



Health and Human Services Agency
Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB)

May 4, 2021, *3PM–5 PM* Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams, San Diego, CA

Public Health Officer's Report

I. Communicable Disease Issues

A. Infectious Disease Issues

- 2019 Novel Coronavirus
 - See [COVID-19 Watch](#), published Tuesday, April 27, 2021.
 - The current number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. is over 31,883,289 and 569,272 deaths
 - California Cases
 - The current number of cases in CA is now 3,631,740 cases and 60,203 deaths.
 - San Diego Cases
 - San Diego County residents – 275,540 with 3,692 deaths
 - Currently vaccinating all individuals 16 years of age and older.
 - April 1 – began vaccinating all persons 50 years and older (Phase 1C)
 - April 15 –began vaccinating all persons 16 years and older (Phase 2)
 - The current number of COVID-19 vaccines administered as of 4/28/2021 is as follows:
 - 2,689,348 = San Diego County population 16 years of age and older (eligible population)
 - 2,017,011 or 75% = State goal to vaccinate eligible population
 - 2,958,045 total vaccine doses received in the region
 - 2,685,455 doses administered and entered in SDIR
 - 1,447,272 (71.8%) San Diego County residents only received one dose vaccine
 - 1,006,392 (49.9%) 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.

II. Board Actions

- A. On January 13, 2021: The County announced that it is prepared to spend \$100 million in vaccine distribution. The hope is that these funds get reimbursed at some point. The County stated its commitment to do all that it can to get as many vaccines administered to the public as possible.
- B. On February 3, 2021: The BOS announced the launch of the community health worker Promotora Pilot Program that maintains the goal of conduct outreach to the most vulnerable populations
 - 100 Promotoras have been trained to conduct outreach in the appointment setting
 - This is an important project that we are doing in the South Bay. The County has blocked appointments from 9:30 am and 12:30 pm for community PODs including San Ysidro, Imperial Beach, Chula Vista, and National City for these appointments
- C. On February 9, 2021: The BOS chose vaccination option B, to administer vaccines for COVID-19 using State and Federal Funds using a model that was designed by the State, as opposed to allowing the State to do this or to concurrently and separately provide immunizations along with the State.
- D. On February 17, 2021: San Diego County indicated that it has provided 663,000 vaccines which places it at the top of the list in vaccines provided in the State of California.
- E. On February 17, 2021: Supervisor Vargas provided an overview of the Scheduling Assistance for Vaccination Equity (SAVE) Program. This is a pilot program supports eligible, higher-risk individuals being able to obtain COVID-19 vaccination appointments in their community.
 - The County is working with a variety of community partners on this Program, including the following:
 - The Chicano Federation
 - United Women of East Africa
 - San Diego Refugees Communities Coalition

