



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 June 18, 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>

Legislature Approves FY19-20 Budget with Medi-Cal Expansion

On June 13th, California lawmakers approved a \$214.8 billion budget bill for Fiscal Year 2019-20. Under the approved budget, Medi-Cal coverage would be expanded to eligible young adults aged 19 through 25 regardless of immigration status starting January 1, 2020. This expansion is expected to provide full-scope coverage to approximately 90,000 undocumented adults in the first year across state. The budget bill now heads to the Governor where he is likely to act on the measure before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1. Details for other budget proposals are still being worked out in trailer bills, including many health-related proposals, and are expected to be decided on in the coming weeks.

Board of Supervisors approves conservatorship legislation introduced by Mayor Breed and Supervisor Mandelman

On June 4th, the Board of Supervisors passed legislation introduced by Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Rafael Mandelman to strengthen the City's conservatorship laws in order to provide care and treatment for San Franciscans most in need, who currently suffer from severe mental health and substance use disorders. The legislation is part of Mayor Breed's efforts to improve the City's response to those in need of mental health and substance use treatment. The Mayor's efforts include funding 100 new treatment beds last year as well as an additional 100 new beds as part of her recently announced Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 budget proposal.

This legislation addresses this population and provides a path for the City to petition a court for a short-term conservatorship in order to provide them the treatment they need and deserve. In order to qualify for conservatorship, an individual must be dual-diagnosed with a serious mental illness and with a substance use disorder, and have been brought to the psychiatric emergency room at least eight times in a 12-month period under an involuntary "5150" emergency hold. A 5150 hold is issued to individuals who present an immediate danger to themselves or others, or are gravely disabled and unable to provide for their basic needs. At the end of the conservatorship process, these individuals are guaranteed permanent housing.



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The legislation is available to the City under Senate Bill 1045, which was introduced by Senator Scott Wiener and signed into law in September 2018. Senator Wiener has introduced SB 40, which has passed the Senate by a 36-0 vote, to clarify the parameters under which someone may be conserved. The San Francisco Department of Public Health estimates that if SB 40 is signed into law, the City legislation would apply to approximately 50 of the most acute individuals in San Francisco per year.

INVINCIBLE Women's Summit

On June 14th, Mayor London Breed hosted the INVINCIBLE Women's Summit in San Francisco at Moscone Center West. It is a one-day event that inspires women to recognize and activate their personal power and collective strength, provide tangible takeaways and build diverse coalitions to create real solutions to challenges. Among the 100+ businesses and organizations that lead sessions and demonstrations, the Department of Public Health (DPH) promoted resources by featuring four exhibits: Careers in Health Care, Reproductive Health, Mindfulness and Heart Health. The careers booth discussed employment opportunities and the employment process at DPH. The reproductive health booth provide information regarding maternal, child and adolescent health and sexually transmitted diseases. The Trauma Informed Systems team shared ways to practice mindfulness by running both a booth and a quiet space for journaling and guided meditation. The Heart Health booth conducted blood pressure screenings and provided educations about the importance of monitoring and maintaining a healthy blood pressure. All DPH staff engaged with attendees to explore solutions to challenges facing women today and actions to mitigate those challenges in the future in order to develop successful change for women in San Francisco and beyond.

Weekend Heat Advisory

On June 7th, the Department of Public Health (DPH) activated its emergency heat response plan early and convened an Incident Management Team (IMT) in response to a San Francisco heat advisory placed by the National Weather Service. The IMT was comprised of members of DPH Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Branch (PHEPR), Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA), the Health Officer, and a public information officer. The IMT activated the Department Operations Center (DOC) to strategically disseminate public messaging campaign to the public and critical partners, and monitor the EMS system for surge, message hospital emergency departments in advance to anticipate staffing needs and potential facilities issues related to the heat.

During the three full days of the hotter-than-predicted extreme temperatures, staff worked to serve populations under difficult conditions and support the important work that DPH does. EMSA staff implemented their new medical surge Mutual Aid plan to successfully blunt the increasing need for ambulances and keep our system running. The public information officer took lead in messaging across the city, including to vulnerable populations and extended warnings this year to remind



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people that heat can remain elevated indoors even after the temperature cools, and to check on your neighbors. PHEPR staff rolled out innovative work to increase engagement and define wellness check cans for vulnerable populations through collaborative work with agencies across our city. Staff at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General, Laguna Honda Hospital, and select primary care clinics worked under difficult conditions in the old buildings, while making sure those patients were not suffering from heat related symptoms while seeking care.

