



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

### **Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of October 1, 2019**

*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>

#### **Mayor Breed and Health Department launch new program to fight overdoses and deaths**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Mayor London N. Breed and the Department of Public Health (DPH) announced a new overdose prevention program for single room occupancy hotels (SROs), to be carried out by DPH in partnership with the Harm Reduction Coalition and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. The innovative program is in response to the rising number of overdose deaths in San Francisco, approximately 30 percent of which occur at SROs.

Based on the successful Tenant Overdose Response Organizers (TORO) program from Vancouver, the SRO project will work closely with SRO operators and tenants to develop on-site overdose prevention programs. The new program will expand overdose prevention efforts even further and will support the installation of naloxone-rescue boxes throughout the buildings to improve access to this critical life-saving medication. The SRO program will begin later this year and is supported by the California Department of Public Health, the California Department of Health Care Services and the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The Health Department supports the Harm Reduction Coalition's Drug Overdose Prevention (DOPE) Project, which provided over 15,000 doses of naloxone to thousands of people at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose in 2018 alone. DOPE recorded 1,658 overdose reversals in that year and is on track to nearly double that number in 2019. The DOPE Project continues to expand operations, with new sites and mobile activities in San Francisco. In addition, DPH provides low barrier access to buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder and reduce overdose risk. DPH expanded the Street Medicine team, which is comprised of nurses, doctors, and social workers. The Street Medicine team conducts outreach to homeless and marginally housed residents and clinicians provide prescriptions for the opioid treatment medication buprenorphine directly to people on the streets suffering from opioid addiction.

#### **Mayor and Director of Mental Health Reform announce real-time inventory of behavioral health beds**

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Mayor London Breed and Director of Mental Health Reform Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland announced plans to launch an online inventory of the San Francisco Department of Public



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Health's substance use and mental health treatment beds. Dr. Nigusse Bland expects that this public web page will improve clients' timely access to treatment when they are ready for it and help providers make the best use of the beds in their programs. The first phase, set to go online in November, will display substance use treatment beds including withdrawal management and 90-day programs. In the second phase, voluntary, short-term residential mental health treatment beds will be added.

In addition to improving transparency for our clients and the providers who serve them, this tool will help the Department to make data-driven decisions about where we need to target new investments and clear bottlenecks in the system of behavioral health care. The web page will outline the steps to receive care; explain that DPH serves low-income, medically eligible San Francisco residents; and, for people who are experiencing more urgent behavioral health crises, provide links and phone numbers to other resources. The information will be presented in Spanish, traditional Chinese, Russian, Vietnamese, and Tagalog. Treatment providers with multilingual capability will be highlighted, along with those emphasizing LGBTQ, pregnancy, HIV-positive and other specialized care.

### **Department of Public Health Statement on the Behavioral Health Center**

The San Francisco Department of Public Health's top priority is patient care. Every day, we make decisions across our system that put patient care and safety first. We strive to provide the most care to the most people at the right level, in a high-quality, safe and healing environment.

We share the urgency to improve the lives of San Franciscans who are experiencing homelessness, mental illness and substance use disorder. These residents are in great need of care and housing, and their health affects our entire community.

We have chosen to pause changes at the Behavioral Health Center while the Mayor and Board of Supervisors have a conversation about how to proceed in a way that accomplishes our shared goals of patient safety, stability and expanded access to services.

We restate our commitment to ensure the long-term stability of board and care services, including the Adult Residential Facility (ARF). It is not correct to say we have "closed" or planned to close the ARF. No one is or will be "evicted" at the ARF. All the residents there have a choice, and if any of them would prefer to move to an equivalent facility in the community or elsewhere at the Behavioral Health Center, we will work with them to do so. Further, no DPH staff are losing their jobs at the Behavioral Health Center. These have been our principles all along, and they have not changed.

We look forward to finding a path that also accomplishes the expansion of Hummingbird Place, an innovative, low-barrier psychiatric respite program that has been very successful. It fills a gap in our services, providing a safe and healing environment for clients who have had behavioral health crises



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and need a break from the streets to get the help and support that they need and to consider their next move toward wellness and recovery. The Hummingbird Place program is at the Behavioral Health Center (BHC) on the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital campus, along with two board and care programs -- the ARF and the Residential Care Facility for the Elderly -- and the Mental Health Rehabilitation Center that provides locked, sub-acute care.