- San Diego Latino Health Coalition
 - San Diego State University
 - Mental Health America of San Diego County
 - Multicultural Health Foundation
 - PCI (A Global Communities Partner)
 - UPAC
 - Somali Family Service of San Diego
 - SBCS (South Bay Community Services)
- F.** On February 17, 2021: The BOS indicated having success with the Black Nurses Association and will be expanding those efforts to the Filipino Nurses Association and our Hispanic Nurses Association to provide access to vaccines in an equitable way
- G.** On February 24, 2021: San Diego County reported that the adjusted case count and hospitalizations are going down significantly, as low as they were in the Fall of 2020. Also, 20% of San Diegans had received at least the first dose of the vaccine. Lastly, schools are planning to reopen, some as early as April of 2021.
- H.** On March 2, 2021 San Diego County HHSA along with partners provided an update on the COVID-19 response to the BOS with the following specifics:
- The number of cases has continuously declined, with the last two days showing daily counts below 300.
 - Almost Four million tests have been conducted
 - San Diego County is steadfast in drive to vaccinate 70% of citizens 16 and older by 7/1/21.
 - Commitment to Health Equity remains, with vaccination sites being inside or adjacent to those communities that are the most impacted by COVID-19.
- I.** On March 3, 2021, San Diego County reported that it continues to head in a proper direction to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.
- The County has vaccinated the vaccinators and health care workers
 - 100% of the SNF and 93% of the LTCFs have been visited at least twice with vaccine administration (Updated as per MOC Director).
 - Although the case rate (as reported by the State) is at 10.8 (March 2) which was not low enough to enter the Red Tier, the County believes that there is a high possibility that in the next few weeks, it will be able to go to the lower Tier.
 - San Diego County has been in conversation with the State of California with possible adjustments to the formulation to alter the case rate needed to go into the lower Tier.
 - San Diego County is also nearing the milestone of administering its' one millionth vaccine, but this is also met with a reality that we have a shortage of vaccines
- J.** On March 10, 2021, San Diego County reported it had been a year since having its' first COVID-19 case, and recognizes how difficult this has been for our citizens. It also recognized the difficulty in the 3,400 San Diegans that lost their lives in this Pandemic. Vaccine shortage continues to be a challenge. It also outlined two paths for entering the Red Tier:
- The State achieves the measure of two million vaccines in a certain Healthy Places Index (HPI).
 - If the State does not hit the measure, we can do so with the percentage of positive in the Health Equity Index
- Q.** On March 16, 2021, San Diego County reported to the BOS on the COVID-19 response with the following specifics:
- Case counts continue to decline, as it has seen a case count below 200 daily in the past two days.
 - Vaccine supply continues to be a challenge
 - As of 3/15/21, there are 279 total confirmed cases (82 more cases reported from two week ago) of the UK B.1.1.7 Variant strain. Of the total cases, there had been 4 hospitalizations (1 additional hospitalization since the last report) and 1 death (unchanged).
 - Currently, San Diego County can vaccinate 34,000 San Diegans per day, which translates to over 1 M vaccinations in a single month
 - Ensuring that Health Equity is integrated into the response remains a priority for San Diego County.
 - March 30, 2021: Trend slide for adjusted case rates.
- R.** On March 16, 2021 San Diego County reached the Red Tier Status for reopening at the direction of the State.
- A larger amount of vaccine supply is expected to be shipped and it is anticipated that the vaccine will be available to all eligible people by mid-April of 2021.
 - The San Diego County capacity for providing vaccinations is 35,000 per day, and this can be expanded to 50,000 a day if partnering with Healthcare networks in the County.
 - For homebound San Diegans, the Homebound Seniors Program is being expanded regardless of age. Seniors

can call 2-1-1 to get on the list.