City prepares for future power outages

On June 13th, in an effort to better understand impacts to City operations during a widespread power outage, the department invited City Departments to come together for information sharing, coordination and planning. The Department of Public Health (DPH) participated in the workshop which included facilitated conversations in function-specific groups that discussed how Departments' people, processes and systems are affected by a power outage. Along with other City Departments, DPH shared information regarding the impact of a PG&E outage on critical operations and informed future preparedness for the City.

On April 26th, 2019 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the adoption of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) guidelines as a preventative measure against imminent and significant fire risk as a response to the unprecedented rise in loss of property and life due to wildfires in California, electric utility providers in the state implemented procedures to proactively de-energize transmission and/or distribution lines in areas under threat of fire. PG&E's latest publication of Public Safety Power Shutoff Policies and Procedures (May 2019) warns that electricity may be shut off several times a year, outages may last more than 48 hours, and any of the utility's 16 million customers may be affected.

Epic training begins to prepare for Go-live

On May 28th, the Department of Public Health IT team began the critical task of training nearly 10,000 staff members from Zuckerberg San Francisco General, Laguna Honda Hospital, the Behavioral Health Center, and the Primary and Specialty Care clinics in advance of our first Epic Electronic Health Record launch on August 3rd. Over the coming weeks, trainers will provide the knowledge and skills that San Francisco Health Network providers and staff members need to effectively use this valuable tool for the enhancement of patient and client care. The training covers multiples workflows or scenarios and provides the basic foundation and proficiency needed to work within the new system. The quick pace environment gives staff a firsthand experience and ensures interactive, in-person support.



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DPH in the News (Jun 4 – Jun 17 2019)

NPR, Jun 17 2019, Meth In The Morning, Heroin At Night: Inside The Seesaw Struggle of Dual Addiction

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/06/17/730803759/meth-in-the-morning-heroin-at-night-inside-the-seesaw-struggle-of-dual-addiction>

EMS1, Jun 17 2019, Baltimore stabilization centers hope to solve heroin crisis

<https://www.ems1.com/careers/articles/394140048-Baltimore-stabilization-centers-hope-to-solve-heroin-crisis/>

Planetizen, Jun 13 2019, SF to use conservatorship for some mentally ill homeless people

<https://www.planetizen.com/news/2019/06/104764-san-francisco-use-conservatorship-some-mentally-ill-homeless-people>

Common Health, Jun 12 2019, The van vs. an opioid addiction: taking treatment to the streets

<https://www.wbur.org/commonhealth/2019/06/12/boston-care-zone-van-suboxone>

Time, Jun 11 2019, For the first time, an expert panel is recommending a drug to prevent high-risk groups from getting HIV

<https://time.com/5604357/uspstf-prep-hiv-recommendation/>

Live Trading News, Jun 11 2019, Trump's Healthcare Discrimination

<https://48hills.org/2019/06/the-facts-about-vaping/>

SFist, Jun 8 2019, Mission Beach Café shuts after 12 years

<https://sfist.com/2019/06/08/mission-beach-cafe-shutters-after-12-years/>

Washington Post, Jun 7 2019, San Francisco plans to force mentally ill addicts into a system critics call ripe for abuses

https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/06/07/san-francisco-plans-force-mentally-ill-addicts-into-system-critics-call-ripe-abuses/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c968c636040a

AP, June 4 2019, SF may force treatment on mentally ill drug users

<https://fox40.com/2019/06/04/san-francisco-may-force-treatment-on-mentally-ill-drug-users/>



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USA Today, Jun 4 2019, SF proposes nation's first universal mental health care system

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/san-francisco-proposes-nations-first-universal-mental-health-care-system/ar-AAcot5Y>

SF Chronicle, Jun 4 2019, SF, state seek to block fed's rule allowing health workers to deny care

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/SF-state-seek-to-block-fed-s-rule-allowing-13936893.php>

City Attorney of SF, Jun 4 2019, Herrera asks court to block Trump's discriminatory health care rule

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/herrera-asks-court-to-block-trumps-discriminatory-health-care-rule-300861557.html>