



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
Mark Farrell
Mayor

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of June 19, 2018

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 Update

HHS Releases Proposed Rule Revising Regulations of Title X Family Planning Program

On June 1, 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) introduced a proposed rule revising the regulations governing the Title X family planning program. Under the proposed rule, health care providers receiving Title X funds would not be allowed to perform abortions or refer patients to abortion services. These providers are already barred from using government funds for abortion, but can currently use other funding sources to subsidize these types of services. The rule also makes other changes to Title X that could further undermine family planning services, such as making it optional for providers to provide complete and accurate information to patients about their health care options.

The Title X family planning program is the sole federal program dedicated to funding family planning services. The program focuses on helping low income individuals affordably obtain health services such as cancer screenings, birth control, STD/STI screenings, pregnancy tests, and well-woman exams. If the rule is implemented as drafted, it could threaten access to these critical preventive health services. Several health clinics in San Francisco receive Title X funding, including as Planned Parenthood's San Francisco Health Center and the Women's Community Clinic. In response to the proposed rule, San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution (File No.180626) denouncing the proposed rule and affirming San Francisco's commitment to protect and maintain an individual's choice to receive access to critical women's health services.

Local News

Extreme Weather Media Workshop

On June 18, 2018, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) and San Francisco Department of Emergency Management (SFDEM) will be hosting a media-focused extreme weather workshop. This invite-only workshop will bring together members of the media and government officers to develop partnerships and support each other's efforts in communicating before, during and after a major weather event.

Due to climate change, major weather events such as extreme heat, heavy storms and wildfires are going to increase in frequency in San Francisco and the Bay Area. While government and media



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currently reach out and communicate with the public during these events, key messages do not always reach those most at risk, such as the elderly, people with chronic health conditions, people who are housebound, and the homeless.

Speakers include Brian Garcia, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service; Cyndy Comerford, Deputy Director for Climate/Sustainability, City of San Jose; Naveena Bobba, MD, Deputy Director of Health/Deputy Health Officer, SFDPH; Francis Zamora, Director of External Affairs, SFDEM; Teri Dowling, Community Planning Manager, Emergency Preparedness and Response, SFDPH; Holly Quan, Reporter and Anchor, KCBS radio; Mark Ryle, Chief Executive Officer, Project Open Hand; and Dan Laufer, Director of Growth and Partnerships, Nextdoor. Media members and government officers will leave with a better understanding of the role and value of the National Weather Service in communicating extreme weather events. Attendees will also have the chance to explore new approaches to improve and expand practices for reaching those most at risk.

San Franciscans pass Prop E and reaffirm flavored tobacco ban

On June 5, 2018, Proposition E, which bans the sale of flavored tobacco, was affirmed by more than 68 percent of San Francisco voters. This public health legislation had been unanimously adopted by the Board of Supervisors one year ago and enthusiastically signed by late Mayor Ed Lee. The new law bans the local sale of flavored tobacco products including e-cigarette liquids and menthol cigarettes. The law only affects retailers and does not criminalize the use of these products by individuals. Since the tobacco industry has historically targeted sales of flavored products to youth and communities of color, the law represents an important step in reducing health disparities and smoking incidence rates in San Francisco. Education and enforcement of the new law will be a collaboration among programs in the Population Health Division of DPH including Environmental Health and the Tobacco Free Project. These efforts will include working with local retailers and community based organizations to support the transition. A planned educational campaign will focus on bringing awareness to the new law, the harms of flavored tobacco, and expanded resources for cutting back and quitting smoking. www.sfquits.org

Primary Care's Care Experience Team presents in Baltimore, MD

In June, 2018 representatives from San Francisco Health Network Primary Care presented at the International Conference on Patient- and Family-Centered Care in Baltimore, MD. Primary Care's Care Experience Team, Robin George and Southeast Health Center Patient Advisor Alonzo Menelik Walker led a poster presentation highlighting Primary Care's partnership with patient advisors to design communication tools for discussing disparities and racism with Black/African American



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patients during a two-day communication training to enhance hypertension control and health outcomes.

Strategies of focus included “simulated-patient” case scenarios with an equity lens, “personas” for role-play during the training’s for nurses and pharmacist and the development of ICARE Customer Service Framework for chronic care visits. Leaders from Primary Care’s Hypertension Equity Team, Sarah Cox, LaKisha Garduño, and Alonzo Menelik Walker, facilitated a 60-minute oral presentation on Primary Care’s multidisciplinary approach to hypertension equity through partnerships with patients, clinical staff, and community allies. This presentation highlighted key partnerships, interventions, best practices, challenges, tools, and outcomes since 2015. Interventions of focus included messaging equity as a priority, nurse or pharmacist chronic care visits, Food Pharmacies, patient self-management through home blood pressure monitoring, and prioritized outreach to Black/African American patients, all designed in collaboration with patient advisors. As we continue to build a culture of equity, it is important to strengthen partnerships with patients and integrate equity into future quality measures, specifically focused on improving health care disparities and addressing social determinants of health.

