



**County of San Diego
HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting | Zoom | CAC Rm 302**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 3:00pm to 5:00pm
MEETING MINUTES**

SEAT	DISTRICT	PRIMARY	ALTERNATE	ATTEND	PRESENTERS	HHSA SUPPORT
13			Abrams, Lauren (Alternate)		Mary Grace Sadile, MPH, MPA, Health Planning and Program Specialist, Public Health Services Jessica Mendelsohn, MPH Community Health Program Specialist, Public Health Services Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer, Public Health Services Administration Adrienne Yancey, MPH, Interim Director, Public Health Services Administration	Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH., Public Health Officer, PHS, HHSA Anuj Bhatia, DrPH, Deputy Director, PHS, HHSA Adrienne Yancey, MPH, Interim Director, PHS, HHSA Robert Sills, Interim Assistant Director, PHS, HHSA Heidi Aiem, Assistant Branch Chief, PHS - Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch, HHSA Porchia R. Rich, MD, MPH, MSW, Medical Director, PHS - California Children's Services Joshua Beidler, Administrative Secretary II, PHS Admin, HHSA Kathrina Fulgueras, Administrative Secretary III, PHS Admin, HHSA Talq Tera, Information Technology Analyst, PHS Admin, HHSA
2	1	Afflalo, Dr. Suzanne		Z		
6	3	Alexander-Myers, Deanna		Z		
12		Alexiou, Dimitrios				
8	4		Arroyo, Geysil (Vice-chair)	IP		
20	2		Coda, Bisma (Alternate)			
17		Dailey, Jack		IP		
4	2	Floyd, Victoria		IP		
14		Franciscus, Joanne		IP		
13		Fraser, Tim		IP		
9	3		Galindez, Aida (Alternate)			
18	3		Greene, Dorothy (Alternate)			
11		Hegy, Paul		IP		
2	1	Ilango, Samhita		Z		
14			Jacobs, Kris (Alternate)			
3	2	Jantz, Barry (Chair)		IP		
7	4	Lepanto, James		IP		
11			Ohmstede, Jennipher (Alternate)			
17			Perez, Alex (Alternate)			
16		Seldin, Dr. Harriet		IP		
	2	Sly, Kelsey		IP		
12			Sumek, Caryn (Alternate)	Z		

SEAT	DISTRICT	PRIMARY	ALTERNATE	ATTEND	PRESENTERS	HHSA SUPPORT
5	3	Walters, Todd				

Attendance Key: **IP** = In person, **Z** = Zoom

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

A. Roll Call

- a. **Barry Jantz** called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.
- b. **Roll Call:** All members in attendance indicated “ here ”
Board Members in person: Barry Jantz, Tim Frasier, Geysil Arroyo, Kelsey Sly, James Lepanto, Dr. Harriet Seldin, Joanne Franciscus, Jack Dailey, Paul Hegyi
Board Members attending virtually: Caryn Sumek, Dr. Suzanne Afflalo, Samhita Ilango

B. Remarks from the Chairperson.

- There has been a change in the Brown Act at State level. The County is working through some of the resulting impacts. Potentially, we can make a quorum with members attending virtually; there has to be a request from this Board if we want the Board of Supervisors to allow that for us. We are not ready for this yet. We are waiting for the Clerk of the Board to come back with more information. More to follow.
- Individuals that have disabilities that qualify under ADA can permanently teleconference for individual meetings and they would count as an in-person quorum member.
- “Just cause” and “emergency circumstances”, those reasons given for absences for meetings are now combined into one category under “just cause”, which includes both.
- If the Advisory Board requests to have all or most members remotely participate, and it is approved by the Board of Supervisors, if it goes forward, there will still need to be a physical location provided by administrative support staff, Public Health Services, for remote teleconferencing. Laptop, Owl, Zoom set up, as well as physical location will be set up for individual members and the public to attend.
- UCSD Preventive Medicine Residents Interns introduced by Dr. Porchia Rich. Interns have unique backgrounds of all types of specialties, including surgery and pediatrics.