San Francisco is a passionate, compassionate community made up of people who care. At the Health Department, we are proud to be part of that work, and to lend our clinical expertise, evidence-based approach and deep experience addressing population health issues to solving today's problems. Patient care and safety are core to our mission. We look forward to working with city leaders on a resolution that brings the best outcome for everyone served by the Behavioral Health Center.

To read more about reforms to our system underway, click here:

[https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/files/DPH\\_statement\\_on\\_Behavioral\\_Health\\_Center\\_9\\_20\\_19.pdf](https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/files/DPH_statement_on_Behavioral_Health_Center_9_20_19.pdf)

### **California Department of Public Health urges everyone to refrain from vaping until current investigations are complete**

On September 24th, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released a public Health Advisory urging "everyone to refrain from vaping, no matter the substance or source, until current investigations are complete." Since June 2019, CDPH has received reports that 90 people in California who have a history of vaping were hospitalized for severe breathing problems and lung damage. As of September 26th, San Francisco does not have any suspect cases. San Francisco was a national leader in banning the sales of flavored smoking/vaping products.

Nationally, the epidemic of vaping-associated pulmonary injury (VAPI) is growing rapidly. As of September 27th, compared to the prior week, the number of lung injury cases grew 52 percent to 805 cases reported from 46 states and 1 U.S. territory. Twelve deaths have been confirmed in 10 states. CDC has received sex and age data on 771 patients. All reported patients have a history of e-cigarette product use or vaping. The latest findings from the investigation into lung injuries associated with e-cigarette use, or vaping, suggest products containing THC play a role in the outbreak.

On the regulatory front, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) partnered with the San Francisco Police Department to send out decoys, aged 16-19 years old, to confirm that San Francisco stores do not sell tobacco products, including vaping devices and/or products, to anyone under the age of 21 years old. Furthermore, SFDPH staff are currently inspecting 715 established and permitted tobacco retailers to verify that flavored tobacco products are no longer sold within the City and County of San Francisco. SFDPH also printed 1000's of non-smoking stickers with the image of a cigarette and vaping pen to educate the public that vaping and smoking are the same and both are dangerous to public health. Moreover, to strengthen the health departments educational



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outreach efforts, SFDPH activated existing partnerships as we work closely with youth-serving community groups through our Community Action Model grants. In the past year, two of these grants partnered with SFUSD to conduct projects within schools including a flavored tobacco product buyback program and bilingual educational outreach.

### **City agencies coordinate messages and services to Beat the Heat**

On September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, the National Weather Service issued a heat advisory for San Francisco, predicting the highest temperatures to be in the upper 80s on Tuesday and low 90s on Wednesday. In response, the Department of Public Health (DPH) worked together with the Department of Emergency Management and established a Joint Information Center for City agencies to coordinate efforts and share key messaging. These messages included encouraging people to stay cool, hydrated and connected. In addition to sharing heat safety tips, City officials reminded the public about the equal importance of window, water and pet safety.

In addition, DPH activated its Department Operations Center (DOC) starting early Tuesday monitoring until late Wednesday evening with an understanding that increased temperatures in San Francisco impact the City's emergency response system. DPH's Emergency Medical Services Agency closely monitored ambulance staffing and emergency call volumes and brought in corporate ambulance resources when necessary. DPH's Public Health Emergency and Preparedness Response (PHEPR) team consistently tracked medical surge of hospitals, skill-nursing facilities, and clinics throughout the City.

PHEPR also contacted their growing Healthcare Coalition members to make sure groups like dialysis clinics and skilled nursing facilities were informed about heat risks and preventative steps to take. PHEPR's Community Branch reached out specifically to partner agencies that serve some of the city's most vulnerable, such as Meals on Wheels, to coordinate wellness checks. In addition, PHEPR's Community Branch directly contacted partner agencies in urban heat areas of our City such as the Bayview and Chinatown, to communicate and coordinate more effectively around heat impacts, needs and responses.

DPH's Occupational Safety and Health Division monitored temperature issues at DPH facilities including ZSFG and other clinic buildings known to have heated up in the past. The team also issued a heat advisory e-mail for DPH groups with outdoor workers on both days of the active heat advisory and made sure DPH facilities managers received messaging regarding overnight cooling of buildings.

Other City agencies, including Recreations and Park Department, San Francisco Public Library, Human Services Agency, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, San Francisco Fire Department and San Francisco Police Department, coordinated together and provided outreach services to all San Franciscans. The services included free swimming pool access, water bottle



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distribution, educational outreach, and increased wellness checks to vulnerable clients and populations.

