

**Health and Human Services Agency Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB)  
8/3/21, \*3PM–5 PM\* Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams, San Diego, CA**

**Public Health Officer's Report**

**I. Communicable Disease Issues**

**A. Infectious Disease Issues**

**1. 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

- See [COVID-19 Watch](#), published Wednesday, 7/27/21. (Will also send the 8/4/21 publication.)
- Currently vaccinating all individuals 12 years of age and older.
  - 4/1 – began vaccinating all persons 50 years and older (Phase 1C).
  - 4/15 – began vaccinating all persons 16 years and older (Phase 2).
  - 5/13 – began vaccinating all persons 12 years of age and older.
- 2. On 6/15/21, The State of California retired the tiered system on physical distancing, and capacity limits.
  - San Diego County was in the yellow tier at the time of the retirement of the system.
  - County to scale back vaccine efforts beyond June of 2021.
    - Vaccine will be readily available at hundreds of locations, including pharmacies, health care providers, etc.
    - County will maintain limited vaccination sites and testing sites.
    - On 6/16/21, The County held the last regularly scheduled press briefing for COVID-19.
    - This marked 501 days since the Emergency Operations Center opened for response.
- 3. **On 7/28/21, The County, in alignment with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), made the recommendation, that all people, both fully vaccinated and not, wear masks indoors.**
- 4. **The current number of COVID-19 cases as of 7/23/21 in the U.S. is over 34,248,054 and 607,684 deaths.**
  - **California Cases**
    - **The current number of cases in CA is now 3,786,031 cases and 63,741 deaths.**
  - **San Diego Cases**
    - **San Diego County residents – 289,367 with 3,788 deaths.**
- 5. **The current number of COVID-19 vaccines administered as of 7/22/2021 is as follows:**
  - **2,802,581 = San Diego County population 12 years of age and older (eligible population).**
  - **2,101,936 or 75% = State goal to vaccinate eligible population.**
  - **4,409,505 total vaccine doses received in the region.**
  - **4,191,813 doses administered and entered in SDIR.**
  - **2,246,276 (80.2%) San Diego County residents have received one dose.**
    - **Achieved State goal to vaccinate 75% of the eligible population.**
  - **1,861,261 (66.4%) San Diego County residents only are fully vaccinated.**
    - **Vaccination sites include community PODs, Super Stations, other partners.**
    - **View all information at [www.coronavirus-sd.com](http://www.coronavirus-sd.com).**

**II. Board Actions and Policies**

**A. Major Initiative Updates**

**1. Getting to Zero**

- Dr. Tilghman continues to try to engage HASDIC to get on an upcoming meeting agenda. The Medical Advisory Committee members also have requested a “champion” for routine HIV testing in the Board of Supervisors. The next meeting is not currently scheduled due to COVID-19.
- The HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch has been awarded \$9,693,670 in Ending the HIV Epidemic funding for HIV prevention for the time period 8/1/2020-7/31/2025. This complements the \$5,000,000 awarded earlier this year for Ending the HIV Epidemic funding for HIV care and treatment for 3/1/2020-2/28/2025. Procurements necessary to administer the services in each of the grants are under development.

2. **Hepatitis C Initiative – Approved by the Board of Supervisors in November of 2018.** The initiative is on track and continues to be a collective impact approach with American Liver Foundation providing a coordination role along with the participation and leadership of multiple other stakeholders.
  - Meetings for all committees have initiated and on track (Steering; Research and Surveillance; Access, Testing, and Treatment; and Consumer).
  - **The Hepatitis C Elimination Initiative Implementation Plan Board Letter was presented and voted for support by the Board of Supervisors on 7/13/21.**
3. **Tuberculosis Elimination Initiative**
  - In 2/21, the AOC submitted the TBEI Board Memo and Recommendations Report to the County Board of Supervisors that describes barriers to LTBI care, recommendations for progressing toward TB elimination and experiences of TB survivors.
  - **The TB Elimination Initiative Implementation Plan Board Letter is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors on 7/13/21.**
4. **Tobacco Retail Licensing Program:**
  - In addition to applying for and obtaining a County Tobacco Retail License (TRL), tobacco retailers must comply with other eligibility, operating, and tobacco product requirements. All retailers will be required to renew their TRL and pay an annual application fee (amount to be determined) by 7/1/22.
  - The County of San Diego began receiving and processing TRL applications on 6/1/21.