C. Approval of January Agenda

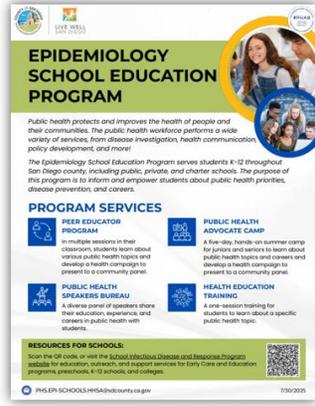
- a. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Paul Heygi and seconded by James Lepanto.
- b. **Roll Call:** All other members in attendance voted Aye.
Board Members in person: Barry Jantz, Tim Frasier, Geysil Arroyo, Kelsey Sly, James Lepanto, Dr. Harriet Seldin, Joanne Franciscus, Jack Dailey, Paul Hegyi, Victoria Floyd
Board Members attending virtually: Caryn Sumek, Dr. Suzanne Afflalo, Samhita Ilango

D. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- a. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Tim Frasier and seconded by Geysil Arroyo.
- b. **Roll Call:** Geysil Arroyo, James Lepanto, Joanne Franciscus abstained. All other members in attendance voted Aye.
Board Members in person: Barry Jantz, Tim Frasier, Geysil Arroyo, Kelsey Sly, James Lepanto, Dr. Harriet Seldin, Joanne Franciscus, Jack Dailey, Paul Hegyi, Victoria Floyd
Board Members attending virtually: Caryn Sumek, Dr. Suzanne Afflalo, Samhita Ilango, Deanna Alexander-Myers

E. HSAB Attendance Confirmation

- a. No HSAB member is out and not in attendance today due to just cause.

<p>II. PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>There was no public comment.</p>
<p>III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</p> <p>A. Empowering Youth to Become Public Health Advocates</p> <p>Mary Grace Sadile, MPH, MPA Health Planning and Program Specialist</p> <p>Jessica Mendelsohn, MPH Community Health Program Specialist, Public Health Services Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Empowering Youth to Become Public Health Advocates</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mary Grace Sadile, MPH, MPA, Health Planning and Program Specialist, Jessica Mendelsohn, MPH Community Health Program Specialist, Public Health Services Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Overview</p> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>I. Introduction of the Epidemiology School Education Program.</p> <p>II. Coordination and implementation of the Public Health Advocate Camp.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">I. Planning, promotion, logistics, and outline.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">II. Public Health Infrastructure Grant.</p> <p>III. Epidemiology School Education Program success story.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">School Education Program</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2; padding-left: 20px;"> <p>Goal: Inform and empower students about public health priorities, disease prevention, and careers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop leadership, communication, and health promotion skills. • Promote interest in public health careers. • Strengthen community partnerships. • Consists of Public Health Peer Educator Program, Speakers Bureau, Health Education Training, and Public Health Advocate Camp. </div> </div>



Public Health Advocate Camp

Overview



A five-day, hands-on, and project-based summer camp for juniors and seniors.

- Students learn about public health topics,
- Connect with local public health professionals, and
- Develop their own public health campaign to showcase to other Camp attendees and community members/public health professionals.

- Developed in partnership between the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and Tuberculosis Prevention and Care Branch (TBPC) in August 2023.
- Supported by the **Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG)** and transitioned to the Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch (EISB) in November 2023.
 - **Activity:** Implement high school programs to promote future public health workers.
 - **Measures of success:** number of students attended, schools and school districts represented, implementation plan/playbook, and post event evaluations that indicate increased knowledge.

Planning

- Collaboration and implementation between SDCOE and PHS Branches.

Promotion

- Flyer and webpage are disseminated to announce the Camp.
- Students submit an application (along with teacher recommendation form) to participate in the camp.

Logistics

- Conducted at SDCOE's Linda Vista Innovation Center.
- Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Outline

- Presentation, Workgroups, Career Panels, Public Health Fair, Student Showcase.

Workgroups and Presentations



- Students choose a public health topic (e.g., HIV, measles, mental health, TB).
 - Break out into groups to learn about the topic more in-depth.
 - Work in groups to develop and present a public health campaign.
- Guest Speakers include:
 - County Public Health Officer, and
 - HHS Communications (to learn about communication best practices).



