



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 September 5, 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>

Hurricane Harvey Response

President Trump has declared a state of emergency for both Texas and Louisiana as rain continued to pour on to the devastated region. As of August 30th, Hurricane Harvey is an active tropical cyclone that is causing unprecedented and catastrophic flooding in southeastern Texas and Louisiana and in a four-day period, many areas received more than 40 inches of rain as the system meandered over eastern Texas/Louisiana and adjacent waters. With peak accumulations of 52 inches, Harvey is the wettest tropical cyclone on record in the contiguous United States. The resulting floods have prompted more than 13,000 rescues, displaced more than 30,000 people, and inundated hundreds of thousands of homes.

Health secretary Tom Price declared a public health emergency in Texas on Saturday, August 26th. There are a myriad of public health issues that may potentially impact the affected area from the severe flooding. Health impacts associated with flooding and extreme storms include a range of infections, illnesses and injuries, which span from vector-borne disease to foodborne illnesses. Disruption to city medical services, carbon monoxide poisoning, income loss, and mental health are also part of the negative health impact picture.

In 2016, SFDPH released a report - Climate and Health - Understanding the Risk: An Assessment of San Francisco's Vulnerability to Flooding & Extreme Storms, which illustrates how climate change and the resulting extreme storms, sea level rise and flooding will affect the health of San Francisco and examines how the City's most vulnerable populations will be impacted. Information for assessing flood and health risks throughout the city can be found here at www.sfclimatehealth.org.

San Francisco's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) has indicated that AMR (a national ambulance company that has an office in San Francisco) has sent two Emergency

Medical Technicians (EMTs) from San Francisco and five EMT's from San Mateo from their Disaster Response Team to Texas to aid with disaster recovery. More assistance may be requested. DEM plans to be involved with the long-term relief and has shared the following website (<https://www.nvoad.org/hurricane-harvey/hurricane-harvey-how-to-help>) that officials in Houston were requesting for people to use for donations and volunteering.

New State Committee on Health Care Delivery Systems and Universal Coverage

On August 25 2017, The State Assembly Speaker, Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood), announced the formation of the Assembly Select Committee on Health Care Delivery Systems and Universal Coverage. This committee will hold ongoing hearings beginning in the legislative interim so they can develop comprehensive plans for achieving universal health care in California. California made substantial progress in implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), reducing the number of uninsured in the state from more than seven million to less than three million. As a result of ACA implementation, many low and moderate-income residents and all low-income children regardless of immigration status have obtained health insurance. The State does not want to see any actions on a federal level rolling back the significant coverage gains that have been made in California. Additionally, there are still approximately three million uninsured, as well as access and affordability challenges throughout the State's health care system.

The establishment of this Assembly Select Committee and the on-going conversations about different approaches to obtaining a universal health care system come at a critical political juncture given the current federal landscape and the movement happening on a state level. State legislation (SB 562) for a single-payer healthcare system in California fizzled in June when the State Assembly Speaker decided to shelve the proposal. The bill did not address many serious issues, such as financing, delivery of care, cost controls, or the realities of needed action on a federal level. The new Assembly Select Committee will foster discussions for state health care leaders to fully examine the status of coverage and care in the state, including assessments that look at reduced federal commitment to health care. California has led the way in embracing the ACA and will continue to provide leadership in expanding health care coverage for all and a creating a system that improves access, promotes quality and reduces health care costs.

Hummingbird Place expands to offer 24-hour care

On Tuesday, August 29th, Mayor Edwin M. Lee and I announced the opening of a new 24-hour program at Hummingbird Place to provide respite and resources to care for San Francisco residents who are experiencing homelessness, mental health and substance use challenges. The expanded program will offer respite, clinical and peer counseling, hot meals, showers and overnight accommodations to help clients regroup and find their footing after a crisis episode. Direct referrals to treatment will be available to Hummingbird Place clients.

“We are helping our most vulnerable residents break out of the cycle of streets and hospitalization,” said Mayor Lee. “Hummingbird Place will provide the personalized care necessary to ensure that individuals have a chance to reclaim their lives and start anew. We are committed to addressing the root causes of homelessness, and providing treatments for behavioral health and substance use will help us reach that goal.”

Hummingbird Place originally opened in 2015 as a day program providing peer counseling and support, which will continue. The new and expanded model of care adds multi-disciplinary staff,

including professionals and peers. Clients may be referred from Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, Psychiatric Emergency Services, the Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT), the Encampment Resolution Team and community providers. See press release (attached).

