



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

San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of October 3, 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>

No Congressional Vote to Repeal and Replace the ACA

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced September 26, that he will not bring forward for a vote the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would have repealed the Affordable Care Act. The bill would have eliminated the Medicaid expansion, cost-sharing subsidies, tax credits and the individual and employer mandate. Additionally, it would have restructured Medicaid into a capped program for states and also allowed states to waive essential health benefits and raise premiums for people with pre-existing conditions. The result of these changes would have left 32 million Americans uninsured by the year 2026. The measure would have had a disproportionate impact on California, with California projecting a loss of \$27.8 billion in federal funds in 2026, growing to \$57.5 billion in 2027.

The cancellation of this week's vote has major implications in that on September 30, Congress's current "budget reconciliation" instructions, which set up the special process that lets the Senate advance a bill with a simple majority rather than 60 votes, are set to expire. The decision on Tuesday not to vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill marked the fourth ACA repeal bill failure since the summer began. President Trump and Republicans in Congress have pledged to continue to work on repealing and replacing the ACA after they work on tax reform. On September 27, President Trump revealed his tax reform plan which reduces the corporate and individual tax rates.

2017 State Legislative Cycle Comes to an End

The work of the State Senate and Assembly has wrapped up for the year as the houses adjourned on September 16th. Over the next month, Governor Jerry Brown will be evaluating and determining the fate of the hundreds of measures that made it to his desk in the closing weeks of the session. There are an estimated 640 bills on the Governor's desk; the vast majority are

authored by Democrats and cover wide-ranging issues such as immigration, public safety, health care and housing. The 30-day signing period ends on October 15th. The next legislative session begins on January 4th, 2018.

US Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) conduct “Safe City” raids

We were recently informed US Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) carried out an extensive operation known as "Safe City," targeting sanctuary jurisdictions and immigrant communities across the nation. San Francisco was not amongst those cities directly impacted by the operation however, there was ICE activity in the city.

While we respect efforts of public safety, we urge the federal government to uphold our constitution by respecting due process and to refrain from harassing and targeting the members of our immigrant communities. Raids like this only sow distrust and fear and pushes our law abiding immigrants into the shadows. If the federal government believes there is a need to detain a serious offender, they can obtain a criminal warrant, which we will honor, as we always have.

We will continue to safeguard our immigrant communities and will work with our community partners to strengthen the city’s commitment to our immigrant residents. You are not alone and we are actively working to support you and your loved ones. We are stronger together and San Francisco stands with you.

If you need legal support please reach out to Francisco Immigrant Legal & Education Network at <http://sfilen.org/>. For additional support, please reach out to the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs at www.sfgov.org/oceia.

SFDPH Recent Heat Response Focused on Vulnerable Populations, Used Broad Communications Tools

For the third time this month, the Health Department activated its emergency response structure to manage the effects of high temperatures in the city. The most recent episode was September 26th-28th, when the National Weather Service predicted highs to reach 90 degrees. DPH joined with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and several other city agencies to protect public health and safety, and we continued to sharpen the focus on vulnerable populations.

The Health Department activated its Departmental Operations Center (DOC) and the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) coordinated citywide efforts through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Cooling centers coordinated by Human Services Agency were a priority, and other city agencies such as the Library and Recreation and Parks Department contributed to that effort with space and free pool hours, available to the public. Several partners and community organizations also provided cooling centers – City College, the Jewish Community Center, the George W. Davis Senior Center in the Bayview, the Salvation Army in Chinatown, Holy Name of Jesus Christ Church, Child Support Services in the Mission and the OMI Family Center Ingleside. The locations of cooling centers was mapped and placed on the DPH website for easy public access.

Proactive outreach was done for the homebound, elderly and medically frail residents by Project Open Hand and the Department of Aging and Adult Services contractors, including Meals on Wheels. This combined effort gave 70,000 San Franciscans a warning that it was expected to become very hot, provided heat tips, advice on staying cool, and information about where

cooling centers are and how to reach them. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing activated their heat protocols, established two cooling centers, and the Homeless Outreach Team provided water, heat information and transport for clients as needed.

We launched a public messaging effort on Twitter, Facebook and Next Door informing residents and the media of the heat forecast, location of cooling centers and other resources. Key messages were reminders to drink water and check on elderly people, and to stay cool by pulling shades and seeking air conditioning. The SF Alert system was used once, informing subscribers. In order to ensure maximum coverage, the activation also included the city's first ever use of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system, which sends emergency messages to cell phones within San Francisco. The use of that technology brought mixed results, with some cell phones receiving no messages, and others receiving several. We received feedback that some members of the public were annoyed by the repetition and some doubted whether there was a true emergency. Others appreciated the warning. We will work with DEM to study both the technology and strategic use of the WEA system as part of the after-action analysis and next steps.

During the week, emergency medical professionals in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) monitored the situation closely to react to any possible surge in 911 call volume, to track ambulance availability in the system and hospital capacity – all of which stayed within average ranges. San Francisco is new to extreme heat. Each activation this month has further strengthened the collaboration and protocols between DPH and the other city agencies that provide emergency response and care for vulnerable populations. We are proud of the unified and coordinated efforts during these recent heat events, and we continue to refine and improve our preparation and response activities.