Career Panel



- Q & A and networking opportunity with public health professionals.
- Students learn about:
 - Diverse and varied career paths – administration, clinical, disease investigation, health promotion, etc.
 - Valuable insight, advice, and experience in public health.



Public Health Fair



- Interactive resource tables:
 - Behavioral Health Services
 - Medical Care Services
 - Drug Enforcement Agency
 - SAY San Diego
 - San Diego Fire Rescue
 - Sharp ThinkFirst



Student Showcase



Student workgroups present their public health campaign to fellow camp attendees and a panel of County and community members for feedback.



Collaboration and Partnership – Key to Success of this Program!



- **Public Health Services:** EISB; HIV, STD and Hepatitis Branch; Maternal, Child, and Family Health Services; TBPC
- **County of San Diego:** Behavioral Health Services, Department of Strategy and Community Engagement, HHSA Communications, Medical Care Services, Live Well Center for Innovation and Leadership
- **Schools:** SDCOE



Between 2023-2025:



- Public Health Advocate Camp reached over **100 students**.
- Representation from more than **30 schools and 10 school districts**.



Epidemiology School Education Program Success Story



"It was really nice to be able to help out in my volunteer roles and it did feel like I was coming full circle... Being able to meet all of these people that were working, or interested in, public health really helped me. I really enjoyed what I did on the team and I'm definitely going to be looking for more opportunity to work/volunteer in health education and community health when I'm in Baltimore."

- Testimonial from 2024 Public Health Advocate Camp attendee



For any questions/comments, please contact:

- **Mary Grace Sadile** at MaryGrace.Sadile@sdcounty.ca.gov, and
- **Jessica Mendelsohn** at Jessica.Mendelsohn@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Question and Answer

Dr. Harriet Seldin: Is oral health included?

Jessica Mendelsohn: No, due to limited time and limited topics, but I know the County does have an oral health program, and it is something that we can always pursue to add in one capacity or the other for future camps.

James Lepanto: Thank you for doing this. What I like about it is the exponential nature of it. I see for these young people, it would increase volunteerism, give them those opportunities, as well as being ambassadors back to their schools and being able to share information with their friends or students, so it's a win-win.

Tim Frasier: This is prime recruitment. How can we integrate the camp into some of our goals and foster collaboration?

Barry Jantz: The HHSA Leadership Team reviewed the youth engagement letter that we submitted. We received the comments today and I will look at them. I thought maybe one of the questions was, how do we plan on recruiting. Whether the Supervisors are appointing from districts, we can also make them aware of what is already available. I think it is a two-way street to get the engagement we are looking for, and not just relying on the Supervisors, because sometimes they are going to say, or their offices are going to say, do you know anybody?

Tim Frasier: There has to be a collaboration like making sure invitations are sent out for speakers and presenters.

Barry Jantz: What kind of participation have you had from the supervisorial offices in the past?

Grace Sadile: None. We are happy to invite and let people know about the opportunity. We did have SDSU and the Live Well Center for Innovation and Learning observed last year and got them really interested, so, we're happy to invite and let you know.

Tim Frasier: Maybe it should be a joint letter coming from us, Health Service Advisory Board and Public Health Camp Organizers, to the Board of Supervisors.

James Lepanto: In this board it takes time to get these through the different levels. We have developed a model for youth engagement on the Health Services Advisory Board. Think of it as a subcommittee, that we're going to be able to listen to youth voices who don't always have a voice, in helping us not only understand what's going on in that culture, but also in their needs in healthcare. We hope to initiate some time this year that will involve young people to serve on a subcommittee, whatever we call it, a committee, to also advise us and to help us. And then, in light of that, help the Board of Supervisors with information as well. I think this is really nice to be able to work together.

Barry Jantz: How do you communicate the program to school, students, parents, counselors?

Jessica Mendolsohn: With our relationship with SDCOE, they pass out the flyer, the webpage, all of that, the application process through their channels, primarily. I think it is done via email on a mass level. On the planning team that we have for the camp, we all have our own set of partnerships and relationships built. Within our existing programming, I have a lot of schools that I work with and that I send out the information to the schools. We have the K-12 education sector telebriefing, the Live Well Leadership Meetings, those are the kind of existing avenues that we utilize but always open to suggestions.

