

Health and Human Services Agency Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB)
9/7/21, *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 Tuesday, 8/31/21.
 - 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 7/26/21, the State Health Officer issued an order for "[Health Care Worker Protections in High-Risk Settings](#)" that covers vaccinations, testing, and masking. Subsequent amendments have been made during August of 2021. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>
4. 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.
5. The current number of COVID-19 cases as of 8/28/21 in the U.S. is over 38,709,295 and 6034,157 deaths.
 - California Cases
 - The current number of cases in CA is now 4,186,261 cases and 65,139 deaths.
 - San Diego Cases
 - San Diego County residents – 331,330 with 3,880 deaths.
6. The current number of COVID-19 vaccines administered as of 8/28/2021 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.
 - 4,746,115 total vaccine doses received in the region.
 - 4,502,939 doses administered and entered in SDIR.
 - 2,383,050 (85%) San Diego County residents have received one dose.
 - Achieved State goal to vaccinate 75% of the eligible population.
 - 2,085,698 (74.4%) 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.

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 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-Approved by Board of Supervisors in July 2019:**
 - 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 was presented to the Board of Supervisors on 7/13/21.
4. **Tobacco Retail Licensing Program-Approved by Board of Supervisors on:**
 - 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.
5. **Misinformation as a Public Health Crisis-Approved by Board of Supervisors on 8/31/21:**
 - **Despite the availability of a COVID-19 vaccine, there has been a resurgence of COVID-19 cases across the country and state, particularly of the delta variant. This resurgence has led to more infections and hospitalizations than the region has seen since the beginning of the year.**
 - **The BOS recognizes that vaccine hesitancy stands in the way of getting the County population past the COVID-19 pandemic and has committed to developing strategies to actively combat health misinformation.**
 - **The Board Letter directed the CAO to implement seven strategies cited by the U.S. Surgeon General in his advisory entitled "Confronting Health Misinformation," and report back within 90 days on the status of implementation and within 180 days upon completion.**

III. Public Health Issues

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

1. International Overdose Awareness Day: August 31st (participated in community partner press conference).
2. National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day: September 18th
3. National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: September 27th
4. National Preparedness Month: all of September.
5. National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month/Fruit and Veggies—More Matters Month: all of September (COI press conference on September 9th).
6. Sexual Health Awareness Month: all of September.
7. National Infant Mortality Awareness Month: all of September.

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.

3. Workforce Development Grant

- **San Diego County was awarded \$4,647,527 for Workforce Development planning for FY 21/22 and FY 22/23.**
- **The funds are allocated to recruit, hire, and train personnel to address COVID-19 response needs over a two-year performance period, including hiring personnel to build capacity to address public health priorities deriving from COVID-19.**

4. Immunization Supplement Round 4 Funding

- **CDPH Immunization Branch is making available to all counties a Round 4 of supplemental funding to the 5-year base grant. Three other previous rounds of supplemental funding have already been received for COVID-19 response and vaccination operations.**
- **The County of San Diego will receive \$12,070,009 in round 4 supplement.**
- **This Round 4 grant has an added equity work plan as part of the grant package and requirements.**
- **This funding budget is due to the state 9/10/2021 and workplan is due to the state 9/17/2021.**

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. HHS 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.

D. Fellows and Research Associate

1. PHS Administration-Health Equity Unit

- **Health and Human Services Agency Director signed a letter of support for SDSU Research Center for a multi-million dollar, multi-year grant to build local research infrastructure for minority health. SDSU Research Center was successful in obtaining the grant referred to as HealthLINK.**
- **This is part of the grant funds a position for a Research Associate who reports part-time to SDSU and part-time to Jo-Ann Julien in the PHS Office of Health Equity. The Research Associate is working on this project for two years (2021-2023) focused on health equity research projects.**

2. Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch (EISB)

- **CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Fellow - two years, FY 21/22 and 22/23.**

- Council on State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Fellow - two years, FY 21/22 and 22/23.
- 3. Maternal Child and Family Health Services
 - Council on State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Fellow - two years, FY 21/22 and 22/23. Working on chronic disease surveillance.

