



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 March 5, 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>

HHS Finalizes Rule to Revise Regulations Governing Title X Family Planning Program

On February 22nd, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a finalized rule revising the regulations governing the Title X family planning program. The rule keeps the key provisions included in HHS's rule proposal introduced in 2018. Under the final rule, health care providers receiving Title X funds would not be allowed to perform abortions or refer patients to abortion services. These entities are already barred from using government funds for abortion, but can currently use other funding sources to subsidize these types of services. The rule also imposes new requirements for Title X funded providers that could further undermine family planning services. The rule is scheduled to take effect in 60 days following its publication in the Federal Registrar and is likely to encounter legal action.

The Title X family planning program is the sole federal program dedicated to funding family planning services. The program focuses on helping low income individuals affordably obtain health services such as cancer screenings, birth control, STD/STI screenings, pregnancy tests, and well-woman exams. In San Francisco, several health clinics receive Title X funding. In response to the proposed rule, San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution (File No.170102) denouncing the rule and affirming San Francisco's commitment to protect and maintain an individual's choice to receive access to critical women's health services. SFDPH also submitted formal comments to HHS opposing the rule in July 2018.

State Legislation Introduced to Address Hospital Balance Billing Practices

On February 25th, Assembly Member David Chiu and Senator Scott Wiener introduced a bill, [AB 1611](#), to prohibit balance billing practices by hospitals. Under the legislation, hospitals would be prohibited from billing insured patients, regardless of their plan type, and charging them rates higher than their copay or deductible. The bill would also limit payments from insurance companies to hospitals to no greater than 150 percent of Medicare rates or the "average contracted rate" with



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insurance companies in the geographic area, whichever is higher. San Francisco Department of Public Health is supportive of efforts to increase patient protections and is continuing to analyze the bill. The legislation, if passed and signed by the governor, would take effect January 1st, 2020.

Passing of Public Defender Jeff Adachi

After hearing of the sad and sudden death of Chief Public Defender Jeff Adachi on February 22nd, Comprehensive Crisis Services (CCS) sent staff on Monday to be available, to provide grief counseling and support to the Public Defender's Office. In addition to providing drop in support, CCS staff participated in the lunch hour remembrance, which about 75 Public Defender office staff attended. CCS presence was very much welcome and appreciated which was demonstrated by the many thanks given by staff from the Public Defender's Office.

Jeff Adachi's kind heartedness and tenacious spirit for Social Justice will truly be missed.

Mayor London Breed announces new funding to support homeless people suffering from behavioral health and substance use disorders

On February 27th, Mayor London N. Breed announced that the San Francisco Department of Public Health has received a \$3 million grant to fund outreach and treatment efforts for homeless individuals suffering from behavioral health and substance use disorders. This funding will expand services for two years to further support the Healthy Streets Operation Center's (HSOC) efforts to help those struggling on San Francisco's streets, including case management, clinical services, and social worker engagement. HSOC is the City's coordinated, multi-departmental effort to address homelessness and unhealthy street behaviors. The funding will go also towards increasing the City's number of clinicians, social workers, and peer navigators; augmenting the Street Medicine Team and Harm Reduction Van to ensure there are coordinated and visible services; and extending hours of operations for programming and services to include more nights and weekends so there is greater coverage for those on the streets.

The grant to the Department of Public Health comes from the California Department of Health Care Services. The Department of Public Health will use the funding to support these services through the end of June 2020.



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Mayor London Breed announces completion of Hummingbird Place expansion of behavioral health and substance use stabilization beds

On February 21st, Mayor London Breed announced that 14 new beds are now operational at Hummingbird Place, a Navigation Center specifically tailored to serve clients with behavioral health and substance use issues. Hummingbird Place can now serve up to 29 overnight clients at a time, in addition to daytime clients. Hummingbird Place works closely with adults facing homelessness, mental health and substance use challenges and introduces clients to a multi-disciplinary system of care. In October, Mayor Breed announced the expansion at Hummingbird Place and directed the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) to expedite and expand a plan to add mental health beds at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

As a result of the recent Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) windfall appropriation, Mayor Breed now expects to be able to open an additional 86 new behavioral health stabilization beds, bringing the total to 100 new beds this year.

Electronic Health Record Update

In February, the Health Department's (DPH) IT team began the process of identifying staff to serve as Super Users during the first wave of the Epic Electronic Health Record (EHR) implementation process. Super Users are key to the success of the EHR. Super Users ensure that staff feel supported by peers who understand the system and work environments within environments within DPH. To identify Super Users, the Epic team collaborated with DPH Human Resources and union partners to develop a process for managers to nominate candidates and for staff to volunteer. The selection process concludes in mid-March, and Super User kickoffs begin in April.