Barry Jantz: Posting on the board is different from a teacher mentioning it in class and encouraging students to be involved and so it looks different from one to the other. Can you say that you regularly have some schools more involved than any others?

Jessica Mendolsohn: Sometimes we have schools that we did not reach out to and they have seven or eight kids who participated in the program.

Geysil Arroyo: We, at SDSU have funding to do our own camp, the School of Public Health, but I also want this group to be aware of everything that is going on getting the younger generation interested in improving health in San Diego. We can collaborate and maximize opportunities.

James Lepanto: Does this go county-wide out to the San Diego Unified (School District)? Across all the school districts?

Jessica Mendolsohn: From San Diego County Office of Education, it goes countywide. Yes. We've had representations from private, charter, and public schools. We actually had a student come from Antelope Valley School District, which I thought was good and interesting. I don't know how it made its way there.

Public Question: What are your plans for the next 5 years? How are you going to expand these programs? What are the barriers to reach out to more?

Jessica Mendolsohn: I think we do have some limitations, staff capacity, topics, and space. We have a really strong relationship with the San Diego County Office of Education, and we utilize their Linda Vista Innovation Center. Also, I believe maximum capacity is something like 70 people in one room, and that's including students and staff. I also like to believe that we are taking baby steps, not trying to overwhelm ourselves with a large number of students because that would be really challenging as well. But I'd love to see more students there. We'll see.

Grace Sadile: We are open to suggestions. We do check in with our planning team to host several camps throughout the summer and throughout the year.

Geysil Arroyo: For past years' if you follow up if they got into Public Health careers? d

Grace Sadile: We are currently exploring the logistics and intricacy of following up. We are working with the San Diego County Office of Education to ensure that we are following their procedures, since they are the ones who are contacting and following up with the students. At the same time, we did implement a process to get information. For example, we had students volunteer if they're interested in providing their contact information. We did have a number of sign ups, and are hoping that by the Summer we'll be able to check in and ask what the impact was or what their plans are, especially since they were Juniors and Seniors, just to see if they ended up pursuing a course about Public Health.

James Lepanto: I know it's a precarious time for funding opportunities right now, but it would be nice if San Diego Office of Education and the County could be on the lookout for specific funding opportunities which would allow you to expand in a whole lot of different ways, with staff and oversight and all that.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Continuation of Goals for 2026

**Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB)
County of San Diego**

**Goals for 2026
(Draft)**

- Commit to meet with Supervisor (preferably) and or Health Policy staff/ aides – individual HSAB members (First Quarter)
- Invite a supervisor to early 2026 HSAB meeting.
- Invite other Supervisors on a quarterly basis or so basis
- Consider orientation package for Health Aides in Supervisor offices. Discuss.
- Health-related Board letters to be distributed to HSAB.

Question and Answer:

Barry Jantz: Should considering orientation package for Health aides in Supervisor offices be one of our goals, or do you believe that's already being accomplished adequately? That you're the health aides in the supervisor's offices, including their knowledge that we exist.

Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: Adrienne and I briefed together about what Public Health Services does generally. I mean, we have a slide in there about the Health Services Advisory Board, but that's different than what your priorities and engagements are. We did not go into that in detail, for example.

Tim Frasier: I think when we were discussing this, it was to do a one-pager maybe on HSAB, our priorities, our Strategic Plan, who we are for the staffers. They can get information on what we're here for and get how it can be utilized.

James Lepanto: I'll go back to my files. I know that when I've met within the Supervisor's offices, I've always had an HSAB orientation, a package, so that they would learn more about what we do specifically. I think you are right, we have to orient them on Public Health. That's a big thing to orient, or to update. I think we can develop something that is short and effective. I'd be glad to help with that.

Tim Frasier: Now that we know the ACA tax credits have expired, we know work requirements are coming at the end of the year, we know there's a lot of push against the UIS population. This Board should be tracking and being updated on what's happening within the community, so we can be more adept. I don't know if it's asking the County to kind of hear quarterly reports on what they've seen in enrollment, or how we want to pull the data, but I think we should be having an ongoing

discussion and tracking and talking about how this Board can get the word out to our communities and how they can still actually access their insurance.