Setback for Health Warnings on Sugary and Sweetened Beverages

In January 2015, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a city ordinance to decrease sugary drink consumption by requiring health warnings in certain forms of advertisements. The city ordinance, the first of its kind in the nation, was scheduled to take effect in July 2016, but had been put on hold by the courts during a legal challenge by the beverage industry. The ordinance would require display ads for sugary drinks to allocate 20 percent of their space to a warning that drinking such beverages “contributes to obesity, diabetes and tooth decay.”

On September 19th, 2017 a federal appeals court barred enforcement of the ordinance, saying the messages were “burdensome” due to their size – a required 20 percent of the ad and “not factual” because the warning singles out one risk factor for the health issues related to sugary drinks. Additionally the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco opinion said it would violate advertisers’ freedom of speech, which they stated includes the right of advertisers to refuse to convey warnings about their products, except when the warnings are clearly factual. Although the lower court found the warning to be factual, the Ninth Circuit did not find so. The city is considering its options. SFDPH’s Community Health Equity and Promotion Branch has been working for nearly a decade to educate San Franciscans about the real and significant health harms linked to sugary drinks. One 12-oz can of soda (which has about 10 teaspoons of sugar on average) a day can increase risk for heart disease by 20 percent and type 2 diabetes by about 26 percent.

New DPH-Kaizen Promotion Office (DPH-KPO)

To further spread our lean work throughout all of DPH, I am pleased to announce the creation of the DPH-Wide Lean Kaizen Promotion Office (DPH-KPO), to be headed by Lisa Golden, MD. Lean is a set of philosophies, methods, and tools that DPH is adopting to maximize the value of our care and services for our patients and clients. Its core values of teamwork, respect, and continuous improvement reflect the spirit and ideals of our organization. Kaizen is a lean term referring to the value of continuous improvement.

Dr. Golden (currently the SFHN Chief Quality Officer for Ambulatory Care) will lead this new unit as the Chief of Performance Innovation. Dr. Golden brings her depth of experience and expertise in quality improvement, process improvement and program development. She will work with executive leadership to set the strategy for and lead the adoption and spread of lean across all sections and divisions of the DPH. Given its importance, the DPH-KPO and its work will be part of DPH's executive leadership and structure.

Dr. Golden is joined by Toni Rucker, PhD (currently Chief Workforce Development Officer for Ambulatory Care) and Osinachi Okakpu, MPH (currently Workforce Development Coordinator for Ambulatory Care) who will team up to set the direction and create the infrastructure to lead and manage a lean transformation. Dr. Rucker and Ms. Okakpu bring their profound, workforce development knowledge and cultural competency lens to the team. Their contributions will strengthen and complement the skillsets of the team.

The DPH-KPO will centralize and coordinate deployment of lean throughout DPH. It will focus on the development of internal capacity through coordinated trainings, leadership development, and improvement activities across the divisions, leveraging existing expertise and building on the work already begun. Deploying lean represents a tremendous opportunity to modernize our processes, and leverage our new electronic systems and data, in service of our unchanging mission to care for the underserved and improve the health of San Francisco. Please join me in extending a gracious welcome to the new team as we launch our first DPH-wide Kaizen Promotion Office.

Dr. Barry Zevin and Eliza Wheeler Recognized by California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM)

Dr. Zevin was selected to receive the CSAM award for "...his over twenty-five years of providing medical care for the homeless on the streets, under freeways, in parks or wherever his patients are; for believing, and always saying, with total authenticity, that change is possible; for being a tireless advocate of utilizing innovative harm reduction strategies that have not only saved lives, but have served as a model to embolden other communities to do the same; and for reflecting contributions and qualities including an inquiring mind, courage, resolution, tenacity, enthusiasm, and energy for the positive.

Eliza Wheeler received the Community Service Award in recognition of "extraordinary and unrelenting determination to provide help to those in need and to educate the community about harm reduction measures that save lives." Ms. Wheeler oversees the Harm Reduction Coalition's efforts to prevent overdose deaths in the San Francisco/Bay Area. She is the head of project DOPE (Drug Overdose Prevention and Education) which has been the leading force in naloxone distribution in the community.

2018 CalMHSa Directing Change and Film Contest

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSa) – a proud partner of San Francisco’s Department of Public Health: Behavioral Health Services, Mental Health Services Act -- is pleased to announce its 6th Annual Directing Change Program & Film Contest 2018 (directingchange.ca.org) that invites young people ages 14 to 25 to create 30-second and 60-second films about suicide prevention for their peers. This program gives youth and young adults the chance to produce films that support the awareness, education and advocacy of suicide prevention and mental health; and these films will ultimately be used for social change on the contestants’ school campuses and their communities. The capstone for this program will be a red carpet award ceremony, where the young filmmakers will be recognized for their creativity and artistry. For more information about Directing Change 2018, please visit <http://www.directingchange.ca.org/submission-categories>.