



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Greg Wagner  
Acting Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

### **Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of October 2, 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 Administration announces proposed changes to public charge**

On September 22nd, the Federal Administration announced that it will be proposing a new rule to change “public charge” policies that govern how the use of public benefits affect individuals’ immigration status. This proposal would change longstanding policy and could significantly impact immigrants’ use of public assistance programs, like Medi-Cal, and their ability to settle into the United States. The rule is expected to be formally released in the coming weeks, at which point it must undergo a 60-day comment period and several other steps of review before it is finalized. As of now, the rules for California's public assistance benefits have not changed.

The San Francisco Human Services Agency, San Francisco Department of Public Health, and other city agencies are coordinating efforts to examine the proposed rule’s impact on residents and potential response strategies. Over the summer, Mayor Breed submitted a letter to the Federal Administration raising concerns regarding potential changes to public charge and the harmful effects it would have on the health of residents and the City’s economy. The Department will continue to update the Health Commission after the proposed rule is officially released.

#### **State Bill Introduced to Expand and Strengthen California Conservatorship Laws**

On September 27th, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 1045 (SB 1045), which would create a new type of conservatorship with the aim of better meeting the needs of individuals who have serious mental illness and substance (other than alcohol) use disorders. SB 1045 authorizes San Francisco, San Diego, and Los Angeles Counties to set up a procedure (per Board of Supervisor’s approval) to appoint a conservator for a person who is incapable of caring for their own health and well-being due to serious mental illness and substance use disorder, as evidenced by frequent placement under a 72-hour involuntary hold. The bill creates a five-year pilot program allowing for strengthened conservatorship laws to provide the least restrictive and most clinically appropriate



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alternative needed for the protection of the person, such as placement in supportive community housing that provides wraparound services. Currently, mental health based-conservatorship appointments are limited to persons determined to be gravely disabled as a result of a mental health disorder or an impairment by chronic alcoholism. The Department will continue to update the Commission as the City develops an implementation plan.

### **San Francisco assists Bladen County, NC during a time of great need**

The Department of Public Health, Department of Emergency Management, Sheriff's Departments, and Police Department deployed a team of four, one from each department, to North Carolina as part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) team through California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). On arrival to Raleigh, NC, the team was sited 100 miles away to Bladen County, NC, to assist with incident management at the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

As remnants of Hurricane Florence continued to affect Bladen County, the first three nights consisted of three tornado warnings, multiple medical patient evacuations, ongoing rescues, and power outages to 76 percent of the county. In the days that followed, impacts from flooding were major issues as flash flooding and river flooding affected the ability to transport resources (food, water, medications) to smaller communities. The team had to improvise, adapt, and overcome many challenges including relying on low-tech resources and incident management basics to assist.

### **State scan of Shipyard Parcel A finds an object from the Navy, public health not at risk SFDPH stands with the community and supports all efforts to ensure safety**

The radiological scan of the Hunters Point Shipyard Parcel A was more than 90 percent complete, with no findings of concern, when the state scanners found an elevated reading on September 7. They called in the Navy, per protocol, to investigate.

On September 11, the San Francisco Department of Public Health joined the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the San Francisco Office of Community Infrastructure and Investment to observe the Navy respond, and dig up the item that caused the elevated reading.



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They found an object called a “deck marker” buried 10.5 inches underground. A deck marker is a silver-dollar size object used on Navy ships to mark the edge of the deck (e.g. so that sailors did not fall off the edge in the dark). This deck marker contains radium 226, which is why it was found by the scanning instruments. These deck markers were removed from ships at the Shipyard in the 1950s.

Once the marker was found 10.5 inches below ground surface it was immediately removed for further study. It poses no hazard to the residents or workers on the site. The deck marker is the single object discovered so far by the CDPH scan that is not naturally occurring. CDPH will continue to complete the scan of Parcel A.

The discovery of the deck marker underscores the value of the CDPH scan of Parcel A. The deck marker did not belong there, and we don’t know how it got there, but we are glad that it was found. The scan is working exactly how it is supposed to, and residents can be confident everything that can be found will be found, and that their safety is our top priority. The scanning by the state health department provides additional oversight and strengthens the process.