Department of Public Health Preparation for Patriot Prayer Demonstration

On Saturday August 26th, San Francisco experienced a number of citywide events. Despite prior plans, no Patriot Prayer rallies or events took place in San Francisco. With the various gatherings and marches, events remained peaceful and focused on unity. Leading up to August 26th, DPH's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch (PHEPR) and the Department's newly joined Emergency Medical Services (EMS) worked together to prepare the city's hospitals and ambulance services for the possibility of a medical surge at local emergency departments. The city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for the day's events and DPH was at the table monitoring city hospitals, ambulance services, and several DPH services such as the Sobering Center and Tom Waddell Clinic. Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital established a modified Hospital Incident Command system (HICS) and provided two ZSFG/UCSF physicians to deploy with the EMS responders to provide advanced field care in case of any transportation delays due to the impact of these activities. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported at any of the events. By planning for and responding to events such as this, DPH and our city partners gain the skills and knowledge to further improve our response to future events.

Congressional Budget Office Releases Report on the Effects of Terminating Payments for Cost-Sharing Reductions

On August 15th, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report on the effects of terminating cost-sharing reductions (CSR) payments for the Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA). The ACA requires insurers to offer plans with reduced deductibles, premiums, and other cost-sharing measures to individuals with lower incomes. According to the CBO analysis, ending the CSR payments would increase premiums by 20 percent and increase the number of uninsured by one million in 2018. The CBO also projects terminating the payments would increase the federal budget deficit by \$194 billion over the next decade. On August 16th, the White House announced President Trump agreed to pay August CSR payments, but the question of whether to make future payments remains under review. The President still needs to commit to paying CSR payments in September, although Congress will be back from the August recess by then, and legislators could approve the payments themselves.

The continued month-to-month uncertainty about the payments has caused instability in the marketplace and is likely to cause insurers to hike premiums. The CSR payments became controversial and the subject of a lawsuit between the Obama administration and the House Republicans in 2014. The lawsuit claimed that the CSRs were illegal because Congress did not appropriate the funds; however the Obama Administration appealed the ruling at the time. The Trump Administration inherited the lawsuit and has yet to make a final decision on whether to continue or drop the lawsuit. In the beginning of August, 18 state attorneys general, including California, have been granted permission to intervene on the case arguing that the Trump Administration would not adequately represent their interest. For now, it remains unclear on the next steps Congress and the White House will take on the CSRs payment. Senate Health Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) will hold hearings the first week of September on a short-term marketplace stabilization bill.

SFDPH receives funding from the Dental Transformation Initiative, Local Dental Pilot Project

We are pleased to announce that the San Francisco Department of Public Health is the lead entity in a collaboration that has received funding of six million dollars over four years to improve the oral health of San Francisco's children. This is part of the California Department of Health Services' Dental Transformation Initiative Local Dental Pilot Project. The Dental Transformation Initiative is part of California's 1115 Waiver, Medi-Cal 2020, which also includes PRIME, Whole Person Care and Global Payment Programs initiatives.

The collaborators in the Local Dental Pilot Project include DPH, UCSF, the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, CavityFree SF, the San Francisco Dental Society, SFUSD and several community-based organizations. The application used the San Francisco Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan as the foundation for five pilot projects.

http://assets.thehcn.net/content/sites/sanfrancisco/Final_document_Nov_2014_20141126111021.pdf

The goal of the Local Dental Pilot Project is to improve dental health of SF Denti-Cal/Medi-Cal beneficiaries between zero and five years of age by increasing access to dental care and use of preventive dental services. San Francisco Health Network clinics will be able to participate in the pilot projects. The pilots will focus on several areas including: increasing access, providing multilingual care coordination, creating culturally targeted messaging, increasing collaborations between different providers, and increasing the number of FQHC dual primary care and dental users. For questions about this project please contact irene.hilton@sfdph.org

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Passes Joint Commission Survey

The conditional accreditation has been lifted and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center has been granted full accreditation by the Joint Commission. We would like to recognize the level of teamwork and collaboration that went into improvement work following the July Triennial Survey to make this possible.

We would like to acknowledge the ZSFG Facilities Department for their hard work to correct deficiencies. We also want to acknowledge the Emergency and Psychiatric Department teams who had to make significant changes to their work flow and assessment processes to better care for patients. Finally, the Regulatory and Risk Management teams for facilitating and organizing the many moving parts that go into preparing for surveys such as this.

Dr. Barry Zevin receives 2017 California Society of Addiction Medicine Award

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Barry Zevin has been given the 2017 Vernelle Fox Award by the California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM). The award recognizes physicians who have made noteworthy and lasting contributions in line with the mission of CSAM: improving health care services, increasing communication and education among care providers and adding to the research on which the field is based on. The award is named after Vernelle Fox, the second president of CSAM president from 1974-1976, who represents the values that CSAM holds dear: an inquiring mind, courage and enthusiasm. Dr. Zevin, on behalf of the department, we would

like to thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to protect and help San Francisco's most vulnerable. Congratulations Dr. Zevin!