



San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of September 17, 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 plan to help those suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders on San Francisco's streets

On September 4th, Mayor London Breed announced the first steps in a long-term plan to provide care for people who have severe mental illnesses and substance use disorders and who are also experiencing homelessness—with a focus on a population of nearly 4,000 people. The initial steps of the new initiative will provide enhanced care coordination, create a multi-agency pilot to streamline housing and health care for the most vulnerable, and increase access to behavioral health services by expanding hours of the City's Behavioral Health Access Center.

Through in-depth analysis of public health data, San Francisco's Director of Mental Health Reform Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland and the Department of Public Health (DPH) began the reform effort by identifying a select population of nearly 4,000 people who demonstrate the highest level of service needs and vulnerability, and who require specialized solutions to reach stability and wellness. San Francisco is believed to be the first city in the nation to use the behavioral health diagnoses of people experiencing homelessness to identify a population and tailor solutions to its needs.

Of that population of 4,000, the 230 most vulnerable behavioral health clients experiencing homelessness will immediately begin receiving enhanced care coordination. The City will also launch a new multi-department effort to streamline housing and health care for these 230 individuals in order to ensure the City's highest-risk residents can succeed in permanent supportive housing. This pilot will serve as a model to address the larger population of 4,000.

Mayor London Breed, Tipping Point and UCSF announce partnership to expand and strengthen mental health support

On September 12th, Mayor London Breed announced the next step in the City's mental health initiative: a partnership with Tipping Point Community and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to support behavioral health initiatives in San Francisco. Tipping Point, in coordination with the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) and UCSF, released their "Behavioral Health and Homelessness in San Francisco" report, which is the result of a yearlong research project.



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As an initial response to the recommendations in the report, Tipping Point will fund 15 new Hummingbird beds, which provide psychiatric respite and a place where clients can be linked to care, services, and treatment. The City will also pursue implementation of a managed alcohol facility to help those suffering from alcohol use disorder. The City is proud to work with Tipping Point and UCSF on addressing the behavioral health challenges of the 4,000 people who need care the most.

DPH's analysis and Tipping Point's report determine that more mental health beds are needed in order to serve the number of people who need health care services. Hummingbird beds have been successful at providing psychiatric respite and connecting people with the services they need, and the City is investing in expanding the number of Hummingbird beds. With funding from Tipping Point, DPH will work with a community-based organization to open a new Hummingbird site with 15 beds in the community.

DPH's analysis determined that 95 percent of the 4,000 most vulnerable individuals in San Francisco suffer from alcohol use disorder. Dr. Nigusse Bland and DPH are exploring ways to address the needs of that population and provide alcohol substance use treatment. The Tipping Point report recommends the creation of a managed alcohol treatment program, which is an innovative and evidence-based solution that the City will pursue implementing moving forward.

Mayor Breed, Supervisors Fewer, Mandelman and Brown announce plan to stabilize and expand critical mental health residential facilities

On September 9th, Mayor London Breed along with Supervisors Sandra Fewer, Rafael Mandelman, and Vallie Brown announced a plan to address the closure crisis impacting San Francisco's Board and Care Facilities. These residential care facilities, which provide homes and care for people with behavioral health challenges and who need help with daily tasks like dressing and eating, have been closing due to increased operational costs and development pressures from the housing market. The plan put forth by the Mayor and the Supervisors will stabilize existing Board and Care facilities by increasing operational funding, seek to purchase sites at risk of closure, and advance strategies that will reduce pressure to convert facilities to residential use.

Board and Care facilities, otherwise known as Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) or Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs), provide higher levels of care for individuals to enable them to live in the community. These facilities are typically small—with as few as three or four beds—and are integrated into residential neighborhoods. They provide both short- and long-term placements for people with behavioral health challenges, including individuals who are conserved or have exited conservatorship. Board and Care beds represent an important piece of the overall portfolio of behavioral health beds in San Francisco, and the loss of these beds poses a significant challenge to our overall ability to respond to the behavioral health challenges in the city. The number of



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residential care facilities and the total number of beds that contract with the Department of Public Health (DPH), has shown a steady decline over the past five years, and an additional 71 beds will possibly be closing by the end of 2020.

The plan from the Mayor and the Supervisors will do three things:

1. *Stabilize Existing Board and Care Facilities* -- One of the primary reasons Board and Care facilities cite for closure is the increased cost of doing business. Today, most residents who occupy a bed receive some sort of supplemental income, and these sources typically provide a reimbursement for each placement. The City subsidizes this reimbursement for providers with an additional patch payment, which will be increased to help providers better afford the cost of services. For this year, costs will be covered using existing sources, and moving forward, this additional cost will be incorporated into the DPH's budget.
2. *Authorize City Acquisition of Facilities to Preserve and Expand Beds* -- The City will explore purchasing the buildings of existing providers that are at risk of closure, possibly expanding them to increase capacity, and partnering with a community partner for operation.
3. *Reduce Pressure to Convert to Residential Use* -- Many of the Board and Care facilities that are closing are selling to parties that aim to convert them to residential uses. By placing interim controls on the conversion of any Board and Care use to residential use, the development incentive to go out of business is reduced.

