



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 June 6, 2023

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco

<https://www.dph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Today, there are over 199,567 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,212 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

ANNOUNCING SANDRA SIMON AS THE NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL

After a thorough search, DPH is pleased to announce Sandra Simon as the new leader of Laguna Honda Hospital. Sandra will serve as the Nursing Home Administrator (NHA) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective June 26, 2023. This transition to a licensed NHA as the most senior position at Laguna Honda aligns Laguna Honda with top performing skilled nursing facilities nationwide. Sandra has the experience, skills, and passion to lead Laguna Honda and best serve our residents. She was chosen for this important role for her commitment to Laguna Honda's mission and her over 20 years of successful experience as a Nursing Home Administrator.

During her career as a Nursing Home Administrator, Sandra established a track record of success, leading skilled nursing facilities, assisted living programs, and memory care programs along with large multi-building campuses with varying levels of care.

As an NHA, Sandra has held multiple leadership roles, including serving as the Chief Administrative Officer at the San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living (San Francisco's second largest Skilled Nursing Facility). She has most currently held dual roles as the Campus Director for the Holgate Center Campus, which includes Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living/Residential Care, and Independent HUD Housing and as the NHA for the Friendship Health Center, where she has been responsible for operational and clinical oversight.

For the first month of Sandra's tenure at Laguna Honda, she will focus on learning and listening. This will include connecting directly with residents and their families, staff facility-wide, union partners, resident advocates, and San Francisco leaders. We look forward to having Sandra join DPH later this month!



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MAYOR LONDON BREED ANNOUNCES BUDGET INVESTMENTS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EFFORTS

Mayor London N. Breed announced her proposed budget investments to address mental health and substance use issues. This funding will build on existing programs and invest in new solutions to broaden the City's response in how it addresses behavioral health issues impacting San Francisco.

In the last year, DPH Behavioral Health Services has provided mental health treatment to more than 16,500 individuals and upwards of 4,500 have received substance use treatment. More than 60% of those receiving substance use disorder treatment are people experiencing homelessness.

To support those who are working towards health and well-being, DPH has increased the availability of care and treatment beds, adding more than 350 beds to the City's already existing 2,200 care and treatment beds. The City has also increased access to buprenorphine and methadone, including expanding hours at clinics and pharmacies and deploying mobile strategies to dispense this lifesaving medication. Buprenorphine and methadone are the most effective treatments for opioid addiction and reduce risk of dying by up to 50%.

The Mayor's proposed two-year budget will continue this critical support and build on these efforts in key areas, including continuing residential treatment expansion, the continued implementation of [Mental Health SF](#), enhancing overdose prevention efforts in targeted communities, coordinating a robust street outreach program, expanding abstinence-based treatment programs, launching CARE Court implementation, and opening wellness hubs.

Key Budget Investments:

Expansion of Treatment Beds

In 2021, Mayor Breed and DPH launched a plan to add 400 new treatment beds on top of the more than 2,200 beds San Francisco already had in place. Over the last two years, significant progress has been made, with over 350 beds added toward that goal. The City offers residential treatment for mental health care, substance use disorders, withdrawal management, and step-down care for people leaving residential treatment who want to continue care in a residential setting.

Continued Implementation of Mental Health SF

The Budget will also focus on the continued implementation of key priorities of [Mental Health SF](#), including systematic follow-ups for individuals discharged from hospitals after involuntary psychiatric treatment holds (5150s) and expanding care management services for people with



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behavioral health needs who are transitioning from the justice system.

Additionally, to give greater access to services whenever someone seeking help is ready to ask for it, the Mayor's Budget continued to budget to expand hours to weekends at the Behavioral Health Access Center (BHAC), where people can walk in for treatment and services. This year, hours at BHAC were expanded from 40 hours a week to 50 to include weekday evenings.

Enhanced Investment in High-Risk Overdose Communities

While the African-American community represents less than 6% of the San Francisco population, they represent 28% of overdose deaths over the last two years.

To address the City's disproportionate overdose deaths among African American people and people experiencing homelessness, the Budget will support a focus on culturally congruent programs tailored to serve at-risk communities, as well as expanded overdose prevention education, overdose prevention champions, and links to care, including abstinence-based treatment.

Coordinated Street Outreach

The Budget will continue to fund the City's Street Response Teams, coordinated by the Department of Emergency Management (DEM). The City's multi-department approach to help people in crisis on our streets coordinates Police, Fire, Public Health, and Homelessness and Supportive Housing. As of April 2023, over 18,000 calls have been diverted from police to our street response teams.