Barry Jantz: Send additional goals via email by COB Friday, February 9, 2026

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Youth Engagement:

- We are wrapping up the letter and be completed in couple of weeks. That will drive what we do next.

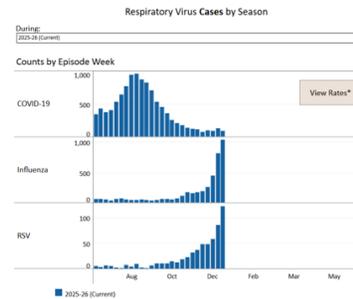
VI. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES LEADERSHIP REPORT

Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH,
Public Health Officer, PHS

Adrienne Yancey, MPH, Interim
Director, PHS

Health Services Advisory Board Meeting Public Health Services Report
Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Officer, PHS

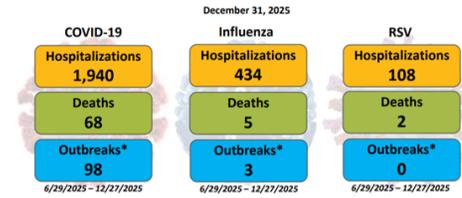
Respiratory Virus Surveillance



*Death rates are age adjusted using United States 2000 standard population estimates. Hospitalization data for COVID-19 and influenza are not available between 6/30/2014 and 11/2/2014. Historical hospitalization data are not available for RSV. Data are displayed by CDC epidemiologic week, a means of standardizing data for comparison across years. In years with only 52 weeks, the data for week 52 are reported in place of week 51.

Updated December 31, 2025. Data through December 27, 2025. Data are preliminary and subject to change.
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/ehsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/ds/respiratoryviruses/surveillance.html

Highlights
San Diego County
Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report
Prepared by Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch
www.sdcnj.org



*In residential congregate settings





- San Diego County PHS, in conjunction with leading medical, health and patient advocacy groups, has posted guidance on its immunization website that vaccines are not linked to autism.
- The information on the County's [Getting Your Vaccines](#) website is based on decades of studies cited by the [California Department of Public Health](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), and other experts and reflects high quality evidence that vaccines are not linked to autism.
- The decision to post the guidance follows a Nov. 19 CDC website change that replaced the previous statement that vaccines do not cause autism with one that said further studies were necessary.

[County Posts Autism Advisory Guidance | News | San Diego County News Center](#)

Updated Childhood Immunization Schedule Tuesday, January 5, 2026

Press Release | CDC Acts on Presidential Memorandum to Update Childhood Immunization Schedule

- Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services J. Henshaw, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), signed a [decision memorandum* \[PDF, 894 KB\]](#) accepting recommendations from a [comprehensive scientific assessment \[PDF, 1.05 MB\]](#) of U.S. childhood immunization practices, following a directive from President Trump to review international best practices from peer, developed countries.

Under the accepted recommendations, CDC will continue to organize the childhood immunization schedule in [three distinct categories](#), all of which require insurance companies to cover them without cost-sharing:

1. Immunizations Recommended for All Children
2. Immunizations Recommended for Certain High-Risk Groups or Populations
3. Immunizations Based on Shared Clinical Decision-Making

View the fact sheet [here](#).

Press Release | West Coast Health Alliance Recommends American Academy of Pediatrics Vaccine Schedule

- West Coast Health Alliance continues to recommend vaccination in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule.
- The current [American Academy of Pediatrics Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule \(PDF\)](#) is based on [established vaccine safety and effectiveness evidence](#). AAP recommendations consider:
 - When children are most vulnerable to diseases;
 - When vaccines work best with children's immune systems;
 - The safety of vaccinations being recommended;

- The risk of diseases in the United States;
- Our current access to health care and immunizations; and
- Cost effectiveness of implementing national recommendations for a vaccination.

