



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

### **Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of April 2, 2019**

*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>

#### **Assembly Bill 1557**

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco) and Mayor London N. Breed announced state legislation to reduce recidivism and treat substance use disorders by increasing access to pharmacologic treatment for incarcerated populations. Assembly Bill 1557 would create an opt-in pilot program and provide state funding for medically assisted treatment (MAT) programs in city and county jails.

People with a history of substance use are significantly overrepresented in jails and prisons. One statewide study showed 58 percent of inmates in California had substance use disorders. In 2018, 80 percent of the approximately 18,000 bookings in San Francisco County Jail involved individuals who reported substance use. Incarceration can create significant risks for individuals with a history of substance use, including untreated withdrawals, disrupted treatments, and increased risks of overdose. Multiple medications are now available to treat substance use. MAT treatment programs have been effectively implemented in jails and prisons across the country to better treat substance use disorders in incarcerated populations and disrupt cycles of recidivism.

AB 1557 would create a three-year opt-in pilot program for city or county jails to receive state funding for a MAT program using FDA-approved medications. The legislation would require participating MAT programs to identify the target populations early in the detainment process and help inmates transition back into the community. The San Francisco Department of Public Health is supporting AB 1557. AB 1557 is expected to be heard in the Assembly Health Committee in April.

#### **Mayor Breed Appoints Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland as Director of Mental Health Reform**

On Weds, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Mayor London N. Breed appointed Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland to serve as Director of Mental Health Reform. In this new role created by Mayor Breed, Dr. Nigusse Bland will be responsible for reviewing how San Francisco provides mental health and substance use services



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to homeless individuals, people at risk for ending up on the street, and other vulnerable populations. Dr. Nigusse Bland, a UCSF psychiatrist is the Medical Director for Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) at Zuckerberg San Francisco General. Starting April 8<sup>th</sup>, in his new position, he will report to Dr. Grant Colfax, San Francisco's Director of Health. Dr. Nigusse Bland's responsibilities as Director of Mental Health Reform will include reviewing San Francisco's approach to mental health care and making recommendations for reforms. This includes strengthening programs that are proving effective and finding solutions to gaps in the current continuum of mental health care services. He will work with community providers to develop strategies to better coordinate services across the City, with an emphasis on programs that lower barriers to care for homeless clients.

"From my vantage point at Psychiatric Emergency Services, I have seen people in crisis who are disconnected from care and resources in the community," said Dr. Nigusse Bland. "I look forward to working with community providers to develop a strategic approach to mental health and substance use services for people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. While the system works well most of the time, I will be focusing on the gaps that leave some of our highly vulnerable residents at risk. What can we do to bend in their direction?"

### **Progress underway on ZSFG billing**

The Health Department's teams from the San Francisco Health Network and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital are completing the plan to improve ZSFG billing practices that was announced by Mayor Breed and Supervisor Peskin on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Recommendations will be brought to Health Commission on April 16<sup>th</sup> for your consideration.

We are focusing our efforts on patient protections and creating new policies that prevent patients from being caught in the middle of disputes between the hospital and the insurance industry, when insurance companies do not pay adequately for the care we provide their customers. Patient protections fall into three main categories. First, we have halted the practice of patient balance billing and collections during the development of the new policies. Second, we will present a plan to make discounts and bill reductions for patients available to more people by increasing the eligibility for charity care and sliding scale programs, based on income. Third, we will propose to set an out-of-pocket maximum for patients of all income levels. Meanwhile, our patient financial services team continues to resolve bills for patients and pursue insurance payments for services.

Prioritizing financial protections for individual patients is the top order of business, and we will therefore be presenting those proposals to the Health Commission first. We also will provide an update on additional work, such as studying our rates in comparison to other hospitals, conducting a



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financial analysis of the proposed changes, supporting legislative policy solutions and improving patient communications.

Above all, we care about people. ZSFG's mission is to provide high quality health care and trauma services with compassion and respect. We care for our patients in all ways, and are proud to play a critical role as the City's only trauma center and safety net hospital. Although the vast majority of our patients do not have private insurance, every patient matters equally. We also believe that the insurance industry should pay its fair share for the care patients deserve and we provide, and that neither patients, nor taxpayers should be made to pick up the slack.

San Francisco residents already support the mission and excellent care at ZSFG and the San Francisco Health Network, including funding the new acute care hospital and ongoing capital improvements on campus and throughout the community clinic system. I note that the hospital provided \$61 million in charity care in 2017 alone. I look forward to bringing our recommendations to the commission April 16, and aligning our hospital billing practices with our values, so that every member of the public feels welcome and cared for at ZSFG.