DPH's neighborhood-based street care teams have expanded to five neighborhoods with the largest numbers of unhoused people and overdoses working seven days a week to get people into care. The Street Medicine team, serving nearly 3,000 patients a year, will continue to provide medical and behavioral health care to people experiencing homelessness in streets, parks and encampments. The City will continue to expand buprenorphine distribution by emergency responders and medical professionals in community. More than 5,000 San Franciscans get access to buprenorphine or methadone annually.

Abstinence-Based Treatment Programs

This Budget expands the continuum of care and treatment options for people experiencing substance use disorder. Specifically, this Budget will continue the expansion of a women's abstinence-based therapeutic community, which supports those exiting the criminal justice system who have experienced addiction, domestic violence, and family separation and will support additional



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abstinence-based treatment services.

CARE Courts Implementation

San Francisco is among the first seven counties across the State of California to implement Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Courts. This program is designed to bring people into care who are not ready to voluntarily engage but not eligible for programs like conservatorship.

CARE Courts allow family members, healthcare providers, or first responders to petition for an individual to enter the programs. In these procedures, a Care Plan is established and a judge can use court orders to with support such as short-term stabilization medications and beds, as well as wellness and recovery offerings. Mayor Breed's Budget will fund engagement and assessment staff; increased capacity for treatment and housing; and outreach and educational efforts.

New Wellness Hubs

The Budget funds the opening of up to three Wellness Hubs over the next two years to support the City's efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs, including those experiencing homelessness, and reduce public drug use. These sites will provide low- to no- barrier:

- Overdose prevention services and resources
- Resources to improve a person's health, including basic needs as housing, food assistance, and basic medical services
- Connections to outpatient and inpatient residential treatment

Any possible inclusion of safe consumption would be funded by private entities.

Mental Health Services for Children, Youth and Families

This Budget continues to support more than 100 programs delivering behavioral health services to children, youth, and families across San Francisco County. This includes a range of services offered within SFUSD that range from prevention, early intervention, outpatient care and intensive services.

Advocating for Additional State Resources

The Mayor continues to support efforts to identify more state funding for mental health and substance use treatment. This includes advocating for Governor Newsom's proposed 2024 ballot initiatives to improve how California treats mental illness, substance use disorders and homelessness.



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This plan would build thousands of new community behavioral health beds in state-of-the-art residential settings to house Californians with mental illness and substance use disorders, which could serve over 10,000 people each year.

MAYOR'S TWO-YEAR BUDGET PROPOSAL ANNOUNCED

On June 1st, Mayor London N. Breed made her proposal to the Board of Supervisors for a balanced FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 budget. The budget prioritizes public safety, homelessness and behavioral health and supports restoring San Francisco's economy and downtown while balancing a sizable deficit. The budget reflects the proposals for DPH brought to the Health Commission in February and April of this year. In addition, the Mayor's Office includes enhancements to DPH's budget. These changes are outlined in the attached memo. Most significantly, the budget includes the following:

Opioid Settlement Funds - \$103 million over the two-year budget to be used to fund:

- \$33.8 million for new programming at DPH for three new wellness hubs, contingency management programs, focused outreach to address racial disparities in the Opioid crisis, sober living, medication assisted treatment and connection to care in high-risk housing.
- \$25.3 million for Community Safety Ambassadors managed by the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- \$36 million to offset the costs of services in the Behavioral Health Services and the Population Health Division to address the opioid epidemic previously supported with the general fund.
- \$6.7 million in-kind Naxolone

CARE Court and Bridge Housing

- \$4.3 million for CARE Court to connecting clients struggling with untreated health issues with a court-ordered CARE plan for up to 24 months.
- In addition, the department will receive \$32 million of State funding for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing to be spent over the next four years to support behavioral health clients, especially those associated with CARE Court, in accessing shelter and housing.

Capital and Bed Expansion Investments through State and Private Partnerships

- A \$33.7 million state grant awarded to DPH to build new inpatient and outpatient psychiatric facilities for youth at ZSFG.



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- An \$18.3 million grant from the ZSFG Foundation for phase one of the build-out and additional improvements of the Outpatient Care Center, at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.
- Two Community Care Expansion grants from the State.
 - \$7.4 million, to be administered jointly with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, to provide operating subsidies towards leases costs and grants to licensed board and care operators towards the acquisition of current facilities that they are currently leasing.
 - \$9.5 million to support the renovation and expansion of the residential treatment step-down site on Treasure Island.

Laguna Honda Hospital Facilities Staffing - As Laguna Honda Hospital continues to work towards recertification with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, it has identified additional needs to meet the goals and requirements of its action plan. The Mayor's budget includes the package of new positions proposed by DPH in February and also adds six new 7334 Stationary Engineer positions. This additional engineering support will allow LHH to have 24/7 coverage at facilities to respond to urgent or emergency physical plant issues.

