



City and County of San Francisco
London Breed
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Greg Wagner
Acting Director of Health

Office of Policy and Planning

2019 SFDPH STATE LEGISLATIVE PLAN

San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFDPH) 2019 State Legislative Plan organizes legislative issue areas based on their intersection with the department's two divisions, the San Francisco Health Network and Population Health. While issue areas are categorized under one SFDPH division, most issues impact both San Francisco Health Network and Population Health (e.g. Immigration).

A. San Francisco Health Network Issue Areas

- 1) **Medi-Cal and Health Reform**
 - a) Eligibility
 - b) Services
 - c) 1115 Waiver
 - d) Equitable Value-Based Payment Models
 - e) Provider Reimbursement Rates
 - f) Federally Qualified Health Centers
- 2) **Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders**
 - a) Parity Gap
 - b) Opioid-Use Disorder
 - c) Drug Medi-Cal
 - d) MHSA
 - e) Adolescent Services
- 3) **Homelessness and Supportive Housing**
- 4) **Restorative Justice and Jail Health, and Violence Prevention**
- 5) **Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health**
- 6) **Family Planning and Contraception**
- 7) **Long-term Care**
 - a) Assisted Living Waiver Program
- 8) **Palliative Care**
- 9) **Hospitals and County Health Funding**
- 10) **Workforce Development**
- 11) **Health Information and Technology**

B. Population Health Issue Areas

- 1) **Population Health & Prevention**
- 2) **Health Equity**
- 3) **Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion**
- 4) **Tobacco Control**
- 5) **Emergency Medical Services**
- 6) **Public Health Preparedness**
- 7) **Cannabis**
- 8) **Vision Zero**
- 9) **Food Security**
- 10) **Healthy Housing**
- 11) **Climate Change and Justice**
- 12) **Immigration**

I. San Francisco Health Network

- 1) **Medi-Cal and Health Care Reform:** SFDPH is committed to increasing access to health care for all San Franciscans and will support state legislation that combats any actions on a federal level to roll back the significant coverage gains that have been made in California. SFDPH will monitor and take positions as needed on the State's proposals on coverage expansion and affordability, Covered California eligibility and financing, and other Medi-Cal related issues.
 - a) **Eligibility:** Support proposals that protect the coverage gains from ACA's Medi-Cal expansion; Support proposals to increase enrollment and remove barriers to access for incarcerated individuals into Medi-Cal, prohibit automatic suspension of Medi-Cal for incarcerated individuals, and extend Medi-Cal eligibility to pre-adjudicated adolescents; Support proposals that expand health care services for undocumented residents.
 - b) **Services:** Support proposals that address the health needs for populations with complex, chronic conditions in the least restrictive settings and use case management approaches, including increased access to and funding for comprehensive home and community based services; Support proposals that enable individuals to easily determine their eligibility for, and enroll in, other social services (e.g. WIC) once qualified for Medi-Cal; Support funding for special services for refugees (e.g. patient navigators and translators) to improve health care access.
 - c) **1115 Waiver:** Monitor and take positions as needed on proposals for waiver implementation and renewal to ensure adequate funding for public hospitals and health systems; Protect the use of county funds as non-federal share for public providers; Monitor and take positions as needed on proposals seeking to adjust the 1115 waiver in response to federal changes to the Medicaid program; Monitor and take positions as needed on proposals to change PRIME and GPP.
 - **Whole Person Care (WPC):** support proposals that enhance integration of mental health and substance use treatment, primary care, and social services to create seamless care and support for patients. This may include supporting capacity to appropriately share data across systems in order to improve coordination and efficiency of care, and supporting payment reforms; Support proposals that ensure that counties can fully participate in the Whole Person Care pilots.
 - d) **Ensure Value-Based Payment Models Advance Equity:** Monitor and take positions as needed on proposals to change value-based and other alternative payment models; support proposals that advocate for locally-based socio-economic adjustments to payment models to ensure adequate funding for public hospitals and health systems that serve high-risk populations.
 - e) **Provider Reimbursement Rates:** Support proposals to increase Medi-Cal provider rates. Proposals could include supplementing county Medi-Cal expenditures through increased federal financial participation; Support funding for medical education programs.
 - f) **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs):** Support stabilizing funding levels for FQHCs to ensure their continued viability, ability to invest in access and prevention, and ability to meet increasing demand; Support expansion of state pilot programs testing capitated payment mechanisms for FQHCs; Monitor proposed changes to services rendered outside the FQHCs eligible for the Prospective Payment System (PPS) rate.