- Equity in vaccine distribution remain a high priority. In the South County, 99% of seniors 65 and older have received at least the first vaccine dose due largely to Project SAVE. These efforts are being replicated in other areas around the County.
 - Also, in the South County, a larger population of Latinos (34.5%) have been vaccinated. In the same areas, Asians are at 32% and African Americans are at 18%. These efforts have been expanded across the County beginning in Oceanside and the Central County.
 - San Diego County is expecting to reach the Orange Tier soon.
- S. On 3/18/21, The County signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of California around vaccine allocation.
- This is the arrangement between the State and Blue Shield (a Third-Party administrator) where we collaborate on the allocations. The County retains the ability to sub-allocate and those doses around to meet the need to ensure vaccine is distributed as equitably and quickly as possible.
- T. On April 7, 2021, San Diego County reached the Orange Tier Status for reopening at the direction of the State.
- This happened because the State provided the 4 million vaccines to the fourth quartile and San Diego County maintained a case rate of 5.8 per 100,000.
 - The California Governor also announced that the entire Tiered system for reopening can be retired by 6/15/21 if the following is met:
 - The vaccine supply is sufficient
 - The hospitalization rate is favorable.
 - A total of 39 Health Equity Zip Codes representing 32.1% of San Diego County and mainly includes communities of color, have been identified and targeted for increasing vaccine accessibility. San Diego County is working with churches and other community pillar organizations to meet populations where they are at.
 - A pause on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine was implemented due to blood clots documented in six women with one death in other parts of U.S.
 - In San Diego County, this type of vaccine only accounts for about 2.9% of all vaccinations provided. The vaccine also has a refrigeration life of three months, so it should not be wasted.
 - MDRNA is conducting clinical trials for vaccines for ages 12-15, and we should be hearing about the availability in the late Summer or early Fall of 2021. Also, vaccines for ages six months to 11 years should be available in 2022.
- U. On April 21, 2021, it was indicated that California had the lowest COVID-19 case rate in the continental United States.
- San Diego County has vaccinated 65% of eligible population with first dose and 42% fully.
 - The San Diego County Medical Operations Center (MOC) has distributed over 1.5 million test kits, exceeded 37.4 million units of PPE sent out, and fulfilled 1.84 million supplies to support vaccination efforts.
 - San Diego County will be meeting with SDSU, UCSD, and other universities in May to discuss and plan for vaccination of students in the Fall. The decision to require that all university students get vaccinated is not made by the County Public Health Officer, but rather through those determining university policy.
- V. On April 28, 2021, the 22 designated vaccination sites for COVID-19 were all converted to allowing for a walk-in option for County residents.
- The Superstation sites remain appointment only for receiving vaccinations.
 - San Diego County is also working toward extending the hours of the vaccination sites to 8:00 pm and exploring a 24-hour operation schedule for some sites.
 - San Diego County is also planning another survey on public opinion of the COVID-19 vaccine, with results expected to be shared by June 1, 2021.
 - To date, there have been a total of 234 cases of COVID-19 that were previously vaccinated. This is taking place mainly among health care workers and was expected.
 - Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine does not guarantee that an individual will not contract the disease in the future, but rather increases the chances that the severity of their infection will be minimal with less complications. Among the 234 cases indicated above, there were no deaths and most were asymptomatic.

III. Public Health Issues

A. The following Health Observances are throughout the month of May:

- Hand Hygiene Day: May 5.
- Bike to School Day: May 5.
- Healthy and Safe Swimming Week: May 17 to May 23.
- National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: May 19.
- Hepatitis Testing Day: May 19.
- Bike to Work Day: May 21.
- Heat Safety Awareness Day: May 28.
- World No Tobacco Day: May 31.
- Bike Month: throughout May 2021.
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month: throughout May 2021.
- Global Youth Traffic Safety Month: throughout May 2021.
- Hepatitis Awareness Month: throughout May 2021.
- National Stroke Awareness Month: throughout May 2021.

B. New Applications

- **California Department of Justice “Tobacco Grant Program 2020-2021”:**
 - a. A Board Letter to accept funds for the grant for the California Department of Justice Grant Program was approved on 3/16/21.
- **Kresge Emerging Leaders in Public Health Grant:**
 - a. Due to continued shift of priorities towards the COVID-19 response, the County of San Diego PHS has requested an additional extension to the grant period. The grant’s new end date is March 31, 2021.
 - b. Contracted with public speaker, Reggie Caldwell, to develop a curriculum and provide a training series to all permanent PHS staff on Racial Equity in Public Health and the Public Health Workforce.
 - This training series includes three sessions – Session #1: The Basics of Racial Equity, Session #2: Structural Racism, and Session #3: Privilege and Power.
 - These trainings were conducted between 1/12/21 – 2/18/21.
 - Consultation and office hours with Branch Managers were offered to each branch, upon request of the speaker.
 - c. 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.
 - Session #1 tentatively scheduled for June 24, 2021.
 - **The following four sessions will be on a quarterly basis where a select group of ~50-100 people work in a cohort to do more of a deep dive on topics within the Asset Framing subject.**
- **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) Multi-state EHR-based Network for Disease Surveillance (MENDS)**
 - San Diego Health Connect has discontinued their participation. HHS is looking for other opportunities to continue the project in conjunction with other critical Public Health IT projects.
 - **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)**
 - a. **The CDC released a non-competitive funding opportunity to address COVID-19 and advance health equity in racial and ethnic minority groups and rural populations within state, local, US territorial, and freely associated state health jurisdictions. There are four strategy areas including Resources and Services, Data and Reporting, Infrastructure Supports, and Partner Mobilization.**
 - b. **The grant term is 24 months and CDC has earmarked a total budget of \$24,255,408 for San Diego.**
 - c. **Public Health Services is preparing an application which is due 5/3/21. An award will be issued by 6/1/21. A Board Letter to accept funds is scheduled for 6/8/21.**