We understand no one was exposed to any hazards from the deck marker, which was buried underground, found during the scan, and removed by the Navy, leaving the remaining soil clear.

Although some media reports characterized the marker as “highly” radioactive, that description is not consistent with the findings of CDPH or the independent expert SFDPH hired to measure it. According to CDPH, the object was producing a relatively low level of radiation, with a reading of 0.09 mrem (mR) per hour. For comparison, an individual would receive 3.5 mR on a flight from Los Angeles to New York (source: US Centers for Disease Control) or 1.5 mR during a dental x-ray (source: US Nuclear Regulatory Commission). Those comparisons are consistent with the measurements prepared for SFDPH. As you can see from the comparison, if anyone had been exposed to the marker, which they were not, they would only be exposed to radiation lower than found in these examples from everyday life.

The San Francisco Health Department stands with the community. We support all efforts to ensure that Parcel A residents feel safe and are safe, including additional scanning and testing by the California Department of Public Health. We will continue to work with the Parcel A residents, State Health Department and the EPA to ensure that Parcel A is safe for current and future residents and workers.



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### **NACCHO 2018 Model Practice Award**

The National Association of City and County Health Officers (NACCHO) granted a 2018 Model Practices Award to the SFDPH Children's Environmental Health Promotion Program (CEHP) and the Maternal Child & Adolescent Health Section, for their collaboration entitled "*Developing Policies, Plans and Partnerships to Protect and Support Housing Security and Healthy Homes for Pregnant Women and Families Served by Public Health.*" Karen Cohn, CEHP Program Manager, presented the project at NACCHO's annual conference in July on behalf of the collaborative. This working group will soon be issuing a brief to share the evidence on the health impacts of family housing insecurity.

NACCHO Model Practices Program nationally honors and recognizes outstanding local public health practice and shares the outstanding practices through the Model Practices Database. By submitting a practice, local health districts contribute to the overall improvement of public health through effective evidence-based practice methods.

### **Rehabilitation Symposium**

On September 20th, Laguna Honda's Rehab Department hosted Pathways to Improved Care: Rehabilitation Symposium. This lecture series provided up-to-date clinical information that can improve the treatment and outcome of patients with rehabilitation needs. We had three guest speakers, Grace Chen, RN, CNS, CRRN, CHPN, DSD, Christopher Focht, Au. D., CCC-A, F-AAA, and J. Claude Hemphill, MD, MAS, present on their specialties: restorative nursing, hearing impairment, and stroke treatment and prevention, respectively. A two-hour exhibition followed afterwards which covered the topics of speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and medical equipment and tutorials. Through social media promotion and network invitations, the event welcomed all staff, professional networks (USF, ZSFGH, SFSU, UCSF, Gurnick, Kindred Transitional Care and Rehabilitation) and the public.

### **Interactive text messaging improves adherence and retention in PrEP care**

Population Health Division researchers, Dr. Albert Liu, from Bridge HIV, and Dr. Jonathan Fuchs,



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from the Center for Learning & Innovation, led a study of a mobile health, text messaging-based intervention, PrEPmate, to improve adherence and retention in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) care. The study results were published in the September 15<sup>th</sup> issue of Clinical Infectious Diseases.

The clinical trial enrolled young men who have sex with men who are among the most vulnerable to HIV in the US, and also have the lowest rates of PrEP uptake and high rates of PrEP discontinuation. Participants between the ages of 18-29 who were randomized to PrEPmate received weekly text message check-ins about PrEP, and daily reminders for pill-taking in the form of fun facts. Compared to those who received the standard of care, which included PrEP education and counseling provided by a health educator, participants receiving PrEPmate had higher visit retention and PrEP adherence as measured by drug levels. The investigative team believes that this easy to use and highly scalable intervention was effective by fostering communication and connection between the patient and provider, in addition to providing a daily reminder to take PrEP. PrEPmate is currently under study among transgender persons using PrEP and future pilots of the intervention are planned at public health clinics across the US.

### **DPH receives Excellence in Environmental Health award**

Environmental Health won the 2018 Excellence in Environmental Health award from the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health for the development and launch of the Online Retail Food Permit application and payment. This online application and payment is the first in the State for Environmental Health Programs. The award was based on innovation, creativity, collaboration and service to the public.