### **World Tuberculosis Day**

The California Department of Public Health has announced that 2,091 new cases of tuberculosis (TB) disease were identified in the state in 2018, an increase compared to the 2,059 cases reported in 2017. San Francisco reported 117 new cases in 2018, an increase from 107 cases in 2017. TB is one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases and is one of the top ten causes of death. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program continues to advocate for increased testing and treatment of latent TB infection because treatment prevents people from developing TB disease. Latent TB infection means that an individual has the germ that causes TB, but it is not yet making them sick. Treatment of latent TB infection is essential to achieve a TB-free California.

SFDPH Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program recognized World TB Day at the Heart of the City Farmers Market located at San Francisco's United Nations Plaza on March 27<sup>th</sup> with an educational booth set up for the community to learn more about how this disease still threatens our communities and how to support resources to control and eliminate this disease in our lifetime.



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### **DPH DOC Activation in response to UCSF strike**

The San Francisco Public Health Department Operations Center (DOC) was activated by the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response branch to monitor the March 20, 2019 UCSF Labor Action affecting all UCSF Health and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital medical centers. The Department of Public Health heightened our communication with and monitoring of hospital and emergency medical systems in an effort to mitigate potential issues if they should arise. Both UCSF and ZSFG hospitals activated their Hospital Incident Command Systems (HICS) in order to optimize patient safety. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) branch coordinated planning and activation calls with hospitals, created a Concept of Operations Plan and an Event Action Plan and heightened communication across our hospital partnerships, as well as the DPH Alert system, and coordinated with the City's Department of Emergency Management (DEM).

DPH Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) staff were key leaders in pre-event action policy and planning. EMSA staff activated in the DOC during the event, monitoring real-time emergency dispatch call volumes, and ambulance transport times. There were no patient safety issues and our system remained green during this activation.

### **Triage, Stabilization, & Linkage Program for Transitional Aged Youth**

The Behavioral Health Transitional Age Youth (TAY) System of Care is working with Felton Institute to develop a new triage, stabilization and linkage program serving youth (*ages 16-24*) with acute behavioral health needs. This program, funded by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, will take referrals from emergency rooms, Psych Emergency Services (PES), inpatient psychiatric units, and crisis stabilization and acute diversion programs, as well as from other community partners.

This program will provide short-term intensive case management services with the goal of stabilizing TAY and linking them to ongoing care. This new program will function as a part of the TAY Linkage Collaborative, and will also work closely with Citywide Linkage and other existing city services to ensure well-coordinated care. The program is expected to launch this spring and is expected to provide intensive services for at least 180 youth in the city.

### **Community Mental Health Academy**

San Francisco Health Network's Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) program has again invested in an effective mental health workforce development program that places San Francisco community members on a trajectory to careers in the public behavioral health sector. In its second year of



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operation, the Community Mental Health Academy has expanded its reach by training twenty frontline case managers of the city's Roadmap to Peace initiative (<http://ifrsf.org/road-map-to-peace-connecting-our-most-vulnerable-and-most-disconnected-latin-youth-in-san-francisco>) and twenty service providers who work directly with transitional age youth. In this academic setting, direct service providers learn about continuous self-care, community mental health, trauma-informed care and basic counseling skills (e.g. effective & supportive communication).

### **San Francisco Dental Transformation Initiative Local Dental Pilot Project**

The Department is being funded \$6 million through 2020 for the San Francisco Dental Transformation Initiative Local Dental Pilot Project to increase preventive dental utilization and improve San Francisco children's oral health. According to 2017 data, only 45 percent of children 0-5 years on Medi-Cal has had an annual dental visit.

In calendar year 2018, the project's health Workers stationed at the Maternal Child Adolescent Health division of SFDPH connected 1,491 children (71 percent of the referred clients) 0-5 years to dental appointments. The project also funded three Community Children's Oral Health Taskforces to conduct focus groups to learn culturally specific barriers that parents and caregivers face in taking their children to the dentist. The project successfully trained 59 Primary Care providers on oral health competencies and how to make dental referrals. Silver Avenue Family Health Center achieved their 20 percent Relative Improvement goal to increase dual primary care and dental patients and earned \$31,000 in incentives. For more information, contact: [irene.hilton@sfdph.org](mailto:irene.hilton@sfdph.org)

### **Public Health Week is April 1-7**

National Public Health Week is here and we will be telling stories on social media focusing on some of the themes of the week including Healthy Communities, Violence Prevention, Urban Health, Technology and Climate Change. Follow us on [facebook](#) (@sfpublichealth) and [twitter](#) @SF\_DPH and please like, tweet, and share with your networks.