DPH in the News (May 31-Jun 14)

Bay City News, Jun 14, 2018, City plumber killed vehicle slipped off tow truck
<http://www.sfexaminer.com/city-plumber-killed-vehicle-slipped-off-tow-truck/>

Infosurhoy, Jun 13, 2018, Doctor’s street-level views could change the course of the opioid crisis
http://www.infosurhoy.com/cocoon/saii/xhtml/en_GB/health/doctors-street-level-views-could-change-the-course-of-the-opioid-crisis/

Courthouse News, Jun 11, 2018, Opioid overdose antidote available statewide
<http://comptonherald.org/opioid-overdose-antidote-available-statewide/>

Mission Local, Jun 7, 2018, Man fighting for life after Wednesday night fight in the Mission
<https://missionlocal.org/2018/06/man-fighting-for-life-after-wednesday-night-fight-in-the-mission/>

San Francisco Chronicle, Jun 4, 2018, As opioid crisis grows, medical schools bolster
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/As-opioid-crisis-grows-medical-schools-bolster-12963095.php#photo-15653489>

San Francisco Chronicle, Jun 3, 2018, Hunters Point shipyard soil scandal widens
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Hunters-Point-shipyard-soil-scandal-widens-with-12963202.php>



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San Francisco Examiner, Jun 2, 2018, Increased oversight coming of SF agencies use of prepaid gift cards

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/increased-oversight-coming-sf-agencies-use-prepaid-gift-cards/>

KQED Forum, May 17, 2018, San Francisco voters to consider banning flavored tobacco

<https://www.kqed.org/forum/2010101865274/san-francisco-voters-to-consider-banning-flavored-tobacco>



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Addendum to Director's Report for Health Commission June 19, 2018.

Department of Public Health supports rescan and retest of Hunters Point Shipyard land to answer community health and safety concerns

The Hunters Point Shipyard development has been the subject of recent media reports and community concern, due to two major issues. The first is the rescanning of Parcel A, to ensure residents of the hilltop area overlooking the rest of shipyard are safe and free from exposure. The second is the retesting of Parcel G, a portion of the shipyard development that was affected by the fraudulent testing of Navy sub-contractor Tetra Tech. The Department of Public Health supports plans announced last week to rescan and retest the land. The Parcel A rescan will be conducted by the California Department of Public Health. The Parcel G radiological retesting will be conducted by the Navy, and is the first step in a complete retesting of all areas touched by Tetra Tech.

These actions are necessary in response to concerns raised by the community about whether there is a risk to the health and safety of current and future residents and workers. The Health Department encourages people who are interested to participate in the comment period for the Navy's work plan on the Parcel G retesting. It is essential to have a credible process for presenting scientific evidence that the community can trust.

The Hunters Point Shipyard is a federal project involving the cleanup by the Navy of its former shipyard to prepare the site for an ambitious new development that will add approximately 12,000 housing units to San Francisco. The Navy is the lead agency for the cleanup, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing regulatory oversight. The Department of Public Health has been involved in this project for many years, reviewing documents and working with the Navy and the EPA.

The Shipyard housing development is being overseen by the City's Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure and carried out by developer Lennar.

The community deserves to be 100 percent certain of the safety of the shipyard environment throughout the project. We appreciate the support of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi in calling for the rescanning of Parcel A and retesting of the site impacted by the Tetra Tech fraud.

We look forward to the results of the tests and will provide Commissioners with an update when they are released.



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Addendum to Director's Report for Health Commission on immigration June 19, 2018

Separating immigrant families is inhumane and poses health risks

The Department of Public Health today joins with San Francisco Mayor Mark Farrell, Mayor-Elect London Breed, California Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, public health and child welfare experts and many others in condemning the practice of separating children from their families along the United States border with Mexico as an anti-immigration enforcement policy.

More than 2,300 children have been separated from their families since early May. From the public health standpoint, this practice is inhumane. Such separations have the distinct possibility of leading to significant short and long term problems for the children as well as the parents. Attachment science is well established and clearly demonstrates the broad and detrimental impacts of child separation, abuse and neglect on the health and wellbeing of children into their adulthood.

San Francisco is a sanctuary city and our elected leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the rights of our immigrant community. The Health Department will continue to care for all San Franciscans, including immigrants, and to support our patients, clients and caregivers during this traumatic time.

San Franciscans may call their members of Congress to voice their opinions at (202) 224-3121.