particular

County Public Health Officials Recommend Hepatitis B Vaccine for Newborns

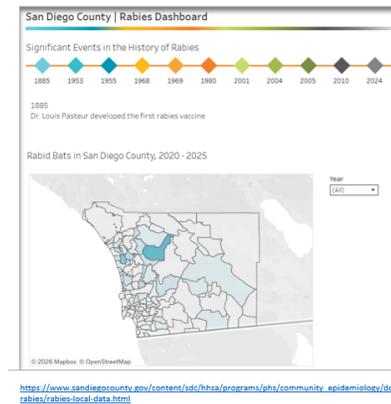
Photo: Envato Elements

By **Fernanda Lopez Halvorson**, County of San Diego Communications Office
Dec. 17, 2025 | 3:12 PM

- HBV is a highly infectious disease that has no cure. **Cases are rising while vaccinations are falling in San Diego County.**
- The hepatitis B virus (HBV) vaccine remains a safe and effective way of preventing serious illness of the liver. The incidence of pediatric HBV has decreased 99 percent since the introduction of the vaccine.
- In alignment with the [California Department of Public Health](#) and the [West Coast Health Alliance](#), County public health officials continue to recommend HBV immunization be given within 24 hours of birth.

[County Public Health Officials Recommend Hepatitis B Vaccine for Newborns | News | San Diego County News Center](#)

Rabies in San Diego County Dashboard



- **Published November 25, 2025**
- This dashboard provides data on animals reported to the County of San Diego Epidemiology Unit and submitted for rabies testing to the San Diego County Public Health Laboratory. The data displayed is from 2020 to 2025 year to date.
 - Data is updated monthly and subject to change.
 - Data on other reportable diseases and conditions may be found in Data and Reports.



November 18 Health Advisory: Silicosis Becomes a Reportable Disease in California Key Messages

- Silicosis was made a reportable disease under [Title 17 in June of 2025](#).

- Individuals with a history of working in shops that cut and finish countertops, are at risk for silicosis, a severe, incurable lung disease.
- Providers should ask patients about their work and conduct testing for silicosis in countertop workers, including those without symptoms.
- As of June 2025, silicosis is a reportable disease in California.

December 18 Health Advisory: Amatoxin Poisoning from Foraged Wild Mushrooms

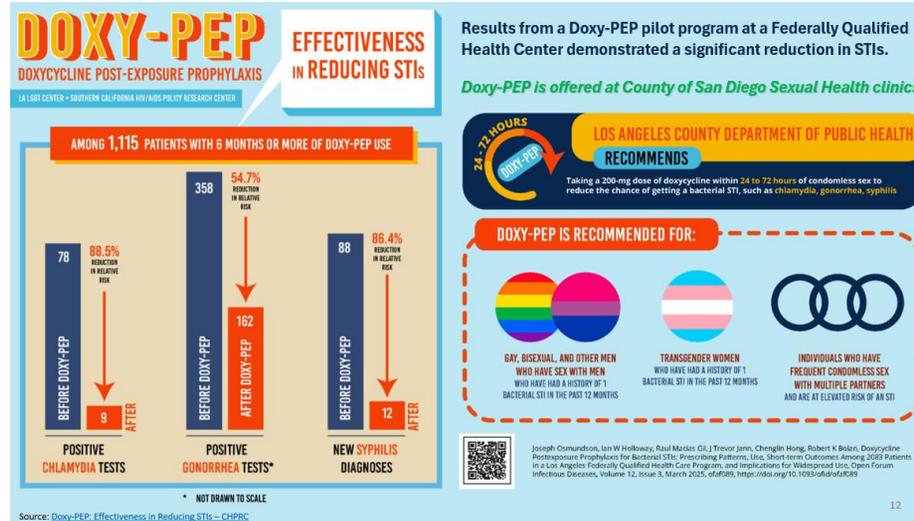
Key Messages

- The California Department of Public Health has reported cases of amatoxin poisoning associated with foraged wild mushrooms across California, resulting in severe hepatotoxicity and at least one confirmed death statewide.
- Although cases have been reported in Central and Northern California, the risk is statewide, and wet weather increases the potential for mushroom growth in San Diego County parks, woodlands, and open spaces.
- Death cap (*Amantia phalloides*) mushrooms contain amatoxin and can be easily mistaken for edible mushrooms.
- Children and pets are at risk due to exploratory ingestion.