The initial steps of the new initiative will provide enhanced care coordination, create a multi-agency program to streamline housing and health care for the most vulnerable, and increase access to behavioral health services by expanding hours of the City's Behavioral Health Access Center.

Mayor Breed announces record low numbers of new HIV diagnoses

On September 10th, Mayor London Breed, joined by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Dr. Grant Colfax, and public health officials, announced the results of the 2018 Annual HIV Epidemiology Report at Ward 86 at San Francisco General Hospital. The report shows encouraging trends on many fronts and identifies some continuing disparities and areas for targeted improvements.

The record-breaking decline in new HIV diagnoses and improvements in HIV care outcomes are encouraging and show a positive trend towards achieving San Francisco's goal of zero new HIV infections. In 2018, new diagnoses dropped below 200 to 197, which is a 13 percent decrease from 227 new diagnoses in 2017. There has also been progress on reducing disparities among populations, with three groups seeing significant improvement—the number of new diagnoses declined among Asians, women, and men who have sex with men (MSM). Disparities by race and ethnicity, age, gender, housing status, and risk group remain. The number of new diagnoses increased among four populations: people who inject drugs, people experiencing homelessness, African Americans and Latinx people.



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To strengthen San Francisco's ability to tackle these disparities, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) will primarily be focusing on serving African Americans, Latinx, transgender people, people who inject drugs, and people who are experiencing homelessness. With grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DPH will continue and increase the several efforts underway to address the disparities highlighted by the Annual Report.

The Annual Report is the first in a series of announcements that the City will be making regarding HIV/AIDS initiatives over the next year. San Francisco and Oakland will be hosting the AIDS 2020 Conference in July next year.

Mid City Market graduates from SF's Healthy Retail Program

On September 12th, Mid City Market, one of five stores in the Tenderloin to undergo a healthy retail transformation, marked its "graduation" from San Francisco's HealthyRetailSF Program with a community celebration. Since 2015, Mid City Market has now transformed into a community market that provides its Tenderloin neighbors with a healthy balance of merchandise that includes lots of fresh fruits and vegetables and healthy snacks and beverages. The ceremony was hosted by the Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition and resident Food Justice Leaders and featured healthy food and recipe samples, games, prizes and a raffle. The community came together to celebrate the success of bringing healthy foods and beverages into a neighborhood that was once severely lacking healthy options. The owners of Mid City Market were honored with certificates of recognition for their accomplishments from the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors.

In 2013, the Department of Public Health and the Office of Economic and Workforce Development partnered together to launch HealthyRetailSF, an incentive-based, voluntary program for merchants to shift business models and make the changes they need to remain competitive, but to also provide healthier food alternatives in their communities.

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Week

In honor of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Week (Sep 8-14, 2019), San Francisco Behavioral Health Services (BHS), in partnership with Each Mind Matters promoted Know the Signs (KTS), a suicide prevention campaign. The KTS campaign raises awareness about suicide prevention in our community by encouraging community members to know the warning signs of suicide, find the words to offer support to someone, and reach out to local resources. To support this campaign, BHS distributed KTS kits to the community which included posters, hand-outs, social media and media messages, activities for schools and youth, and self-care resources. In addition, NHS reached out to local coffee shops to distribute drink coasters and coffee sleeves with resource information.



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Connect to Quit campaign launches

On September 9th, the San Francisco Department of Public Health Tobacco Free Project launched a media campaign to encourage connections for quitting smoking. The campaign was developed from interviews with local, current and former smokers about their experiences in quitting smoking. The campaign focuses around the many options that are available to support quitting, and encourages individuals to reach out so they do not have to face quitting alone. The campaign will run on TV, radio, social media, and the Muni transit system. The ads encourages people to reach out to access the myriad support resources: support groups, quit kits, free nicotine replacement patches, apps, telephone counseling, and more. Those who use tobacco products are encouraged to reach out by visiting www.ConnectToQuit.org or calling (628) 206-7640.

