



City and County of San Francisco  
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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### Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of December 15, 2015

*A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco*  
<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

#### Working in Public Health

By now we are all very well aware of the tragic shooting that occurred at San Bernardino's Inland Regional Center. As public health workers we are especially touched. Public health workers are advocates for patients, we respond to crises, and we are often the first line in response to disasters. We have taken a path to help those in need. This makes it especially difficult to make sense of what happened in San Bernardino. Traumatic events and terrorist acts seem to be increasingly a part of life now and it may feel like there is little we can do. But there is something we can do, and that is to stand united with our public health colleagues, their families and all those affected by this horrific act of violence, and to let perpetrators of these types of acts know that we will not be scared and we will continue to fulfill our mission, to serve the people of San Francisco.

On Wednesday, December 9, at 11am, San Francisco Department of Public Health employees gathered for a moment of silence and to lower the flag for victims of San Bernardino. We were joined by public health officials from as far away as the United Kingdom. We are not alone.

As we go into the holidays, I would like to recognize and thank each and every employee who has contributed to the health and welfare of San Franciscans most in need. I also ask that each of you reach out to your colleagues at this time when many are stressed and fearful. Let them know what they mean to you, and let them know that they are not alone. Together we will get through this, and together we will stand up to violence. Please consider making a donation to the families of the victims of the San Bernardino shooting. Text SBUNITED to 71777 or go to [www.arrowheadunitedway.org](http://www.arrowheadunitedway.org)

#### Mayor Lee Announces goal to help at least 8,000 people out of homelessness

Mayor Ed Lee announced on December 3<sup>rd</sup> a goal for his second term of helping at least 8,000 people out of homelessness through strategies that stabilize people's lives through the City's

nationally recognized housing and services and building a system that ends a person's homelessness before it becomes chronic. Mayor Lee is creating a new Department to help homeless residents permanently exit the streets and move into housing and services and has committed to maintaining and enhancing funding for homeless prevention and solutions of at least \$250 million per year.

The new Department will bring together the multitude of homeless outreach, housing, shelter, and supportive services that exist across San Francisco government under one roof. Trent Rhorer, the director of Human Services, Sam Dodge, the Director of HOPE, and the Department of Public Health are tasked to develop the new Department to End Homelessness with service providers, homeless advocates and national experts.

## **Preparing for El Nino**

Mayor Ed Lee joined leaders from throughout the city last week to announce preparations for the coming El Nino. He was joined by the Department of Emergency Management, Human Services Agency, Department of Public Health, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Public Works and the Office of Economic and Workforce Development to discuss the coordinated storm-related efforts that are underway and in partnership with nonprofits and community groups across San Francisco.

The Mayor's announcement highlighted care for our most vulnerable, with secured locations throughout San Francisco where our homeless and most in need residents can find a dry and warm place to sleep and receive hot meals and health care. The San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA) is planning to open up to 1,100 additional beds in response to El Niño. These emergency shelters are located throughout San Francisco and are independent from the City's existing homeless shelter services and winter shelter program. People can bring their pets and belongings whenever possible. HSA will provide sleeping mats, blankets, and hygiene kits. Meals will be provided by the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, Project Open Hand, and Glide. As part of the emergency response, the public health department will provide physical and mental health triage.

## **Improvement Projects at Zuckerberg San Francisco General**

Occupational Health and the Emergency Department presented their improvement work at their Management Forum on Friday, December 11. Occupational Health showcased their work in a program called 5S and how they have used these principles in their clinical and administrative areas. 5S is a workplace organization method that uses a list of 5 Japanese words that begin with the letter S (*seiri, seiton, seiso, seiketsu, and shitsuke*). The list describes how to organize a work space for efficiency by identifying and storing the items used, maintaining the area and items, and sustaining the new order. The Emergency Department showed their work in Value Stream mapping, by designing and piloting new processes for front-end flow to quickly identify and coordinate care for patients from when they come in the door to when they are assessed by a provider. In addition, they are preparing for their move into the new acute care and trauma facility by implementing many new improvement ideas, including developing a team-based patient care model and incorporating a provider at triage. They have also designed new patient-centered workflows for behavioral health and pediatric patients to establish roles and responsibilities for care team members.

## **Network of Niceness**

The Quality of Life Performance Improvement Committee at Laguna Honda, spearheaded by their Wellness and Activity Therapy department, announced a new six-month campaign to support practicing small acts of kindness while at work to increase awareness that each person has a role in creating a positive and quality healing environment. Announcements for events will come through fliers, meetings and the Laguna Honda television channels. All staff, residents and family members are welcome to join this campaign as “niceness ambassadors”. Studies have shown that when kindness is received or observed, recipients and observers feel “happier” and, generally, happier people report having a higher quality of life. The goal of the campaign is to increase quality of life for patients, their family and friends, staff, volunteers and the community.

## **Cistern Project on Laguna Honda Campus**

As part of the \$412 million Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response bond that was approved by voters in June 2010, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will continue making a series of improvements to the City’s emergency firefighting water system. The installation of a cistern on Laguna Honda Campus is part of the system improvements being made throughout the city. Construction may begin as early as December 2015 with the duration of the project expected to range four to six months. Cisterns are underground water storage tanks that provide an emergency source of water for firefighting. Cisterns are usually located in or near intersections and are identified by brick demarcations.

## **Study shows daily PrEP protects people in real world settings**

An article focused on PrEP integration in municipal and community-based sexual health services appeared in JAMA on November 16th. It focused on research being done by clinics in San Francisco and Miami to look at PrEP adherence in men who have sex with men (MSM) and in transgender women in the community. The research found a low HIV acquisition rate despite a high incidence of STIs, higher adherence with PrEP in higher risk participants, and concluded that interventions that address racial and geographic disparities and housing instability may increase the impact of PrEP. The article was announced in a press release on Monday, November 16, and appeared on over 70 news-related websites including [Time Magazine](#), [Us News & World Report](#), [NBC](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [Reuters US News](#), [Web MD](#), and [Fox News](#). The San Francisco research contingent includes SFPDPH staff Albert Liu, Stephanie Cohen, Susan Buchbinder, Susan Philip, Oliver Bacon, Robert Blue, and Nikole Trainor, and AIDS office staff Tim Matheson and Erin Andrew.

## **The Vision Zero Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Project**

The Department of Public Health has launched a Vision Zero education campaign targeting safety for youth and seniors. The campaign is funded by a \$200,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Every year, about 30 people lose their lives and over 200 more are seriously injured while traveling on city streets. These deaths and injuries are preventable, and San Francisco is committed to stopping further loss of life. The educational campaign was developed in support of Vision Zero, San Francisco’s policy to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2024.

This project will promote pedestrian and bicycle safety by identifying schools and senior centers located on high-injury corridors (12 percent of city streets that account for over 70 percent of all severe and fatal injuries). These schools and senior centers will receive educational materials and presentations on traffic safety that specifically address speeding, the leading collision factor in fatal and severe traffic injuries.

The SF Department of Public Health will partner with SFMTA, the SF Bicycle Coalition, SF Safe Routes to School and Walk San Francisco to develop training materials on Vision Zero.

“We are proud to partner with the SF Department of Public Health on this initiative,” said Nicole Ferrara, executive director of Walk San Francisco. “Injuries to seniors are more serious compared to younger adults—risk of death is about five times greater, recovery times are longer, and some people may never fully recover. Slowing down speeds around schools and senior centers is critical to protecting the safety of our City’s most vulnerable populations.”