2) **Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Issues**

- a) **Parity Gaps:** Support proposals that ensure parity in the health system between physical health and behavioral health services (e.g. ensuring emergency Medi-Cal includes SUD services, private plan coverage of methadone); support proposals for same day billing at FQHCs.
- b) **Opioid-Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment:** Support proposals that fund opioid surveillance, expand emergency treatment resources, and increase capacity to provide long-term prevention and treatment services. Support proposals that enable qualified members of a patient’s medical care team (in addition to primary care physicians) to access the CURES database to monitor drug prescriptions; Support proposals that allow for the continued expansion of medical assisted treatment and preventive harm reduction programs such as naloxone distribution. Support harm reduction services and monitor proposal for supervised consumption sites that aim to reduce the chance for HIV and Hepatitis C transmission and prevent overdose deaths.
- c) **Drug-Medi-Cal:** Monitor proposed changes to, or funding for, the Drug Medi-Cal Program, and take positions as necessary; monitor proposals for waiver renewal related to the program.
- d) **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, Prop 63):** Advocate for additional MHSA funds for capital expenditures, housing supports, creation of permanent funding streams for crisis services currently funded by MHSA grants. Monitor and take positions as needed on implementation of the 2016 No Place like Home Initiative, especially as it relates to funding for support service planning for residents in newly developed housing. Support the removal of parolee exclusion within the MHSA.
- e) **Adolescent Services:** Support proposals for funding adolescent behavioral health services; Support proposals that promote care and payment models that better integrate behavioral health in pediatric primary care settings.

~~3)~~ **Homelessness and Supportive Housing:** Support proposals that enhance local entities’ ability to provide safe and healthy housing and integrated services for homeless and at-risk populations, including veterans, seniors, pregnant women, children, transitional-aged youth, and their families. Housing should include increased access to behavioral and chronic healthcare services. ~~that include increased access to behavioral and chronic healthcare services.~~

~~3)~~

~~4)~~ **Restorative Justice, ~~and~~ Jail Health, and Violence Prevention:** Support proposals to limit incarceration when rehabilitation or other means are available and advocate for innovative healthcare models for behavioral health for the incarcerated. Support proposals that provide funding for re-entry and transition programs that serve formerly incarcerated individuals. Support proposals that allows jails and prisons to treat opioid addictions with medical assisted therapy. Support proposals that allow for presumptive Medi-Cal eligibility of individuals upon release from custody. Support proposals to fund treatment for Hepatitis C treatment and PrEP. Incarcerated people are not Medi-Cal eligible and are barred from patient assistance. Support proposals that fund and strengthen violence prevention efforts, including those that address street violence, gun violence, and violence against women through coordinated and data driven approaches.

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~~4)5)~~ **Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health:** Support proposals to reduce inequities in maternal,

infant, and child health, and to maximize the health and quality of life for all women, infants, adolescents, and their families in San Francisco.

- **Women, Children, Adolescents, and Families:** Support proposals that maintain or improve counties' ability to address the health and prevention needs of women, children, adolescents, and families, including proposals aimed at addressing childhood obesity, expanding health education for youth, increasing access to doulas, and supporting sexual and reproductive health of women and adolescents.
- **California Children's Services Program:** Monitor and take positions as needed on proposals to change the California Children's Services program, and support proposals that maintain flexibility for counties to administer the benefit according to local needs.
- **Child Health and Disability Prevention Program:** Monitor and take positions as needed on proposals to change the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program.
- **Children in Foster Care:** Support proposals that decreases health disparities among children in foster care, including ensuring coordinated health care services for children in out-of-home foster care or on probation in the juvenile justice system, particularly by adequately funding the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care.
- **Parental Leave:** Support proposals to expand paid parental leave at all business throughout the state in order to enable working families to care for their children and maintain a healthy and productive life.

5)6) Family Planning and Contraception: Support access to comprehensive, low cost and readily accessible reproductive health services, including family planning, emergency contraception and abortion services. Support proposals that combat federal restrictions on reproductive health funding and services. Attention to be paid to proposals that 1) ensure range of options available; and 2) ensure access to accurate, unbiased information about reproductive and sexual health for youth and adults.

6)7) Long-Term Care: Support proposals that expands access to community-based services as an alternative to inpatient care, including funding to increase public health nursing home visitation and pilot programs to develop residential care facilities as an alternative to psychiatric hospital and long-term care. Support funding to help younger adults that live with long-term disabilities outside inpatient care.