### III. Public Health Issues

#### A. The following Health Observances Days are being held in the month of August:

1. National Farmer's Market Week: 8/1/21 to 8/7/21
2. National Immunization Awareness Month: All of 8/21
3. National Breastfeeding Month: All of 8/21
4. International Overdose Awareness Day: 8/31/21

#### B. New Grants:

1. **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Original and Expansion (Approved by the BOS on 6/8/21)**
  - The County of San Diego received two funding allocations for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection grant (original and expansion). The plan for this funding spans six different strategies that collectively build upon current investments and better prepare the County to respond to the needs of the community, allowing for prioritization of resources to serve those most vulnerable to the impacts of SARS-COV-2/COVID-19 and to build infrastructure for preparedness to address other outbreak responses caused by infectious disease.
  - These activities are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and extend over two funding periods from 5/18/20 to 11/17/22 (original) and 1/15/21 through 7/31/23 (expansion).
  - These funds are intended to provide critical resources to local health departments for a broad range of activities related to COVID-19 testing and epidemiologic surveillance, including the establishment of modernized systems which will lay the foundation for the future of public health surveillance.
  - Funding amounts: Original – \$20,177,680; Expansion - \$123,774,567.
2. **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Initiative to address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities (RFA OT21-2103).**
  - **Approved by the BOS on 7/13/21**
  - MCFHS developed the grant application on behalf of Public Health Services (PHS), which included an extensive stakeholder engagement process with internal County departments to determine activities to leverage or enhance existing COVID-19 response efforts and ensure sustainable public health capacity building efforts for future emergency responses.
  - Public Health Services received the notice of award on 5/28/21 for the full award amount of \$24,255,805.

- The *San Diego COVID-19 Health Disparities Project* supports the expansion and strengthening of the local COVID-19 response and prevention capacity through activities in 4 strategies:
  - Increased testing, tracing, and vaccinations,
  - Improved public health data systems,
  - Improved linkages to health and social services for vulnerable populations, and
  - Expanded public health infrastructure for COVID-19 prevention and control to reduce health disparities and expand health equity.
- Priority populations include racial and ethnic minorities and other low-income populations that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This project is funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the period 6/1/21 through 5/31/23 and will be implemented in collaboration with County staff, community partners, and contracted service providers. Funding amount is \$24,255,805.
- **The Board Letter to accept the funds was approved on 7/13/21.**

### C. Ongoing Funding

#### 1. Kresge Emerging Leaders in Public Health Grant:

- Working with the *Live Well San Diego* Team to contract with speaker, Trabian Shorters, to provide a series of community conversations on Asset Framing.
  - This is a five-part series where the first session, Session #1: Asset-Framing Keynote, will be paid for by Kresge grant funding.
  - There are four sessions scheduled on a quarterly basis where a select group of ~50-100 people work in a cohort to do a “deep dive” on topics within the Asset Framing subject.

#### 2. National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) Multi-state EHR-based Network for Disease Surveillance (MENDS)

- San Diego Health Connect has discontinued their participation. HHSA is looking for other opportunities to continue the project in conjunction with other critical Public Health IT projects.

#### 3. STD Funding:

- San Diego received notice of funding award for STD services in the amount of \$1,045,125 for the period of 7/1/19 to 7/30/24. This represents an annual decrease of \$228,024 per year. CDPH has directed most of the funding to health jurisdictions experiencing high rates of congenital syphilis and syphilis among women of childbearing age.
- HSHB is receiving \$775,254 in STD funding from CDPH State Local Assistance Funds for the time period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2022 for STD prevention and control activities. Fifty percent of the funding will be contracted out to local community providers.

#### 4. CalFresh Healthy Living (Formerly known as NEOP or Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention, through the SNAP-ED Program):

- San Diego Unified School District contract amendment is in process to add:
  - \$105,000 in FFY 21 for additional Resource Teacher support, training, and materials
  - \$131,000 for additional Resource Teacher in Federal FY 22
- Vista Community Clinic contract amended 7/15/21 to add:
  - \$250,000 annually through 7/30/23 for Healthy Cities, Healthy Resident (HCHR) program expansion into two (2) additional cities, Oceanside and Escondido

#### • Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI):

- Phase 3 of the Black Legacy Now Media campaign ran in 4/21 and 5/21.
- The Board of Supervisors authorized acceptance of PEI funding and to pursue future opportunities on 5/18/21.
- **The next PEI Community Advisory Board meeting will be held on 9/10/21 via Microsoft Teams.**

#### 5. CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Grant Supplemental Funding

- CDC announced a new supplemental funding opportunity to promote vaccine awareness for the second supplemental grant, SD REACH: Expanding Vaccination Coverage, was awarded on 3/30/21 for \$629,640 for an 18-month period between 3/30/21 through 9/29/22.

- This program will support adult COVID-19 and influenza vaccination coverage for racial and ethnic groups (African Americans, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, and Hispanic Americans) who are experiencing disproportionate vaccination rates and are at risk for adverse health outcomes associated with influenza and COVID-19.
- The following contractors will be established to support the grant activities:
  - Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates, Inc. (FM3 Research) - \$60,000 to administer vaccine hesitancy survey.
  - Community survey launched 6/14/21 and concluded 6/28/21 with report out expected 7/2/21.
  - Brown Marketing Inc. - \$40,000 to develop and implement a tailored COVID-19 and Influenza communications plan.
  - Community Health Worker Contracts - \$260,000 for up to three contracts to provide COVID-19 and Flu vaccination education and outreach

