



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 August 1, 2017**

*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>

#### **Federal Policy Update – The Senate rejects all measures to repeal Affordable Care Act**

On Friday, July 28th, the U.S Senate rejected the ACA “Skinny Repeal,” which was considered a last resort for GOP Senators to pass a scaled back version of repeal and replace health care legislation. The bill would have eliminated the individual mandate and the employer mandate and made some additional changes, including eliminating funds for preventive health care and transferring to community health centers funding currently going to Planned Parenthood. The bill would have increased the number of uninsured people by 16 million over baseline estimates by 2026, decreased the projected federal deficit by \$142 billion over the same time period, and increased premiums in the exchanges by 20 percent. The bill failed by a vote of 49-51, with all Democratic Senators and three Republican Senators, McCain (AZ), Collins (ME) and Murkowski (AK), voting against it.

In the week leading up to the vote, the Senate considered several other health care proposals, all of which would have resulted in millions of Americans losing their insurance coverage and the loss of critical public health funding from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. The Better Care Reconciliation Act (a repeal and replace bill) failed 43-57 on Tuesday (7/25) and on Wednesday (7/26), the Obamacare Repeal Reconciliation Act (a repeal without replacement bill) failed, 45-55. Currently, there does not appear to be agreement among Senate Republicans on next steps, which could include bipartisan legislation to improve the Affordable Care Act or moving on to other topics such as the budget, taxes and infrastructure spending.

This vote was an important victory for those who have worked over the years to assure that everyone has access to affordable, quality healthcare. The defeat of this bill is a great win for the 93,000 San Franciscans who receive insurance through the ACA's Medicaid expansion program

and the 40,000 San Franciscans who purchased insurance through Covered California. The ACA remains intact and the San Francisco Department of Public Health is committed to working with lawmakers on any improvements to the Affordable Care Act that will ensure that quality, affordable health care continues to be available to all San Franciscans.

### **State Policy – AB 186, which would authorize supervised injection services, advances**

Assembly Bill 186 (AB 186), which is advancing through the state legislature, would make California the first state in the nation to permit illegal drug use in designated places. The bill, sponsored by Assembly Member Eggman and Senator Wiener, has passed through the Assembly and two Senate subcommittees and is currently awaiting a full vote by the Senate. This bill extends the harm reduction strategies already used in California by enabling local governments to allow programs to provide drug users a safe and hygienic space to use pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of trained staff. Specifically, the legislation would permit Alameda, Fresno, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Mendocino, San Francisco, San Joaquin and Santa Cruz counties—and the cities within them—to approve entities to establish and operate a safer drug consumption program for individuals 18 years of age or older, until January 1, 2022.

The legislation aims to help address the rising use of heroin and opiates and subsequent overdoses. There have been several studies that have shown safe injection sites reduce overdoses, reduce transmission of infectious disease and increase treatment for individuals with substance use disorders. The legislation has not been supported by law enforcement, which contends the injection sites would become crime magnets that normalize hard drugs rather than helping addicts to access treatment. Additionally, it would set up a conflict with federal law, which not only forbids the use of illicit drugs, but also prohibits owning or renting buildings for the purpose of consuming them.

In April 2017, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution charging the Department of Public Health with convening a task force to develop recommendations on the operation of safe injection services. That task force will conclude its work in August 2017, with a final report that will be presented to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the Health Commission in September 2017.

### **FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 Budget Update**

The Mayor signed the FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 Budget on Wednesday, July 26, 2017. The City and County's final approved budget is \$10 Billion annually and maintains the new investments in the Mayor's Proposed Budget. These investments include \$21 million in new funding for homeless services, an increase of \$12 million for in Behavioral Health and Harm Reduction services, approximately \$140 million in capital and facilities projects in each year, and an annual \$13 million for a nonprofit cost-of-doing business increase, for a total of \$26 million in FY 2018-19.

DPH's budget remains at \$2.2 Billion and has not changed significantly from the Mayor's June 1 Proposed Budget. As part of the Finance Committee review, DPH's budget was reduced by \$4.7 million in FY 2017-18, which dropped to \$2.1 million of ongoing reductions for FY 2018-19 and beyond. These cuts represent less than 1% of DPH's overall budget, were administrative in nature and will not affect our ability to provide services. Offsetting these reductions, DPH's budget increased by \$497,000 of new expenditure and revenue to reflect the addition of the New Generations Clinic that will be operated jointly UCSF and DPH. In addition, the Board added back eight initiatives into DPH's budget totaling \$1.7 million in FY 2017-18 and \$933,000 for FY 2018-19 and beyond. A list of final Board of Supervisors addbacks to DPH follows.

Divison	Initiative	2017-2018	2018-2019
HIV Heath Services	Asian American HIV/Healthcare Funding	300,000	300,000
Health Promotion	Food Security - Maintains Healthy Food Purchasing Supplement	50,000	50,000
Behavioral Health	Increasing Investment in Disconnected TAY Including Behavioral Health Treatment	800,000	
Behavioral Health	Street Violence Intervention Program	225,000	225,000
Behavioral Health	TAY Outreach and Street Based Mental Health for Homeless Youth	103,500	103,500
Primary Care	Women's Reproductive Services	95,000	95,000
Behavioral Health	Street Violence prevention	160,000	160,000
	Total Addbacks	1,733,500	933,500

Overall this budget was a positive one for DPH and we are grateful for the support we have received from the Mayor's Office, the Board of Supervisors and internal staff.

### **SF Health Network celebrates Third Birthday with Launch Parties throughout the Network**

Yesterday the SF Health Network celebrated its third birthday with parties at 32 sites around the city. There were cakes, posters, brochures, pins, banners, music and an unveiling of the new brand including brand language, a new logo and a beautifully animated video. The leadership team was able to attend parties at many sites including Southeast Health Center, Chinatown Public Health, Potrero Hill Health Center, Silver Ave Health Center, Zuckerberg SF General, Laguna Honda, 30 Van Ness and several Behavioral Health sites. Patient gifts including water bottles and tote bags were distributed and staff were given info on how they could order swag online. Staff were also given access to a sharepoint site filled with brand assets including logos, templates, photos, email signatures, and more. Take a look at the new website here: <http://www.sfhealthnetwork.org/>

### **Well Being@Work**

In an effort to promote a culture of well-being for DPH employees, well-being Champions have been designated throughout the department. Champions are employees who are passionate about well-being and help to promote well-being resources to their fellow employees. Champions can request resources from the Health Services System for their area including screenings, equipment, or incentives for events. Our Summer Hero is Stephanie Yang at Contract Development & Technical Assistance (CDTA). Stephanie Yang has been working with DPH for almost a year. She is a program manager and she is the new Well-Being Champion for her workplace. With just a few months in her Champion role, she took the initiative to roll out a healthy weight program for her fellow employees. The program included support group meetings, weekly challenges and onsite services to help participants to meet their well-being goals. Congratulations, Stephanie, and thank you for helping us stay healthy!