### **Mayor will celebrate groundbreaking for Maxine Hall Health Center remodel**

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mayor London Breed will lead a Groundbreaking Ceremony at Maxine Hall Health Center to celebrate the clinic's upcoming building remodel. The capital project will improve safety during an earthquake at the clinic; and increase access to health services by co-locating primary care, behavioral health and ancillary services. For the construction, Maxine Hall Health Center will move on **November 5th to a temporary clinic at 1181 Golden Gate Ave.** The clinic will be closed on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for the move.

The remodel will add seven patient rooms, an elevator, curb ramps, larger exam rooms for families, and more. Construction is scheduled to start in late 2019. Westside Community Services (shares building) will serve its patients on Pierce Street in a temporary clinic and in part of the building during construction. Earlier this year, Castro-Mission Health Center temporarily moved to 995 Potrero Ave., Building 80, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, on the Zuckerberg San Francisco General campus for a similar building remodel, which will start in 2020. Southeast Health Center also will be under construction in early 2020 for an expansion project. These projects are funded through the 2016 Public Health & Safety Bond, which voters approved by 80%. Learn more about the Maxine Hall project: [www.sfhealthnetwork.org/maxinehallhc-capitalproject/](http://www.sfhealthnetwork.org/maxinehallhc-capitalproject/).

### **Health department reminds the public to make smart choices around food safety in time for Fleet Week**

In preparation for Fleet Week (Oct. 6-14), the Department of Public Health Food Safety Program is working with the SF Port to conduct unpermitted mobile food facilities outreach efforts. DPH staff and Port staff have distributed pamphlets materials to unpermitted food cart vendors on SF Port property and will continue to do so until the weekend preceding Fleet Week. By providing the education materials, the goal is to advise any unpermitted vendor that they need to obtain a permit in order to sell food. No food or equipment will be confiscated during these outreach efforts unless an immediate health hazard exists.

The health department works hard to protect the public from the unseen dangers associated with improper food handling and wants to remind the public to be aware of the dangers of purchasing and consuming food from unpermitted vendors. Commonly associated health concerns associated with unpermitted vendors include no handwashing, no refrigeration, no restroom, no dish sinks, as well as buildup of garbage and good debris on the ground. As a result, we hope the public will make sure the food they are buying is from a safe, permitted source that is routinely inspected. Key components to look for include a handwashing station, refrigeration unit, food identification signs, and, most



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importantly, a permit decal which indicates that the vendor is officially a permitted mobile food facility.

### **San Francisco Health Department represents at International Hep C Conference**

On September 11-13<sup>th</sup>, the International Conference of Hepatitis C (HCV) Care in Substance Users took place in Montreal, Canada. Katie Burk, Viral Hepatitis Coordinator in the Community and Health Equity branch of the Department of Public Health, presented a poster on a qualitative offshoot of the Bye-C Study on behalf of co-authors Emily Behar, Amanda Bierkamp, Elizabeth Kinnard, and Dr. Phillip Coffin. Dr. Coffin of the Substance Use Research Unit was the Principle Investigator of the Bye-C Study, which was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and compared the effectiveness of weekly take homes versus modified directly-observed therapy for HCV treatment in people who inject drugs. Approximately 750 people attended this event, representing an array international expertise in the field of viral hepatitis and the health of people who use drugs.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Reentry Conference and Resource Fair**

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Vocational Outreach Team attended the 6th Annual Restorative Justice Reentry Conference and Resource Fair, organized by the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The event was held at Saint Mary's Cathedral was attended by 95 Bay Area organizations offering services in housing, education, health services, job readiness, and employment training. Each year the Reentry Conference and Resource Fair brings hundreds of individuals and organizations to explore the latest concerns, opportunities, and advancements of justice-involved and crime-affected individuals and families. Staff from University of California San Francisco Citywide and the Occupational Therapy Training Program joined the Vocational Outreach Team network with participants and community-based organizations interested in learning more about BHS Vocational Co-op Services.