#### IV. Board Letter Forecast

| <b>June 2021</b>  |                      |           |                                   |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Getting to Zero Annual Update 2021   | Board Memo           | HSHB      | Patrick Loose                     |
| 2. Provide COVID-19 Update  | 6/8/21               | HHSA      | Dr. Wooten                        |
| 3. Harm Reduction Report Back   | 6/8/21               | BHS       | Dr. Bergmann                      |
| 4. Budget Hearings  | 6/14/21 &<br>6/16/21 |           |                                   |
| 5. Budget Deliberations and Adoption  | 6/29/21              |           |                                   |
| <b>July 2021</b>  |                      |           |                                   |
| 6. Provide COVID-19 Update  | 7/13/21              | HHSA      | Dr. Wooten                        |
| 7. Accept TB Control and Prevention and Refugee Health Assessment Services Revenue FY 21/22 and Receive TB Elimination Initiative Implementation Plan | 7/13/21              | TBCRH     | Maggie Santibanez                 |
| 8. Receive the Eliminate Hepatitis C County of San Diego Initiative Implementation Plan   | 7/13/21              | HSHB/EISB | Patrick Loose & Jeff Johnson      |
| 9. Accept CDC Funding for COVID-19 Health Disparities Services and Authorize Related Procurements   | 7/13/21              | MCFHS     | Adrienne Yancey                   |
| 10. General Plan Amendment  | 7/14/21              | LUEG      | Planning and Development Services |
| <b>August 2021</b>  |                      |           |                                   |
| 11. Authorize Immunization Services Procurements  | 8/17/21              | EISB      | Jeff Johnson                      |
| 12. Authorize Water Quality Laboratory Equipment Single Source Procurement  | 8/17/21              | EISB      | Brett Austin                      |
| 13. Provide COVID-19 Update and Authorize Single Source Procurement with Abbott Labs for Alinity I Analyzer   | 8/17/21              | HHSA      | Dr. Wooten                        |
| <b>September 2021</b>   |                      |           |                                   |
| 14. Provide COVID-19 Update   | 9/14/21              | HHSA      | Dr. Wooten                        |
| <b>October 2021</b>   |                      |           |                                   |
| 15. Provide COVID-19 Update   | 10/5/21              |           |                                   |
| 16. Provide Update for TRL Program Evaluation   | 10/19/21             | MCFHS     | Alison Sipler                     |
| <b>November 2021</b>  |                      |           |                                   |
| 17. Provide COVID-19 Update   | 11/02/21             |           |                                   |
| <b>December 2021</b>  |                      |           |                                   |
| 18. Provide COVID-19 Update   | 12/07/21             |           |                                   |
| <b>TBD</b>  |                      |           |                                   |

Provide Kratom Ordinance Recommendations

Authorize HIV Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services Procurements

## V. Announcements

### A. Personnel

#### 1. New Hires:

- Dr. Eric McDonald has deferred retirement and transitioned to the position of Chief Medical Officer, Medical Care Services Division.
- Leslie Ray was promoted from Senior Epidemiologist to the Chief of Agency Operations for the Community Health Statistics Unit within Public Health Services Administration.

## VI. Site Visits/Audits

| Timeframe   | Description   | Auditor  |
|---|---|--|
| Visit: 6/21/21 – 6/25/21<br>Report: TBD           | CalFresh annual site visit (virtual) with California Department of Public Health (CDPH)   | CDPH Project Officer, Rosanna Oliva  |
| <b>Visit: 6/7/21<br/>Report: TBD</b>              | <b>County of San Diego-Auditor &amp; Controller-Office of Audits &amp; Advisory Services conducting an audit of PHS Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21</b>  | <b>County of San Diego Auditor &amp; Controller-Office of Audits &amp; Advisory Services</b> |
| Visit: 6/7 of 2021<br>Report: TBD                 | California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Immunization Branch Vaccines for Children (VFC) Compliance Visit (virtual) at each of our 7 HHSA Public Health Centers. These are often done annually at settings that store and distribute VFC funded vaccine. | CDPH Immunization Branch   |
| <b>Visit: 7/28 to 8/2 of 2021<br/>Report: TBD</b> | <b>Centers for Disease Control (CDC) REACH Cooperative Agreement Annual Site Visit (virtual)</b>  | <b>CDC Program Officer, Stormie Isreal</b>   |
| Visit: 8/16/21<br>Report: TBD                     | Health Resources and Services Administration site visit (virtual) for Ryan White Part A to cover programmatic and fiscal review.  | Health Resources and Services, Lennwood Greene and Sonya Hunt-Gray                           |
| Visit: TBD<br>Report: TBD                         | Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Cooperative Agreement Annual Site Visit.  | CDC Program Officer  |
| <b>Visit: Nov 2021<br/>Report: TBD</b>            | <b>CDC Division of Select Agents and Toxins site visit to the Public Health Lab</b>   | <b>CDC Lab Staff</b>   |

## VII. Recognitions and Awards

- A. On 5/21/21, San Diego County HHSA PHS Department was notified of receiving six awards from proposals made to the National Association of Counties (NACo). The proposal titles that were awarded include the following:
1. Vital Check
  2. San Diego County Perinatal Equity Initiative
  3. Whole Genome Sequencing
  4. COVID-19 Early Alert System: Safer at School Early Alert System
  5. Public Health Cross Jurisdictional Strategist and
  6. County Elimination Initiatives

Submitted by Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Officer and Director, 8/3/21.