could impact SFDPH and those we serve, including:

- Sanctuary City and federal grants
- Affordable Care Act

# State Budget Update

**Governor Brown released his proposed budget for FY 2017-2018 (1/10).**

The budget remains largely flat for Health & Human Services.

The budget maintains the State's commitment to the Medi-Cal program, continues funding for all children regardless of immigration status, and proposes secured revenues for permanent supportive housing.

**The Governor's budget does not take into account the impact of potential changes to the Affordable Care Act.**

# Federal Appointment Confirmations

## Cabinet confirmations hearings have begun

- Nominees cannot be confirmed until Inauguration Day (1/20)
- Hearings are occurring now to have nominations ready by 1/20
- HHS Secretary Nominee Tom Price went before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 1/18
- Actual confirmation hearing before Senate Finance Committee on 1/24

Secretary of Health & Human Services Nominee:  
Representative Tom Price

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# Affordable Care Act: Budget Resolution

**Congress passed a Budget Resolution that allows an avenue for changes to be made to the ACA . The resolution:**

- Allows only budget-related provisions to be changed.
- Includes reserve funds to preserve savings resulting from the repeal to offset the cost of a replacement plan
- Directs the House and Senate to submit legislation by 1/27/17 that specifies ACA changes

**It is still unclear what provisions of the ACA will be repealed and/or replaced. Examples could include:**

- Phase out or rollback of matching funds for the Medicaid expansion
- Eliminating individual and employer mandate penalties
- Ending Premium Tax Credits and creating a new Individual/Family Tax Credit.

# Affordable Care Act: Potential Repeal Plan

**In 2015, Rep. Price proposed an ACA repeal bill (vetoed by the President), which may provide insight into potential changes to the ACA.**

The plan erased major portions of the ACA and the Congressional Budget Office estimated the plan would result in millions of people losing insurance and increases in health insurance premiums.

The President-Elect has made several recent statements about the ACA and his plan.

- Developing a plan to repeal and replace the ACA “essentially simultaneously”
- Plan will include “insurance for everybody”
- Will wait until HHS Secretary Tom Price is confirmed to release his plan

# Affordable Care Act: Executive Order Issued

## About Executive Orders

- Generally directed at government agencies.
- Cannot, repeal or amend a statute and is not authoritative if it is contrary to law.
- Can reduce resources or cease enforcement of undesirable elements of the law.
- Neither the full ACA nor any of its requirements can be legally repealed through executive order.

**On 1/20/17, President Trump issued an Executive Order directing agencies to “minimize the unwarranted economic and regulatory burdens” of the ACA.**

The Executive Order on its own does not repeal the ACA, but it could affect health insurance markets and the current healthcare system.

# Affordable Care Act: Local Impact

**The ACA has had many positive local impacts on SF residents.**

- 95,000 new enrollees in Medicaid expansion
- 40,000 insured through Covered California
- Uninsurance rate cut in half
- Fewer San Franciscans are delaying needed care
- More San Franciscans assess their own health as good or better

# What San Francisco is doing

The city hosted Bay Area Congressional leaders to talk about the gains made under the ACA.

Mayor Lee launched the Equity and Immigrant Services Campaign to serve the legal needs of the City's immigrant community promote partnerships with community-based organizations.

Mayor Lee and Supervisor Sheehy convened an ACA roundtable. including DPH, Human Services Agency and representatives from the city's provider communities.

Board of Supervisors created a Budget & Finance Federal Select Committee to address potential changes in federal policy.

# What SFDPH is doing

## **SF Chronicle Op-Ed written by Directors Garcia and Rhorer (1/13/17)**

- ACA has made SF healthier and strengthened our social safety net.
- We are dedicated to maintaining these gains.
- Health care reform is an investment in our friends, neighbors and families.
- No proposals to replace ACA will improve our health care system if they threaten to have our most vulnerable citizens revert to going without insurance or doing without routine care.

# What SFDPH is doing (cont.)

Developing and sharing communications tools for patients, clients, and staff

- Office of Policy & Planning – Colleen Chawla, Nicki Sandberg
- Communications Office – Rachael Kagan, Linda Acosta

Representing DPH in city/community conversations regarding Sanctuary City

- Director of Interdivisional Initiatives – Ayanna Bennett
- Office of Policy & Planning – Sneha Patil

Tracking and analyzing policy developments

- Office of Policy & Planning – Colleen Chawla, Cyndy Comerford, Nicki Sandberg

Conducting a risk assessment and leading budget planning activities

- Finance – Greg Wagner, Jenny Louie

# What you can do

- Continue to support your patients, your clients, and your colleagues.
- Use only SFDPH-approved communication materials (available on the [Post-Election website](#))
  - You're Safe Here! Flyer
  - Message from Barbara Garcia postcard
  - PowerPoint presentations for staff
- Email questions or topics you would like covered in future updates to [post-election@sfdph.org](mailto:post-election@sfdph.org)

Worried since the election? Here are the facts.

## You're Safe Here!



Your health coverage has not changed.

You can continue to receive care here.

San Francisco is and will always be a sanctuary city.

We are here for you.



San Francisco Department of Public Health

# Director Garcia's message to patients & clients

- The election has not changed our commitment to you to provide quality health care.
- Please continue to seek services with your San Francisco Department of Public Health providers, including care at our clinics and hospital services at Zuckerberg San Francisco General and Laguna Honda.
- We will continue to provide health care to all San Franciscans in need, regardless of immigration or insurance status.