Congratulations to San Francisco Department of Public Health-Environmental Health Branch staff, Lisa O'Malley, Mary Freschet, Terrence Hong, Kenny Wong, Patrick Fosdahl, Michelle Kanemoto, Kyle Chan, Deborah Quinones and Stephanie Cushing and Julia Dysart, Priscilla Chu, and Gretchen Pauley of QI for their dedication and hard work in developing the online process and the creative presentation for California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health.

### **Suicide Prevention Week**

In recognition of Suicide Prevention Week (September 9-15, 2018) and World Suicide Day (September 10, 2018), Behavioral Health Services (BHS) disseminated Each Mind Matters "Know



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the Signs” materials to providers and community members, as well as hosted an educational activity in the 1380 Howard lobby. For the first time, local businesses, such as The Market and Cumaica partnered with BHS and distributed “Know the Signs” coffee sleeves and drink coasters to spread the word. Slice of Life Café at 1380 Howard also supported the campaign again this year. BHS and local partners continue to encourage those that know someone who needs help to share online suicide prevention resources and National Suicide Prevention lifeline and crisis text line.

### **Human Resources Hearing at Board of Supervisors**

On September 19th, the Board of Supervisors’ Government Audit and Oversight Committee held a hearing on African-American Workforce Hiring, Retention, and Promotional Opportunities – Workplace Discrimination and Complaints. The Department of Public Health (DPH) leadership attended this hearing in order to hear firsthand the frustrations and experiences of staff pertaining to racism and discrimination. Roland Pickens, Tomas Aragon, Tosan Boyo, Rhonda Simmons, Karen Hill, Ayana Bennett, Alice Chen, Denise Fisher, and others, listened as speakers described workplace issues of workplace mistreatment and inequity around the City and within DPH. The Department will continue to address these issues and among other things, partner with unions to end racism and discrimination in the workplace.

### **Irene Sung, Chief Medical Officer of Behavioral Health, received the J. Elliot Royer Award**

Irene Sung, Chief Medical Officer of Behavioral Health for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, received the 2018 J. Elliot Royer Award. This award recognizes those active in the medical field in San Francisco, Alameda, or Contra Costa counties that have made the most significant contribution to the advancement of psychiatry or neurology during the year. The award for community excellence is judged by evidence of service to community, evidence of original, creative contributions to the field, and the general esteem and aspect of the candidate’s peers as a role Monday and mentors to other.

She was awarded for her career long commitment to community psychiatry within the Department of Public Health, and her work at non-profit organizations in both Contra Costa and San Francisco. In 2005, Dr. Sung was hired as Medical Director of CYF in CBHS. Throughout the years she has taken many different positions in DPH including CMO of Community Programs, Chief Medical Information Officer for Community Programs, Medical Director of CBHS and CMO of SFHN BHS. Through her leadership, she increased the number of Psychiatrists in Behavioral Health Services.



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She created leadership opportunities for psychiatrists in the development of Deputy Medical Directors who oversee the different modalities of psychiatric services across our system of care. She worked with UCSF and ZSFG to provide experiences in public sector psychiatry for residents and fellows – supporting the continuation of existing rotations, the development of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry second year resident rotations, the development of a Public Psychiatry Fellowship, and support of a longitudinal clinic at one of our busiest clinics serving the homeless population. She supports an Early Career Public Psychiatrist Mentorship program in BHS.

### **DPH in the News (Sep 15 – Sep 28)**

NBC, Sep 28 2018, Gov. Brown signs bill to help people with mental health and substance abuse disorders on SF streets

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/california/Gov-Brown-Signs-Bill-to-Help-People-With-Mental-Health-and-Substance-Abuse-Disorders-on-SF-Streets-494586511.html>

Salon, Sep 25 2018, How SF is winning the fight against HIV/AIDS

<https://www.salon.com/2018/09/25/how-san-francisco-is-winning-the-fight-against-hiv-aids/>

Contagion, Sep 25 2018, Two-way text messaging platform PrEPmate boosts adherence to PrEP in young men

<https://www.contagionlive.com/news/twoway-text-messaging-platform-prepate-boosts-adherence-to-prep-in-young-men>