Stormy weather response

In response to the recent winter storms, the health department's Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (PHEPR) team coordinated with City agencies including the Department of Emergency Management to prepare for the storm including disseminating information about expanded Main Library hours, reminding partners that 311 is a point of contact for unsheltered people, and supporting the Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing and Human Services Agency with any medical needs sheltering. In addition, PHEPR sent multilingual alerts, tips, and information about weather guidance to critical partners which are composed predominantly of agencies who serve the most vulnerable populations.

Health Impacts of Family Insecurity brief



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The SFDPH brief, *Health Impacts of Family Housing Insecurity*, was issued in February 2019 by the Children's Environmental Health Promotion Program and the Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Section, documenting the impact on birth outcomes, child health and life course development, and maternal stress. Housing security is the extent to which an individual's customary access to reasonable quality housing is long lasting. Examples of housing insecurity include homelessness, high housing cost, overcrowding, frequent moves, being behind on rent and poor-quality housing. Food insecurity is also associated with housing insecurity.

This [brief](#) explains the factors and impacts of housing insecurity, describes how some San Franciscan families experience housing insecurity, and provides recommendations for DPH involvement. Primary findings from a literature search include (1) housing insecurity causes toxic stress, which derails normal child growth and development and predisposes children to poor health outcomes in adulthood, and (2) housing insecurity of pregnant women is linked to preterm birth, which contributes to infant mortality and may influence lifelong health outcomes of that child. Overall, the contents of this brief concludes that family housing insecurity requires an urgent civic response.

A DPH and MEDA related project of PhotoVoice housing insecurity research by 8 Mission District women will soon be viewable at casah-sf.org.

Director of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health retires

Mary Hansell, DrPH, RN is retiring her role as Director of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) after a distinguished forty year career in nursing and public health. Under Mary's leadership, MCAH has emerged as a leader in addressing some of the health department's (DPH) most urgent concerns, including racism and inequities impacting our workforce, and disparities in women and children's health in San Francisco. She has been a tireless advocate, and through her expertise in public health she has earned the deep respect of people across DPH, as well as other city leaders and our community partners. DPH thanks Mary for her exemplary service to the children and families of San Francisco. During the process of hiring a permanent Director of MCAH position, Joshua Nossiter, MBA will assume the role and responsibilities of Interim Director of MCAH, effective March 1st, 2019.

UCSF-led study shows holistic approach may ease suffering in vulnerable populations

On February 20th, [Journal of General Internal Medicine](#) published a study that tracked the impact of a program for low-income, at-risk patients with chronic pain at [Tom Waddell Urban Health Clinic](#), a San Francisco Department of Public Health primary care clinic in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. The clinic is the flagship health care site for the homeless population, and where UCSF medical students are trained and mentored.



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According to this study led by researchers at UCSF, the three-month program providing group support, acupuncture, mindfulness, massage and gentle exercise may offer safer, extra relief to patients on prescription opioids. After completion of the program, patients continued to have access to weekly groups offering the same services. Opioid prescription use remained consistent during the program and dipped slightly three months later.

The study compared 41 participants who had been on prescription drugs such as hydrocodone, oxycodone and methadone for at least three months with 20 other would-be participants who expressed interest in the program. The researchers found a 12 percent drop in pain intensity in the study participants, compared with no change in pain among the comparison group.

Co-Authors of the study include: Emily Hurstak, MD, MPH, MAS, of UCSF; Kristina Leonoudakis-Watts, Frank Sidders and Joseph Pace, MD, of the San Francisco Department of Public Health; and Hali Hammer, MD, of UCSF and the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Gene O'Connell's UCSF Global Nursing Program

In February, Gene O'Connell's UCSF Global Nursing students from Tokyo Japan's Soka University Bachelor of Science Nursing program visited ZSFG to interview ZSFG nursing staff on their Nursing Research topics. The six nursing students interviewed ZSFG nursing staff on their following research topics: strategies and preventive care for patient suicide in the US hospitals, What roles do the US nursing managers take for hospital job satisfaction, Pediatric nurse compassion fatigue - how do they cope and get support, What are the US nursing practices to prepare pediatric patients for painful procedures, how do nurses provide safe environments for better patient outcomes if staff perceive heavy workloads, what kind of oncology nursing care is provided to patients with cancer fatigue? The ZSFG nursing staff were happy to be interviewed and share the ZSFG and US nursing care perspective on these topics.