- a) **Assisted Living Waiver Program (ALWP):** Support proposals to expand access to ALWP and increase the number of spaces available in the program to align the current need.

7)8) Palliative Care: Support proposals that increase awareness of, provide funding for, and promote access to palliative care in all settings especially for persons of color. Monitor and take appropriate positions on the development of palliative care standards for Medi-Cal managed care plans. Monitor implementation of the End of Life Option Act.

8)9) Hospitals and County Health Funding: Oppose proposals to reduce funding to public hospitals (e.g. removal of 340B program) and monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on issues impacting hospital operations, including proposals related to staffing ratios, charity care, workers' compensation, disease reporting, or reporting of quality or performance indicators. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on proposals that modifies the current Realignment funding system. Support proposals for additional resources for alternative care programs, such as child and adolescent

psychiatric hospitals and crisis residential, hospital diversion, and partial hospitalization programs, in order to reduce the burden on public hospitals. Support funding to automate and report data to prevent decreases in rate adjustments by CMS.

9)10) Workforce Development: Support proposals that expand the use of nurse practitioners and other qualified medical professionals to the fullest extent of their training. Support proposals to increase the supply and diversity of primary care and mental health providers, including psychiatrists, to address primary care and behavioral health provider shortages. Support proposals that evaluate the allocation of different types of health professionals in the workforce to assure access to high quality care.

10)11) Health Information and Technology: Support proposals that improve methods of sharing health care data to enhance service provision while maintaining a balance with reasonable levels of patient privacy protection. Specifically, support proposals that allows for better information sharing while balancing the privacy rights for people seeking treatment for substance use issues. Support proposals for the integration of telemedicine into service provision, as well as new payment and service models that allow telemedicine expansion.

Population Health Issue Areas

- 1) **Population Health & Prevention:** Support proposals to increase funding for fully integrated core public health activities, including epidemiology, disease surveillance, communicable disease control and prevention, immunizations, public health laboratory services, environmental health, occupational health, tobacco control, healthy eating and active living, chronic disease prevention and management, violence and injury prevention, and prevention of health care associated infections.
- 2) **Health Equity:** Support proposals to create dedicated funding streams for preventive services and activities that improve community health outcomes and address health inequities. Support proposals that enable systems and providers to reduce health inequities (i.e. support infrastructure for the collection, analysis, and use of race, language, and ethnicity and disability data in planning efforts to reduce or eliminate disparities). Increase opportunities to include health implications into cross-sector policies outside the health arena to promote health, equity and sustainability.
- 3) **Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion:** Support proposals to increase funding and policies that fully integrate and address population-based efforts for chronic disease prevention and health promotion, including efforts to reduce cancer, diabetes, obesity, oral health, heart disease and stroke. Support efforts to increase funding for community health, nutrition and physical activity services.
- 4) **Tobacco control:** Support proposals to increase tobacco taxes at the state and local levels and monitor proposals to ensure state tobacco laws are consistent with often-more stringent local laws.
- 5) **Emergency Medical Services:** Support proposals to adequately fund and enhance Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response systems and EMS disaster preparedness initiatives. Support proposals that authorizes a local EMS agency to approve transport appropriate individuals to alternative destinations, including sobering centers and other behavioral health centers.

- 6) **Public Health Preparedness:** Support efforts to adequately fund public health preparedness, including increased funding on preparing and responding to emerging infectious diseases, increased funding on preparing health care systems for disasters and stabilized funding for public health planning and response.
- 7) **Cannabis:** Monitor and take positions as appropriate on proposals related to medical and adult use cannabis with an emphasis on supporting safe access and minimizing youth exposure. Support funding for public health surveillance, research and monitor changes in drug use patterns associated with cannabis use.
- 8) **Vision Zero:** Support proposals that helps achieve the City's Vision Zero goal (e.g. automated speed enforcement) and expands opportunities to develop safe, high-quality environments for biking and walking.
- 9) **Food Security:** Support proposals to enhance local entities' ability to provide healthy food for vulnerable residents.
- 10) **Healthy Housing:** Support healthy, safe and high-quality housing, particularly for low-income people.
- 11) **Climate Change and Justice:** Support proposals that aim to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and address climate justice issues, including efforts to increase ability for vulnerable communities to respond to climate-related hazards and other natural disasters.
- 12) **Immigration:** Support proposals that promote health and well-being, support family unity, remove barriers and protects access to health services, and foster civic engagement and support integration among immigrant communities.