DPH in the News (Aug 30 – Sep 13 2019)

SF Gate, Sep 13 2019, Bay Area officials advise residents against using N95 masks for wildfire smoke

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/N95-mask-wildfire-smoke-San-Francisco-Bay-Area-14428384.php>

SF Examiner, Sep 12 2019, Hospital workers square off with health department, allege mismanagement of long-term care units

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/hospital-workers-square-off-with-health-department-allege-mismanagement-of-long-term-care-units/>

SF Chronicle, Sep 12 2019, Editorial: SF has to replace – and fill – long-term mental health care beds

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/Editorial-SF-has-to-replace-and-fill-14435998.php>

SF Chronicle, Sep 12 2019, Nonprofit ponies up \$3 million to get those in crisis off SF's streets and into temporary beds

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Nonprofit-ponies-up-3-million-to-get-those-in-14435791.php>

SF Examiner, Sep 11 2019, Ex-hospital CEO still employed by SF after patient abuse scandal

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/ex-hospital-ceo-still-employed-by-sf-after-patient-abuse-scandal/>

SF Chronicle, Sep 11 2019, SF kept beds for mentally ill empty out of concern for patient safety, officials say

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/SF-kept-beds-for-mentally-ill-empty-out-of->



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[14430890.php](https://www.sfdph.org/dph/ncid/DCDC/14430890.php)

BAR, Sep 11 2019, Editorial: milestone marked, but more to do

<https://www.ebar.com/news/news/281691>

BCN, Sep 11 2019, SF approves triage center for people living in vehicles

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/San-Francisco-Approves-Triage-Center-for-People-Living-in-Vehicles-560010991.html>

PEW, Sep 11 2019, 'Gravely disable' homeless forced into mental health care in more states

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/09/11/gravely-disabled-homeless-forced-into-mental-health-care-in-more-states>

SF Chronicle, Sep 10 2019, New HIV infections hit record low in SF, but people of color, homeless cases spike

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/New-HIV-infections-hit-record-low-in-SF-last-14428628.php#photo-18241289>

BCN, Sep 10 2019, City sees lowest number of new HIV diagnoses in recent times

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/City-Sees-Lowest-Number-Of-New-Hiv-Diagnoses-In-14429703.php>

SF Examiner, Sep 10 2019, HIV diagnoses hit historic low in SF but continue to rise in vulnerable groups

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/hiv-diagnoses-hit-historic-low-in-sf-but-continue-to-rise-in-vulnerable-groups/>

BAR, Sep 10 2019, New SF HIV cases fall below 200

<https://www.ebar.com/index.php?ch=news&sc=news&sc3=&id=281634&pf=1>

KTV, Sep 10 2019, San Francisco reaches record low number of HIV diagnoses

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/ktvu-local-news/san-francisco-reaches-record-low-number-of-hiv-diagnoses>

KPIX, Sep 9 2019, Experts recommend preparation for air quality emergencies connected to wildfires

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/09/09/experts-recommend-preparation-for-air-quality-emergencies-connected-to-wildfires/>

SF Chronicle, Sep 9 2019, Wildfire season increases risk of bad air in Bay Area - and masks aren't the solution



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<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Instead-of-a-mask-invest-in-clean-air-14423500.php>

KCBS, Aug 30 2019, Face masks are not effective in wildfire smoke, authorities say

<https://kcbsradio.radio.com/articles/face-masks-are-not-effective-against-wildfire-smoke>

SF Chronicle, Sep 7 2019, Editorial: Focusing on San Francisco's highest-risk 4,000 will help the whole city

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/Editorial-Focusing-on-San-Francisco-s-14420879.php>

TNS, Sep 7 2019, Scientists hopeful about HIV vaccine

<https://centredailytimes.org/health/scientists-hopeful-hiv-vaccine-08086200>

SF Chronicle, Sep 6 2019, Beds for SF's mentally ill, drug addicted sit empty despite huge need

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Despite-tsunami-of-need-some-beds-for-SF-s-14417800.php>

SF Examiner, Sep 6 2019, Sordid details emerge in abuse of patients at Laguna Honda Hospital

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sordid-details-emerge-in-abuse-of-patients-at-laguna-honda-hospital/>

SF Chronicle, Sep 6 2019, Beds for SF's mentally ill, drug addicted sit empty despite huge need

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Despite-tsunami-of-need-some-beds-for-SF-s-14417800.php?psid=eTWi7>

SF Examiner, Sep 5 2019, SF Public Defender demands answers over mentally ill inmates languishing in jail

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-public-defender-demands-answers-over-mentally-ill-inmates-languishing-in-jail/>

BCN, Sep 4 2019, SF pilot program aims to help homeless in need of mental health, drug abuse services

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/San-Francisco-Pilot-Program-Aims-to-Help-Homeless-in-Need-of-Mental-Health-Drug--559436541.html>

SF Chronicle, Sep 4 2019, SF counts 4,000 homeless, addicted and mentally ill, but timeline for help still unclear

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-counts-4-000-homeless-addicted-and-mentally-14412061.php>

KQED, Sep 4 2019, New S.F. pilot to target homeless residents most in need of mental health,



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addiction services

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11772258/new-s-f-pilot-to-target-homeless-residents-most-in-need-of-mental-health-addiction-services>

SF Examiner, Sep 3 2019, Homeless residents at high risk of death in traffic collisions

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/homeless-residents-at-high-risk-of-death-in-traffic-collisions/>