MD Mag, Sep 25 2018, SMS reminders improved PrEP adherence in youth at risk for HIV

<https://www.mdmag.com/medical-news/sms-reminders-improved-prep-adherence-hiv>

Univision, Sep 24 2018, Alto indice de ancianos atropellados en San Francisco

<https://www.univision.com/san-francisco/kdtv/alto-indice-de-ancianos-atropellados-en-san-francisco-video>

SF Chronicle, Sep 21 2018, SF's new HIV case hit record low, but disparities widening among groups

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/New-HIV-cases-hit-record-low-but-disparities-13248800.php>

KTVU, Sep 20 2018, Sugary beverage tax money surplus in SF

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/361136043-video>



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California Health Report, Sep 20 2018, Doctors often fail to listen to black mothers, complicating births, survey finds

<http://www.calhealthreport.org/2018/09/20/doctors-often-fail-listen-black-mothers-complicating-births-survey-finds/>

POZ, Sep 20 2018, SF see record low number of new HIV cases

<https://www.poz.com/article/san-francisco-sees-record-low-number-new-hiv-cases>

SF Examiner, Sep 20 2018, Elderly woman struck by flatbed truck dies in second SF traffic death this week

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/elderly-woman-struck-flatbed-truck-dies-second-sf-traffic-death-week/>

The Hill, Sep 19 2018, Big tobacco is marketing vapes to our kids, so our city took them on and won – it's the FDA's turn now

<https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/407331-big-tobacco-is-marketing-vapes-to-youth-so-our-city-took-them-on-its-the>

Stat News, Sep 17 2018, A different kind of house call: teams bring addiction care to patients, wherever they are

<https://www.statnews.com/2018/09/17/addiction-doctors-care-san-francisco/>

SF Examiner, Sep 17 2018, Residents asked to weigh in on search for new health department head

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/residents-asked-weigh-search-new-health-department-head/>





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**SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH NETWORK  
ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL  
HOSPITAL & TRAUMA CENTER**

**September 2018**

**Governing Body Report - Credentialing Summary**

(9/20/18 MEC)

	<b>9/2018</b>	<b>07/2018 to 07/2019</b>
<b>New Appointments</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>117</b>
Reinstatements		
<b>Reappointments</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>158</b>
Delinquencies:		
Reappointment Denials:		
<b>Resigned/Retired:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Disciplinary Actions</b>		
<b>Administrative Suspension</b>		
<b>Restriction/Limitation-Privileges</b>		
<b>Deceased</b>		
<b>Changes in Privileges</b>		
Voluntary Relinquishments	<b>15</b>	<b>49</b>
Additions	<b>20</b>	<b>43</b>
Proctorship Completed	<b>12</b>	<b>68</b>

<b>Current Statistics – as of 8/1/18</b>		
Active Staff	<b>556</b>	
Courtesy Staff	<b>538</b>	
Affiliated Professionals (non-physicians)	<b>280</b>	
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>1,374</b>	

<b>Applications in Process</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Applications Withdrawn Month of <b>September 2018</b></b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SFGH Reappointments in Process <b>10/2018 to 12/2018</b></b>	<b>154</b>



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**LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER**

**September 2018**  
**Health Commission - Director of Health Report**  
(9/6/18 MEC)

	September	(FY 2018-2019) Year-to-Date
<b>New Appointments</b>	2	8
Reinstatements	0	0
<b>Reappointments</b>	7	18
Delinquencies:	0	0
Reappointment Denials:	0	0
<b>Resigned/Retired</b>	2	6
<b>Disciplinary Actions</b>	0	0
<b>Restriction/Limitation-Privileges</b>	0	0
<b>Deceased</b>	0	0
<b>Changes in Privileges</b>		
Additions	0	0
Voluntary Relinquishments	0	0
Proctorship Completed	0	0
Proctorship Extension	0	0

<b>Current Statistics – as of 07/31/2018</b>	
Active Medical Staff	37
As-Needed Medical Staff	13
External Consultant Medical Staff	43
Courtesy Medical Staff	2
Affiliated Health Practitioners	14
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>109</b>

<b>Applications in Process</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Applications Withdrawn this month</b>	<b>0</b>