### **DPH in the News (Sep 13 – Sep 26 2019)**

SF Chronicle, Sep 26 2019, Mentally ill man moved from jail to treatment so health department 'wouldn't have to appear' in court

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Mentally-ill-man-moved-from-jail-to-treatment-so-14471643.php?psid=oNyHy>

KRON, Sep 25 2019, SF City officials host Narcan training

<https://www.kron4.com/news/san-francisco-city-officials-host-narcan-training/>



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KPIX, Sep 25 2019, SF Supervisor Haney pushes for emergency plan to cope with opioid crisis  
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/09/25/sf-supervisor-matt-haney-pushes-for-emergency-plan-to-cope-with-opioid-crisis/>

NBC, Sep 25 2019, SF City workers get Narcan training  
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/San-Francisco-City-Workers-Get-Narcan-Training-561378241.html>

KGO, Sep 25 2019, Would you administer Narcan? How San Francisco supervisors hope you can help someone having a drug overdose  
<https://abc7news.com/society/how-sf-supervisors-hope-you-can-help-someone-having-a-drug-overdose/5568866/>

SF Examiner, Sep 25 2019, Narcan training designed to help reduce overdose deaths  
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/the-city/narcan-training-designed-to-help-reduce-overdose-deaths/>

KTVU, Sep 25 2019, San Francisco supervisor calls drug overdoses a public health crisis  
<http://www.ktvu.com/news/ktvu-local-news/san-francisco-supervisor-calls-drug-overdoses-a-public-health-crisis>

KTVU, Sep 24 2019, Fall heatwave sends Bay Area temperature soaring, experts warn of dangers  
<http://www.ktvu.com/news/fall-heatwave-sends-bay-area-temperatures-soaring-experts-warn-of-dangers>

BCN, Sep 24 2019, SF Mayor announces new tool to track available treatment beds  
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/09/24/san-francisco-mayor-announces-new-tool-to-track-available-treatment-beds/>

SF Examiner, Sep 20 2019, City puts closure of long-term mental health beds on hold  
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/city-puts-closure-of-long-term-mental-health-beds-on-hold/>

KRON, Sep 19 2019, Concerns over dangers of vaping continue nationwide  
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/concerns-over-dangers-of-vaping-continue-nationwide/>

Gal-dem, Sep 18 2019, Black women are neglected by HIV-prevention services, but we need access to PrEP  
<http://gal-dem.com/black-women-are-neglected-by-hiv-prevention-services-but-we-need-access-to-prep/>

SF Chronicle, Sep 17 2019, Protesters shut down commission meeting as fight over SF mental



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health policies intensifies

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Protesters-shut-down-commission-meeting-as-fight-14447920.php>

SF Examiner, Sep 17 2019, SF supervisors call on health department to 'pause' planned relocation of mental health patients

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/supervisors-move-to-halt-closure-of-long-term-mental-health-beds/>

BCN, Sep 16 2019, Mayor Breed announces expansion of Division Circle Navigation Center

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Mayor-Breed-Announces-Expansion-Of-Division-14445039.php>

SF Chronicle, Sep 16 2019, Surge of critical injuries on SF's streets mirrors spike in fatalities

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Surge-of-critical-injuries-on-SF-s-streets-14444554.php>

SF Indybay, Sep 13 2019, Mid City Market graduates from SF's Healthy Retail Program

<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2019/09/13/18826209.php>





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

**September 2019**  
**Governing Body Report - Credentialing Summary**  
 (9/19/19 MEC)

	<b>9/2019</b>	<b>07/2018 to 07/2019</b>
<b>New Appointments</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>51</b>
Reinstatements		
<b>Reappointments</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>114</b>
Delinquencies:		
Reappointment Denials:		
<b>Resigned/Retired:</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Disciplinary Actions</b>		
Administrative Suspension		
Restriction/Limitation-Privileges		
<b>Deceased</b>		
<b>Changes in Privileges</b>		
Voluntary Relinquishments	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>
Additions	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>
Proctorship Completed	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>

<b>Current Statistics – as of 08/28/2019</b>	
Active Staff	<b>553</b>
Courtesy Staff	<b>566</b>
Affiliated Professionals (non-physicians)	<b>280</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>1399</b>

<b>Applications in Process</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Applications Withdrawn Month of September 2019</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SFGH Reappointments in Process 10/01/2018 to 12/31/2019</b>	<b>119</b>



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**LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER**

**September 2019**  
**Health Commission - Director of Health Report**  
 (9/5/19 MEC)

	September	(FY 2019-2020) Year-to-Date
<b>New Appointments</b>	2	7
Reinstatements	0	0
<b>Reappointments</b>	4	17
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	1
Voluntary Relinquishments	0	0
Proctorship Completed	0	0
Proctorship Extension	0	0

**Current Statistics – as of 09/03/2019**

Active Medical Staff	35
As-Needed Medical Staff	16
External Consultant Medical Staff	46
Courtesy Medical Staff	2
Affiliated Health Practitioners	13
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>112</b>

<b>Applications in Process</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Applications Withdrawn this month</b>	<b>0</b>