Cost of Doing Business Increase for Non-Profit Contractors - The Mayor's budget includes a cost-of-doing business increase of 3% for all general funded non-profit contractors with an additional 1% targeted towards health and homelessness contractors, for a total of 4% for DPH-funded community-based organizations in FY 2023-24.

CELEBRATING THE EXPANSION OF DPH'S TOBACCO FREE PROJECT

Since January 2023, Tobacco-Free Project (TFP) staff, who work within the Community Health Equity and Promotion Branch of the Population Health Division (PHD), in partnership with Southeast Family Health Center, have been delivering harm reduction-based Stop Smoking classes. The program has reached 16 participants, in which 85% of the participants have quit or reduced their tobacco use. On average, participants started at 12.8 cigarettes per day and were down to 4.7 per day by the end of the class series, or 8 fewer cigarettes each day (a 63% reduction of their smoking!). The class participation doubled in size from Series 1 to Series 2, and has prompted TFP staff to establish a support group to further meet the needs of the community. This is a great example of collaboration between PHD and our San Francisco Health Network to improve patient health and community wellness. Please check out @SFPublicHealth on social media platforms for more information on the Tobacco Free Project's Stop Smoking classes as well as recent World No Tobacco Day (May 31) activities.



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DPH RECOGNIZES UPCOMING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

June 20th is recognized annually around the globe as [World Refugee Day](#). In the spirit of this upcoming day of recognition, DPH would like to highlight that its own [San Francisco Newcomer's Health Program](#) and [San Francisco TB Clinic](#) were recognized by the [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#) with an article in their official blog "NACCHO Voice," highlighting their collaborative work to protect newly arrived refugees from TB, and prevent its spread in San Francisco.

The full article can be read here: [World TB Day 2023: The Impact of Local Health Department TB Programs in Supporting Refugee and Newcomers Communities to the United States](#)

Thank you to the staff of the Newcomer's Health Program and the San Francisco TB Clinic for working together to advance this important prevention effort and protecting public health!

TRAUMA MONTH & WEAR ORANGE DAY AT ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL (ZSFG)

May was National Trauma Awareness Month and ZSFG celebrated and recognized Trauma Registry Professionals, Injury Prevention Professionals, National Trauma Survivors, and all care providers and support staff along the trauma continuum. Patients who are transported to ZSFG for trauma care are supported by virtually every department at ZSFG and many more within DPH and the community. Last year more than 3,000 patients arrived at the Emergency Department for trauma care. More than 2,000 of these individuals were admitted.

ZSFG is currently preparing for its reverification survey to retain its Level 1 Trauma Center status. ZSFG consistently falls in the top percentile for lowest mortality and complication rates among similar trauma centers throughout the US and Canada based on the Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP). And, our Trauma Attendings are nationally and internationally recognized experts in Trauma care who have been the recipients of numerous awards and research grants.

As part of Trauma Awareness Month, ZSFG recognized the gun violence prevention campaign, "Wear Orange Day" from June 2-4, a national awareness campaign that honors lives cut short and those impacted by gun violence. At ZSFG, staff wore orange along with partners Wrap Around Project, Trauma Recovery Center, Moms Demand, Everytown and United Playaz in solidarity with the 181 patients who received trauma care at ZSFG last year due to gun violence and as a call to action to end gun violence everywhere.



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EIGHTY-FOUR PERCENT OF DPH STAFF TO RECEIVE COVID WORKER RETENTION PAYMENTS

DPH staff have worked tirelessly through the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the health of all San Franciscans and we are incredibly grateful for their sacrifices and contributions. We are excited to announce that the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has granted DPH funding to recognize employees' hard work via Senate Bill 184 – COVID 19 Worker Retention Payments.

DPH Human Resources have contacted employees who meet all of DHCS's requirements* for the part-time retention payment, and we are happy to note that approximately 84% of current DPH staff will receive a retention payment of between \$750 and \$1,000 (subject to taxes) in their June 6, 2023 paychecks.

*Eligibility to receive a part-time retention payment, included but was not limited to having worked between 100-399 or more than 400 on-site hours within a timeframe designated by DHCS.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 6/1:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 29.*
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 65% have received booster dose(s). Forty percent of residents have received a bivalent booster.

* We are temporarily pausing the distribution of hospitalization data while CDPH makes updates to the hospitalization data reporting stream. We plan to re-integrate this data once system updates are complete.

[DPH in the News](#)