Tuberculosis nursing leadership recognition

Rocio Agraz-Lara, MSN, RN, PHN from the Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic, Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Population Health Division, has been recognized with two prestigious awards in honor of her exemplary leadership in TB nursing. The first award is the Carol Pozsik TB Nurse Award granted by the National TB Controllers Association to honor exemplary care, service, dedication, or leadership in the field of TB prevention and control. The second award is the Brenda Ashkar award, which is given annually to a registered nurse working in a TB Program in California,



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and celebrates the values of leadership, flexibility, creativity and “doing whatever it takes” to improve the health of their community.

DPH in the News (Feb 15 – Feb 27)

BAR, Feb 27 2019, SF health officials embrace non-daily PrEP dosing regimen

https://www.ebar.com/news/news/272877/sf_health_officials_embrace_non-daily_prep_dosing_regimen

SF Chronicle, Feb 26 2019, Open forum: SF must address cause of health disparities

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/Open-Forum-San-Francisco-must-address-cause-of-13643869.php>

SF Chronicle, Feb 26 2019, SF gets \$3 state million grant for mental health, drug abuse services for homeless

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-gets-3-state-million-grant-for-mental-health-13647572.php>

Epeak, Feb 25 2019, CA lawmakers roll out plan to end surprise emergency room bills

<https://epeak.in/2019/02/25/california-lawmakers-roll-out-plan-to-end-surprise-emergency-room-bills/>

SF Chronicle, Feb 24 2019, Chiu, Wiener take on SF General’s big bills — legislation to ban billing practice

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/heatherknight/article/Chiu-Wiener-take-on-SF-General-s-big-bills-13638812.php>

SF Examiner, Feb 24 2019, Controversial ZSFGH billing practice that left privately-insured owing thousands could be banned

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/controversial-zsfgh-billing-practice-left-privately-insured-owing-thousands-banned/>

SF Gate, Feb 21 2019, SF supervisors ask city’s General Hospital why its bills are so big

<https://m.sfgate.com/politics/article/SF-supervisors-ask-city-s-General-Hospital-why-13634951.php?t=27a784a212>

SF Examiner, Feb 21 2019, ZSFGH could cap out-of-pocket payments for privately insured patients after outcry over billing practices

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/zsfgh-cap-pocket-payments-privately-insured-patients-outcry-billing-practices/>

BAR, Feb 20 2019, SF health chief’s on the job

<https://www.ebar.com/news/news/272616>

Press Democrat, Feb 19 2019, Sexually transmitted disease spikes in Sonoma County, with homeless people at high risk



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<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/9278126-181/sexually-transmitted-disease-spikes-in>

SF Chronicle, Feb 15 2019, SF General pauses exorbitant bills, but canceling all old ones would be better

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/heatherknight/article/SF-General-pauses-some-exorbitant-bills-but-13618485.php>



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**ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL
HOSPITAL & TRAUMA CENTER**

February 2019
Governing Body Report - Credentialing Summary
(2/21/19 MEC)

	2/2019	07/2018 to 07/2019
New Appointments	11	162
Reinstatements		
Reappointments	49	350
Delinquencies:		
Reappointment Denials:		
Resigned/Retired:	11	142
Disciplinary Actions		
Administrative Suspension		
Restriction/Limitation-Privileges		
Deceased		
Changes in Privileges		
Voluntary Relinquishments	6	93
Additions	9	93
Proctorship Completed	24	193

Current Statistics – as of 8/1/18		
Active Staff	554	
Courtesy Staff	545	
Affiliated Professionals (non-physicians)	276	
TOTAL MEMBERS	1,375	

Applications in Process	23
Applications Withdrawn Month of February 2019	0
SFGH Reappointments in Process 03/01/2018 to 05/31/2019	196



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LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER

February 2019
Health Commission - Director of Health Report
 (2/7/19 MEC)

	February	(FY 2018-2019) Year-to-Date
New Appointments	3	15
Reinstatements	0	0
Reappointments	3	37
Delinquencies:	0	0
Reappointment Denials:	0	0
Resigned/Retired	1	11
Disciplinary Actions	0	0
Restriction/Limitation-Privileges	0	0
Deceased	0	0
Changes in Privileges		
Additions	0	0
Voluntary Relinquishments	0	0
Proctorship Completed	1	3
Proctorship Extension	0	0

Current Statistics – as of 07/31/2018

Active Medical Staff	34	
As-Needed Medical Staff	16	
External Consultant Medical Staff	45	
Courtesy Medical Staff	2	
Affiliated Health Practitioners	14	
TOTAL MEMBERS	111	

Applications in Process	0	
Applications Withdrawn this month	0	