### **DPH in the News (Mar 15 - Mar 27)**

SF Chronicle, Mar 27 2019, SF Mayor Breed fills new job with mandate to untangle city's mental health system

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-Mayor-Breed-fills-new-job-with-mandate-to-13721108.php>



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SF Examiner, Mar 27 2019, Anton Nigusse Bland as SF's first director of mental health reform  
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/the-city/mayor-london-breed-taps-dr-anton-nigusse-bland-as-sfs-first-director-of-mental-health-reform/>

USC Center for Health Journalism Collaborative, Mar 26 2019, California's patchwork of care for the undocumented: where you live matters  
[the undocumented: where you live matters](#)

POZ, Mar 25 2019, The POP-UP Clinic aims to reach homeless people living with HIV  
[The POP-UP Clinic aims to reach homeless people living with HIV](#)

SF Chronicle, Mar 25 2019, San Leandro man dead, five others injured in SF shooting  
[San Leandro man dead, five others injured in SF shooting](#)

SF Examiner, Mar 23 2019, Hospital workers say they face retaliation after lobbying for removal of Zuckerberg's name  
[Hospital workers say they face retaliation after lobbying for removal of Zuckerberg's name](#)

NBC, Mar 22 2019, Loaded gun, 80 rounds of ammo brought onto SF General leads to security changes  
[Loaded gun, 80 rounds of ammo brought onto SF General leads to security changes](#)

SF Chronicle, Mar 22 2019, SF General's bills are so high because mayor, supervisors said they could be  
[SF General's bills are so high because mayor, supervisors said they could be](#)

WalesOnline, Mar 21 2019, Should e-cigarettes be banned to protect young people?  
[Should e-cigarettes be banned to protect young people?](#)

Mission Local, Mar 20 2019, SF health department orders CBD wellness store to clear out edibles  
[SF health department orders CBD wellness store to clear out edibles](#)

BAR, Mar 20 2019, SF City Clinic sports refreshed exam rooms  
[SF City Clinic sports refreshed exam rooms](#)

SF Weekly, Mar 20 2019, Mental health homelessness and civil rights  
[Mental health homelessness and civil rights](#)

SF Chronicle, Mar 19 2019, 'We don't want them in our city': SF officials seek Juul crackdown  
['We don't want them in our city': SF officials seek Juul crackdown](#)

AP, Mar 15 2019, Monthly shots control HIV as well as pills in 2 big studies  
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**ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL  
 HOSPITAL & TRAUMA CENTER**

**March 2019**  
**Governing Body Report - Credentialing Summary**  
 (3/21/19 MEC)

	<b>3/2019</b>	<b>07/2018 to 07/2019</b>
<b>New Appointments</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>170</b>
Reinstatements		
<b>Reappointments</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>396</b>
Delinquencies:		
Reappointment Denials:		
<b>Resigned/Retired:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Disciplinary Actions</b>		
<b>Administrative Suspension</b>		
<b>Restriction/Limitation-Privileges</b>		
<b>Deceased</b>		
<b>Changes in Privileges</b>		
Voluntary Relinquishments	<b>10</b>	<b>103</b>
Additions	<b>18</b>	<b>111</b>
Proctorship Completed	<b>25</b>	<b>218</b>

<b>Current Statistics – as of 8/1/18</b>		
Active Staff	<b>554</b>	
Courtesy Staff	<b>546</b>	
Affiliated Professionals (non-physicians)	<b>276</b>	
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>1,376</b>	

Applications in Process		<b>19</b>
Applications Withdrawn Month of <b>March 2019</b>		<b>0</b>
SFGH Reappointments in Process <b>04/01/2018 to 06/30/2019</b>		<b>205</b>



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**LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER**

**March 2019**  
**Health Commission - Director of Health Report**  
 (3/7/19 MEC)

	<b>March</b>	<b>(FY 2018-2019) Year-to-Date</b>
<b>New Appointments</b>	0	15
Reinstatements	0	0
<b>Reappointments</b>	12	49
Delinquencies:	0	0
Reappointment Denials:	0	0
<b>Resigned/Retired</b>	1	12
<b>Disciplinary Actions</b>	0	0
<b>Restriction/Limitation-Privileges</b>	0	0
<b>Deceased</b>	0	0
<b>Changes in Privileges</b>		
Additions	0	0
Voluntary Relinquishments	0	0
Proctorship Completed	0	3
Proctorship Extension	0	0

<b>Current Statistics – as of 07/31/2018</b>	
Active Medical Staff	34
As-Needed Medical Staff	16
External Consultant Medical Staff	45
Courtesy Medical Staff	2
Affiliated Health Practitioners	13
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>110</b>

Applications in Process	0
Applications Withdrawn this month	0