



## 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 October 15, 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>

### **Mayor Breed announces comprehensive mental health plan to help City's most vulnerable residents**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Mayor London N. Breed announced a comprehensive plan—UrgentCareSF—to provide mental health care for those suffering from homelessness, mental illness, and substance use disorder. San Francisco's Behavioral Health System serves 30,000 people every year, but is not working for the most vulnerable people on our streets. The plan includes immediate actions and a long-term vision for a system where the people who are most in need of care receive it in a way that meets them where they are. With UrgentCareSF, treatment for mental health and substance disorders is available as soon as it is desired, with no significant waits. The detailed elements of UrgentCareSF can be found at <http://sfmayor.org/urgentcaresf>. UrgentCareSF is based in clinical expertise, evidence-based programs, data analysis, and the principles of harm reduction and compassion. The program operates toward four priorities.

Firstly, Director of Mental Health Reform, Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland, identified a population of about 4,000 people who are experiencing homelessness, and have both a mental illness and a substance use disorder. In order to serve this population, UrgentCareSF will build a new system of care coordination, outreach, low-barrier services, and harm reduction. UrgentCareSF is designed to meet the specific needs of this population and has already begun by immediately serving the 230 people of the 4,000 who are most in need.

Secondly, the City will also work to expand treatment capacity and reduce administrative barriers to eliminate wait times for services. This will include building on the Mayor's efforts to add new behavioral health treatment beds, creating new meth sobering centers and managed alcohol facilities, and expanding access to existing city services, such as the Behavioral Health Access Center, and the Behavioral Health Pharmacy.

Thirdly, UrgentCareSF also focuses on the workforce needs that are required in order to provide mental health care and substance use treatment to people. The City will implement policy changes to expand and support the behavioral health workforce to meet today's needs. This element will include wage increases for community based organizations, and working to ensure that mental health and substance use treatment positions are fully staffed.



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Finally, the City will provide housing options for people exiting treatment services in order to support behavioral health chronic disease management. This will include increasing the payment rate that Board and Care facilities receive and supporting the development of new permanent supportive housing units. San Francisco has approximately 8,000 permanent supportive housing units, more per capita than any other city in the country, with over 1,000 units in the pipeline to be built over the next few years. San Francisco also has over 300 new units of master-leased housing that will be available in the next year.

### **Mayor Breed, Supervisors Ronen, Haney and Mandelman announce plan for adult residential facility**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Mayor London N. Breed, Supervisor Hillary Ronen, Supervisor Matt Haney, and Supervisor Rafael Mandelman announced a plan for the 55-bed Adult Residential Facility (ARF) located in the Behavioral Health Center at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. The plan will allow for 28 beds in the facility to be used for short-term psychiatric respite while 27 beds will remain long-term care beds for current residents at the Adult Residential Facility. The Department of Public Health (DPH) and staff will also be implementing a long-term plan to address patient safety and quality of care at the ARF before converting the beds back to long-term residential use.

This plan will be codified in an ordinance authored by Supervisors Ronen, Haney and Mandelman, which will then be considered by the Board of Supervisors. DPH will begin implementing the plan immediately upon Board approval, which means the temporary expanded Hummingbird beds would be operable starting as soon as November. It also means that all the severely mentally ill residents who choose to remain at the Adult Residential Facility will be able to do so.

Specifically, the plan calls for the following in the short-term (next six months):

- 27 beds will continue to be used as long-term care beds in the ARF
- 28 beds will be used as Hummingbird beds
- DPH will work with staff on a plan to address patient safety and quality of care at the ARF with the goal of converting 14 Hummingbird beds back to long-term care beds by April 2020, if the plan is approved by the California Care Licensing Board.
- Final bed distribution will be 41 ARF beds, 29 Hummingbird beds, restoring the balance from August 2019.

### **Governor Signs Legislation on Conservatorship**

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law [SB 40](#), authored by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco). SB 40 makes technical amendments to last year's bill [SB 1045](#), which creates a five-year pilot program allowing for strengthened conservatorship laws that focus on providing



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housing and wraparound services for people suffering from serious mental health and substance use. SB 40 will make several changes to SB 1045, including shortening timeframes for the conservatorship (from one-year to a six-month conservatorship), adjusting requirements for seeking assisted outpatient treatment (AOT), and providing allowances for temporary 28-day conservatorship. This year, the Department of Public Health will convene a workgroup that will monitor the city's implementation of this new conservatorship process.