- d. **MCFHS is developing the grant application on behalf of PHS, which has 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.**

C. Funding

- **Local Oral Health Program (LOHP):**
 - The Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) program will take place February 22 – March 19, 2021. This year the event will include private dental offices and community dental clinics. Promotion, recruitment, and outreach efforts will be in collaboration with community partners.
 - LOHP contractors continue to provide services virtually. To date for this fiscal year, 33 pediatric providers and 21 dental providers are participating in our program and providing important oral health messages. UCSD Dental Health Initiative/Share the Care and County staff are working with home visiting programs to train and support their staff.
 - The San Diego Oral Health Coalition and the Oral Health Advisory Board continue to meet virtually.
 - The San Diego Oral Health Forum will take place on June 4, 2021 and the theme will be equity.
 - California Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health released a request for application due April 21, 2021. This is a new one-time funding opportunity that will be available to support the creation and expansion of community-clinical linkages to promote oral health.
 - **Request for Application was submitted on April 21, 2021 for \$100,000 to support the purchase of software to develop a referral management system.**
- **STD Funding:**
 - San Diego received notice of funding award for STD services in the amount of \$1,045,125 for the period of July 1, 2019-July 30, 2024. 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 – 6/30/2022 for STD prevention and control activities. Fifty percent of the funding will be contracted out to local community providers.
- **CalFresh Healthy Living** (Formerly known as NEOP or Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention, through the SNAP-ED Program):
 - **Memorandum of Understanding with Land Use and Environmental Group**
 - **One-time funding of \$60,000 and Organics Zoning Revision Project \$200,000 until 9/30/2021.**
 - **Amended 4/22/21 to engage food recovery organizations and commercial edible food generators and work with regional stakeholders to comply with SB 1383's Edible Food Recovery program: funded at \$149,495 through 9/30/21.**
- **Perinatal Equity Initiative:**
 - The PEI media conference is planned for 11:30 am on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at County Operations Center. Speakers include Chairman Nathan Fletcher, Dr. Wilma Wooten, and representatives from medical community and two mothers from the PEI Community Advisory Board.
 - A contract was executed on January 15, 2021 between the County of San Diego and Health Resources in Action to provide implicit bias education to healthcare providers (and their staffs) who provide care for African-American pregnant women.
 - Phase 2 of the *Black Legacy Now* media campaign ran from January 4 – February 5, 2021 and included a press conference held on January 28, 2021. Fifteen individuals reached out to program staff after the press conference, most requesting to join the PEI Community Advisory Board.
 - Phase 3 of the Black Legacy Now Media campaign will run in April and May of 2021.
- **San Diego Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (SD REACH):**
 - Potential funding at \$105,000 for period from 1/15/2021 (tentatively) to 6/30/2021
 - Funded at \$60,000 for period from 8/14/2020 to 9/29/2020 with carryover from 9/30/2020-12/30/2020.

Pending Contract amendment for Child Obesity Prevention Services Project with University of California – San Diego (contract number 560830) to implement a media campaign to increase participation in a market match program “Mas Fresca”.

- **CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Grant Supplemental Funding:**
 - a. CDC announced a new supplemental funding opportunity to promote vaccine awareness for COVID-19 and the 2021-22 flu season, building upon and extending the existing flu supplemental funding. The funding available to San Diego is \$629,640 for an 18-month period 3/30/21 through 9/29/22. Applications are due 3/1/21.
 - b. **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**
 - **Brown Marketing Inc.- \$40,000 to develop and implement a tailored COVID-19 and Influenza communications plan**
 - c. **Multiple Community Health Worker Contracts- \$260,000 to providing education and outreach through delivering critical information related to COVID-19 to vulnerable populations**

IV. Public Health Initiatives

A. Major Initiative Updates and Highlights

- **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.
- **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).
- **Tuberculosis Elimination Initiative**
 - In February 2021, 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.

