



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

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of May 2, 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>

U.S. District Court Issues Injunction against Executive Order Targeting Sanctuary Cities

San Francisco was the first city in the United States to sue President Trump over his executive order that threatens to cut off federal funding from sanctuary jurisdictions. On April 25th, 2017 U.S. District Judge William Orrick issued a preliminary injunction in two lawsuits brought by San Francisco and Santa Clara County, that prohibits the federal administration from enforcing President Trump's January 25th Executive Order targeting sanctuary cities. Judge Orrick said that President Trump was exceeding his constitutional authority by punishing local governments that refuse to cooperate with his immigration policies and said that the order was "potentially placing hundreds of millions of dollars of the counties' federal grants at risk. The order's uncertainty interferes with the counties' ability to budget, plan for the future, and properly serve their residents." The injunction will remain in place while the lawsuits work their way through court. San Francisco remains committed to defending the rights of San Francisco residents and families, regardless of their immigration status.

DPH Response to City Power Outage

On April 21st San Francisco experienced a significant power outage affecting over 85,000 customers. Given the large scale power outage, DPH along with multiple city agencies, activated our emergency response to ensure that medical and public health activities continued despite the loss of power. As part of this response staff from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) branch deployed to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and also set up a virtual Department Operating Center (DOC) to monitor the situation and communicate information. Response actions included getting a rapid assessment of DPH facilities to see if the

power outage affected staff and clients and communicating with the healthcare system to ensure that healthcare services were not interrupted. While several hospitals were impacted by the power outage, all were able to maintain their acute care capabilities by either normal or back up power systems. Identification of community members that were dependent on power for their medical equipment needs was assessed through current information systems and a plan to check on these community members was developed in conjunction with the EOC. Within SFDPH the ambulatory care branch was able to quickly assess clinic status and determined that one clinic, Maxine Hall, was impacted which led to redeployment of staff to other service areas. The Communications Office published food safety messages for the public. PHEPR maintained response activities until power was restored. This event provided an excellent opportunity to practice communication and coordination, and to ensure that San Francisco health systems were able to continue critical services despite the power disruption.

Flavored Tobacco

On April 18, Supervisor Malia Cohen introduced landmark legislation that would prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, in San Francisco. Dr. Tomás Aragón, participated in the press event on behalf of DPH, alongside Mayor Lee, Supervisor Safai and many others. Banning menthol and flavored tobacco products would have a significant impact on public health, especially for communities of color and young people. Flavored tobacco products, like cotton-candy flavored e-cigarettes, come in colorful wrappers and are sold at cheap price points --- all designed to attract youth and young adults. A presentation on the proposed legislation will be calendared for an upcoming Health Commission meeting.

Transgender Health presents at U.S. Professional Association on Transgender Health (USPATH)

The Transgender Health Services (THS) team, attended and presented at the Inaugural United States Professional Association on Transgender Health (USPATH) during the weekend of February 2nd-5th, 2017. This was the first conference where the entire THS staff was able to attend and present, representing the San Francisco Department of Public Health. “Our team at USPATH attended a variety of presentations offered by international experts in all aspects of gender related care” said Julie Graham, Director of Transgender Health Services as well as the Curriculum Chair for the World Professional Association on Transgender Health (WPATH) the parent organization for USPATH. “Most of my focus was on attending the presentations on surgery that were open to non-surgeons. I participated with a group of surgeons to discuss how to better educate surgeons on the development of a model for standards of surgical care for transgender patients.”

Population Health holds Third Annual Division-Wide Event

The Population Health Division (PHD) is dedicated to building a culture of continuous improvement through staff engagement. On April 5, 2017, PHD held its third annual division wide event, attended by 278 staff with the theme, “We will be the best at getting better.” Staff presented examples of their work, featuring principles of continuous quality improvement and demonstrating their vision to be a community-centered leader in public health practice and innovation. This was the most well-received staff engagement event out of the three annual events held to date, with positive feedback from staff.

PHD staff also celebrated their recent national accreditation status from the Public Health Accreditation Board, issued on March 14, 2017. As part of the accreditation process, PHD “underwent a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it met or exceeded a set of public health quality standards and measures.”

Nurse Week May 6th-12th

Celebrations will be happening all across the SF Health Network in honor of National Nurse Week, May 6th-12th. ZSFG will be hosting a reception for their nurses on Thursday, May 4th and a special night shift breakfast on May 5th. They will be awarding their Ambulatory Care Nursing Leadership Award, the Dorothy Washington Scholarship award, the O’Connell Society Award, the ZSFG Friend of Nursing Award, the Mildred Crear and the Daisy Award. Laguna Honda will have celebrations for all shifts, a webinar on “A Nurse’s Guide to preventing Compassion Fatigue, Moral Distress and Burnout” a meet-and-greet in their neighborhoods, a wellness fair, and a symposium to round out the week featuring former ZSFG CEO Gene O’Connell.

Volunteer Appreciation Week April 23-29th, 2017

On April 27th, more than 120 Laguna Honda volunteers attended an appreciation luncheon as part of National Volunteer Week. Volunteer Coordinators Cherrylyn Fernandes and Jan Doyle honored volunteers with special pins recognizing them for years of service ranging from 5-35 years. Laguna Honda has over 400 active volunteers in departments that include Spiritual Care, Activity Therapy, Dietary, Wellness, Outpatient Clinic, Nursing, and in all neighborhoods as well as with our partner organization, Zen Hospice. Volunteers offer their time and talents to help Laguna Honda achieve our vision of building healthier lives in post-acute care. ZSFG has 960 active volunteers who support the hospital in over 60 different volunteer assignments. In 2016 alone, volunteers dedicated 63,707 hours of service at ZSFG. Our work would not be possible without the invaluable work of our volunteers. The ZSFG volunteer celebration will be held on Friday, May 19th, 2017. Thank you for all that you do!

May is Mental Health Month

There are a number of events planned for Mental Health Month starting with an outreach at the SF Public Library on Saturday, April 29 at 11am for youth that may have mental health or substance use issues. Open Mic night will take place on Monday, May 15 from 1-3pm at the SF Public Library. A screening of Pixar’s “UP” will take place at 25 Van Ness room 610 on Friday, May 19th at 5:30pm.

Donate Life Registry

More than 23,000 Californians are waiting for tissue and organ donations. Last month, SFDPH participated in the National Donate Life Month eCampaign, designed to provide an easy way to register as organ and tissue donors through the Donate Life California Organ & Tissue Donor Registry. It’s not too late to register at <http://donatelifecalifornia.org/sfdph>.