IV. Board Letter Forecast

June 2021	Date	Department	Lead Staff
1. Provide COVID-19 Update	6/8/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
2. Harm Reduction Report Back	6/8/21	BHS	Dr. Bergmann
3. Budget Hearings	6/14/21 & 6/16/21		
4. Getting to Zero Annual Update 2021	6/27/21, Board Memo	HSB	Patrick Loose
5. Budget Deliberations and Adoption	6/29/21		
July 2021			
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	HSB/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
August 2021			
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, Safer At School Early Alert System Contract Extension, and Accept Workforce Development Funds	8/17/21	HHSA	Dr. Wooten
14. Misinformation as a Public Health Crisis	8/31/21	BOS	Chair Fletcher
October 2021			
15. Provide COVID-19 Update	10/5/21		
16. Authorize San Diego Health Connect Contract Extension	10/5/21	ITS	Richard McWilliams
17. Provide Update for Tobacco Retail License Program Evaluation Memo to the Board	Board Memo	MCFHS	Alison Sipler
November 2021			
18. Provide COVID-19 Update	11/02/21		
19. Authorization to Develop and Implement Food System Sustainability, Equity, and Local Sourcing Procurement Guidelines and Program and Policy Adoption and Community Gardens (ARPA).	11/16/21	MCFHS	Naomi Billups
December 2021			
20. Provide COVID-19 Update	12/07/21		
2022			
21. Provide Tobacco Retail License Program Update/Evaluation	July 2022	MCFHS	Alison Sipler

TBD
Provide Kratom Ordinance Recommendations
Authorize HIV Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services Procurements
Accept CDPH Tobacco Control Resource Program Funding

V. Announcements

A. Personnel

1. New Hires:

- **Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez has been appointed, by Agency Director Nick Macchione, as the Acting Director of Public Health Services. During this time, an open recruitment is taking place for the permanent position. Dr. Hernandez has been serving as the Assistant Director of Public Health Services for the past five years.**
- **Dr. Cameron Kaiser was announced as a new Deputy Public Health Officer for Public Health Services, effective August 30, 2021. Dr. Kaiser has extensive Public Health Officer experience in Southern California over the past 15 years.**
- Dr. Eric McDonald has deferred retirement and transitioned to the position of Chief Medical Officer, Medical Care Services Division.

VI. Site Visits/Audits

Timeframe	Description	Auditor
Visit: 6/21/21 – 6/25/21 Report: TBD	CalFresh annual site visit (virtual) with California Department of Public Health (CDPH)	CDPH Project Officer, Rosanna Oliva
Visit: 6/7/21 Report: TBD	County of San Diego-Auditor & Controller-Office of Audits & Advisory Services conducting an audit of PHS Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21	County of San Diego Auditor & Controller-Office of Audits & Advisory Services
Visit: 6/7 of 2021 Report: TBD	California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Immunization Branch Vaccines for Children (VFC) Compliance Visit (virtual) at each of our 7 HHS Public Health Centers. These are often done annually at settings that store and distribute VFC funded vaccine.	CDPH Immunization Branch
Visit: 7/28 to 8/2 of 2021 Report: TBD	Centers for Disease Control (CDC) REACH Cooperative Agreement Annual Site Visit (virtual)	CDC Program Officer, Stormie Isreal
Visit: 2/21/22-2/25/22 Report: TBD	Health Resources and Services Administration site visit (in person) for Ryan White Part A to cover programmatic and fiscal review.	Health Resources and Services Administration, Lennwood Greene and Sonya Hunt-Gray
Visit: TBD Report: TBD	Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Cooperative Agreement Annual Site Visit.	CDC Program Officer
Visit: Nov 2021 Report: TBD	CDC Division of Select Agents and Toxins site visit to the Public Health Lab	CDC Lab Staff
Visit: 1/31/22-2/4/22	Health Resources and Service Administration for Ending the HIV Epidemic (grant 20-078) to cover programmatic and fiscal review.	Health Resources and Services Administration, Jessica Kreger.

VII. Recognitions and Awards

- A. On 5/21/21, San Diego County HHS PH 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
- B. **On August 17, 2021, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors proclaimed August as San Diego County Breastfeeding Month. Jamie Felice, a Senior Public Health Nurse with MCFHS, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Team, and Advisory Board member of the San Diego County Breastfeeding Coalition, provided input on the proclamation and was on hand to celebrate the achievement.**

Submitted by Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Officer and Director, 9/7/21.