V. Board Letter Forecast

January 2021			
16. Provided COVID-19 Update	1/12/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
17. Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis	1/12/21	D4 & D1	
18. Realigning Policies That Govern County Resources and Contracting	1/12/21	D3 & D4	
19. A Collaborative, Data-Driven, and Equitable Response to COVID-19 in San Diego County	1/12/21	D4 & D1	

20. Provided COVID-19 Update	1/26/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
21. Provided Harm Reduction Recommendations	1/26/21	BHS	PHS is concurrence
22. Measures to Provide Economic Access and Equity in the Cannabis Industry	1/27/21	D4/LUEG	PHS is concurrence
February 2021			
23. Presented Tuberculosis Elimination Initiative Recommendations	2/16/21	TBRHB	Dr. Kadakia
24. Provide COVID-19 Update	2/9/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
25. Declaring Pollution at the Tijuana River Valley a Public Health Crisis	2/9/21	D1	PHS is concurrence
March 2021			
26. Provide COVID-19 Update	3/2/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
27. Provide COVID-19 Update	3/16/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
28. Adopt Resolution to Accept California Department of Justice Tobacco Grant	3/16/21	MCFHS	Alison Sipler
April 2021			
29. Provide COVID-19 Update with Enhanced Laboratory Capacity Funding and Additional REACH Funding	4/6/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
May 2021			
30. Provide COVID-19 Update with Acceptance of CDPH Supplemental Local Assistance Funding and RO Health, Inc. Contract Extension Authorization	5/4/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
31. Provide COVID-19 Update	5/18/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
32. Accept Perinatal Equity Initiative Funding	5/18/21	MCFHS	Adrienne Yancey
33. Accept Ryan White Part A and MAI Funding	5/18/21	SHSB	Lauren Brookshire
June 2021			
34. Getting to Zero Annual Update 2021	Board Memo	SHSB	Patrick Loose
35. Provide COVID-19 Update with Acceptance of CDC COVID-19/Health Disparities Funding	6/8/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
36. Accept TB Control and Prevention and Refugee Health Assessment Services Revenue FY 21/22 and Provide TB Elimination Initiative Implementation Plan	6/8/21	TBCRH	Dr. Kadakia
37. Budget Hearings	6/14/21 & 6/16/21		
38. Budget Deliberations and Adoption	6/29/21		
July 2021			
39. Provide COVID-19 Update	7/13/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
40. Immunization Services Funding and Immunization Services Procurements	7/13/21	EISB	Jeff Johnson
October 2021			
41. Provide Update for TRL Program Evaluation	10/19/21	MCFHS	Alison Sipler
TBD			
Accept State Oral Health Funding to Contract with City of Escondido			
Provide Kratom Ordinance Recommendations			
Provide Update for Eliminate Hep C Initiative			

VI. Announcements

A. Personnel

- **New Hires:**

- Dr. Eric McDonald has 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.**

VII. Site Visits/Audits

Timeframe	Description	Auditor
Visit: 4/2/21 Report: 4/20/21	Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) inspection for recertification to test patient specimens.	Patricia Bolivar, PhD and John King for Laboratory Field Services
Visit: 8/16- 8/20/21 (virtual) Report: TBD	Health Resources and Services Administration site visit for Ryan White Part A to cover programmatic and fiscal review.	Health Resources and Services
Visit: TBD Report: TBD	Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Cooperative Agreement Annual Site Visit.	CDC Program Officer

VIII. Recognitions and Awards

- On April 6, 2021, the HIV, STD and Hepatitis Branch (HSHB) received an evaluation of their application for Ryan White Part A funding that was submitted in September of 2020. HSHB received a score of 99 out of 100 with no weaknesses documented.
- On April 9, 2021, Dr. Wilma Wooten, Public Health Services Officer and Director, was awarded the SDSU SPH Alumni Achievement Award from the School of Public Health in recognition of her exemplary leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Submitted by Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Officer and Director, May 4, 2021.