### **Governor Signs Legislation to Improve Access to anti-HIV Medication**

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Governor Newsom signed into law [SB 159](#) (Wiener), which removes barriers to accessing PrEP and PEP anti-HIV medication. Specifically, SB 159 will expand access to PrEP and PEP by allowing pharmacists to dispense these medications without a physician prescription for 30 to 60 days and prohibiting insurance companies from creating prior authorization requirements that can delay access to these drugs. While the number of new HIV diagnoses in San Francisco has dropped to a record low, black and Latinx residents, as well as people experiencing homelessness and those who inject drugs, saw a rise in new cases according to a recent [Department of Public Health report](#). Improving access to PrEP and PEP will support the City's Getting to Zero initiative of zero new HIV infections, zero HIV deaths, and zero HIV stigma by 2020, and help address the significant HIV disparities impacting San Francisco communities.

### **Mayor Breed Appoints New Health Commissioner**

Mayor Breed has appointed Suzanne Giraudo to the Health Commission. Dr. Giraudo is a psychologist and is the Clinical Director of the California Pacific Medical Center Department of Pediatrics Child Development Center. In addition to her clinical expertise, Dr. Giraudo's professional background includes development, administration, and supervision of pediatric clinical programs, grant administration, and teaching. She is the founder and trustee of the DeMarillac Academy, a Catholic school located in the Tenderloin, serving underserved children and families. Her other professional affiliations include San Francisco Families First Five Commission Chair, Home Away from Homelessness, St Anthony's Pediatric Clinic, Marin Community Pediatric Program, and the Northeast Medical Services Pediatric Clinics. Dr. Giraudo earned her Doctorate in Educational Psychology and Counseling from the University of San Francisco; a Master's degree in education from San Francisco State University, and her Bachelor Arts Degree from the University of San Francisco. Welcome Dr. Giraudo!

### **PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff**

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, PG&E issued an advisory of an anticipated, wide ranging Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) to impact over 30 counties in Northern and Central California beginning



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Wednesday, October 9, 2019 through Friday, October 11, 2019. The City and County of San Francisco was not expected to experience direct PSPS outages. In response to the potential power shut off, the Department of Emergency Management activated the Emergency Operations Center, expecting indirect impacts on San Franciscans and commuters from throughout the Bay Area, including City and County employees. In addition to coordinating citywide employee messaging with the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Public Health (DPH) shared preparation messaging with the public and encouraged people to check on family and friends that may be in the affected areas.

The Health Department also activated the Department Operations Center (DOC) to actively monitor the PSPS event and maintained communications with PG&E, regional partners and City and County of San Francisco agencies. As important as it is for DPH to remain open during emergency situations as such, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response team (PHEPR) reminded DPH leadership and managers to revisit their continuity plans to ensure essential city functions can continue if city employees who live outside of San Francisco are impacted due to the PSPS event. The DOC prioritized four main objectives during this operational period: (1) protect the public and vulnerable populations, (2) monitor and assess the healthcare system for overload and implement surge options, (3) monitor PSPS impacts on DPH staff and facilities and (4) provide messaging to public and critical partners. As of October 11<sup>th</sup>, DPH will continue to maintain situational awareness and share information appropriately.

### **Computer error caused Healthy San Francisco letters to be sent to the wrong recipients**

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Public Health announced that due to a computer error, 622 Healthy San Francisco participants received letters addressed to the wrong person from November 2018 to August 2019. The letters notified participants of their annual renewal and did not contain any personal health or financial information.

The mis-addressed letters were issued by Alluma, a third-party company that processes Healthy San Francisco enrollments. Each letter contained the participant's correct name, Healthy San Francisco number and renewal date, but bore the address of a different Healthy San Francisco participant. The Health Department was notified of the problem on August 8<sup>th</sup>, after a person who received the wrong letter reported it to the San Francisco Health Plan, which administers the Healthy San Francisco program.

All 622 people who received a mis-addressed letter have been notified. The letters did not contain dates of birth or social security numbers, and the risk of identity theft is low. The problem has been fixed, and normal letter delivery resumed on September 10<sup>th</sup>. All affected participants should have received a corrected letter with either a reminder to renew enrollment or a notification of disenrollment. To renew Healthy San Francisco, these participants should contact their primary care



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medical home or Healthy San Francisco Customer Service at (415) 615-4555, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

### **Hep A exposure after flight from SFO to Charlotte, NC**

On September 21st, an American Airlines flight attendant may have exposed passengers to Hepatitis A on a flight from San Francisco International Airport to Charlotte, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The San Francisco Department of Public Health notified the 18 San Francisco adults who were on the flight of the exposure and were recommended to get vaccinated if they were not immune.

### **Health department prepares San Francisco colleges for potential disease outbreak**

On September 26th, the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Communicable Disease Prevention & Control (CDCP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (PHEPR) programs convened a half-day tabletop exercise with local undergraduate colleges to prepare to respond to a potential campus outbreak of serogroup B meningococcal disease (MenB). San Francisco State University, City College of San Francisco, and the University of San Francisco participated, as did representatives from the California Department of Public Health. In recent years, several undergraduate universities in California and elsewhere in the United States have experienced campus outbreaks of MenB that presented significant challenges to local public health and campus resources. Throughout this exercise, participants progressed through scenarios that involved complex coordination between DPH and the colleges. A collaborative approach gave participants the opportunity to address challenges, answer questions, and prepare for this potential public health emergency.

### **DPH in the News (Sep 27 – Oct 10 2019)**

SF Chronicle, Oct 15 2019, Breed unveils \$200 million plan to address mental illness crisis

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Breed-unveils-200-million-plan-to-address-mental-14521536.php#photo-18434771>

SF Examiner, Oct 15 2019, San Francisco faced with dueling behavioral health plans as city leaders spar over reform initiatives

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/san-francisco-faced-with-dueling-behavioral-health-plans-as-city-leaders-spar-over-reform-initiatives/>

SF Chronicle, Oct 14 2019, SF officials reach deal on troubled long-term care facility for mentally



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<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/SF-officials-reach-deal-on-troubled-long-term-14521543.php>

KGO, Oct 10 2019, Passengers treated for possible Hepatitis A exposure after flight from SFO to Charlotte

<https://abc7news.com/health/passengers-treated-for-possible-hepatitis-a-exposure-after-flight-from-sfo/5602870/>

CHR, Oct 9 2019, Millions Unclaimed: Behind California's Troubled Mental Health Care Funding System

<https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/analysis/millions-unclaimed-behind-californias-troubled-mental-health-care-funding-system/38158>

KCBS, Oct 8 2019, SFO passengers exposed to hepatitis

<https://kcbsradio.radio.com/media/audio-channel/sfo-passengers-exposed-hepatitis>

KALW, Oct 8 2019, Radio podcast: update on 'Vision Zero'

<https://www.kalw.org/post/city-visions-keeping-our-eyes-road-towards-vision-zero#stream/0>

Hoodline, Oct 4 2019, Castro's Naan N Curry temporarily closed by health department

<https://www.middletonpress.com/news/article/Castro-s-Naan-N-Curry-temporarily-closed-by-14493706.php>

Kron, Oct 3 2019, Hope for safe injection sites in San Francisco returns after federal judge's ruling

<https://www.kron4.com/news/hope-for-safe-injection-sites-in-san-francisco-returns-after-federal-judges-ruling/>

KPIX, Oct 3 2019, San Francisco Implements New Mental Health Conservatorship Law

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/10/03/san-francisco-implements-new-mental-health-conservatorship-law/>

SF Examiner, Oct 2 2019, Health Department promises plan for long-term mental health beds before end of month

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/health-department-promises-plan-for-long-term-mental-health-beds-before-end-of-month/>

Hoodline, Oct 1 2019, Maxine Hall Health Center remodel project breaks ground this week

<https://www.thetelegraph.com/news/article/Maxine-Hall-Health-Center-remodel-project-breaks-14483298.php>



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CBS, Oct 1 2019, Program Targets Opioid Overdose Deaths At San Francisco SRO Hotels  
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/10/01/fentanyl-overdose-prevention-program-sro-hotels-opioid-epidemic/>

SF Chronicle, Sep 30 2019, How to get city's help with homelessness, drug dealing  
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/How-to-get-city-s-help-with-homelessness-drug-14481723.php>

BCN, Sep 30 2019, City to launch program to combat opioid overdose deaths at SRO hotels  
<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/City-To-Launch-Program-To-Combat-Opioid-Overdose-14481594.php>

SF Chronicle, Sep30 2019, Spike in fentanyl deaths spurs overdose prevention program in SF residential hotels  
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Spike-in-fentanyl-deaths-spurs-overdose-14477203.php>

Jordan Times, Sep 28 2019, Spate of clinical trials has scientists hopeful about a vaccine to prevent HIV  
<https://menafn.com/1099063183/Spate-of-clinical-trials-has-scientists-hopeful-about-a-vaccine-to-prevent-HIV>