- To help spread the joy of the holidays, physical and occupational therapists at the County's [Medical Therapy Units \(MTU\)](#) hosted several winter special events for their clients in December, including a Holly Jolly Holiday Party at the Chula Vista location.
- This special celebration provided a fun-filled afternoon for the youth and their parents. It featured holiday themed activities, yummy treats, and even the opportunity to take a photo with Santa.

[Holiday fun for all at County Medical Therapy Unit | News | San Diego County News Center](#)

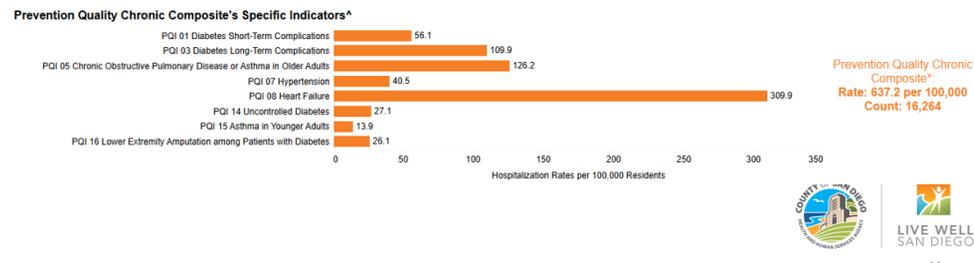


CHSU Updates

- Cost of living can vary by age. [The Cost of Living for Older Adults dashboard](#) helps to highlight the economic issues faced by the aging population in San Diego County.
- This tool helps determine the basic costs of living for older adults (aged 65 years and older) and to visualize the amount spent on necessities for older adults.
- Select by household composition, housing tenure, and local geography to explore the differences in the expenditure on necessities.
- The [accompanying brief](#) provides background information and key findings from the data included in the dashboard.

[Preventable Hospitalizations among San Diego County Residents, 2023 | Tableau Public](#)

Uses AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators



State of California Department of Justice

 **ROB BONTA**
Attorney General

Gender-Affirming Care Rights in CA

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Press Release | Know Your Rights: Attorney General Bonta Issues Guidance on Gender-Affirming Care Rights in California

- Amidst escalating attacks against the LGBTQ+ community and gender-affirming care, California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued guidance outlining **new law for insurers** for medical providers and patients seeking gender-affirming and health plans.
- California law prohibits healthcare providers and insurers from discriminating or denying healthcare services to a patient for being transgender, nonbinary, gender nonconforming, or intersex, or due to a diagnosis of gender dysphoria.
- This guidance provides information regarding legal protections and obligations related to gender-affirming care under California law.
- [Link to Full Press Release and Other Resources](#)

NOTE: LGBTQ Health telebriefings cover this and other content. The 1/21 11am meeting will cover MH resilience. Email PHS_LGBTQHealth.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov to be added to the list.

Source: <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/know-your-rights-attorney-general-bonta-issues-guidance-gender-affirming-care?print=true>

15

 OFFICE OF THE
CALIFORNIA SURGEON GENERAL

“One Small Thing” Campaign

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Press Release | California Surgeon General Launches “One Small Thing” Campaign to Support Postpartum Moms and Combat Loneliness and Isolation

- The Office of the California Surgeon General today announced “One Small Thing,” a community-powered social media campaign that encourages Californians to support postpartum mothers through simple, everyday acts of care during one of the most challenging periods of their lives.
- Why it Matters
 - [Over 40% of new mothers](#) report loneliness or isolation in the first year postpartum.
 - Many parents lose almost half of their regular social interactions [in the first 3–6 months after birth](#).
 - [1 in 8 mothers](#) experiences postpartum depression; isolation is the strongest non-biological risk factor.
 - [84% of mothers](#) believe the standard 6-week postpartum checkup isn't enough.
- How Californians Can Participate
 1. Do one small thing for a new mom in your life.
 2. Record a short video or take a photo of your “one small thing” and share it on social media using the hashtags #OneSmallThing, #StrongStartAndBeyond, and #MaternalHealth.
 3. Invite others to support a new mom as well, including your family, friends, neighbors, workplaces, and community groups.

Source: <https://osg.ca.gov/2025/12/17/one-small-thing-campaign/>

16

Tijuana River Valley Sewage Crisis Updates



Volunteers Needed to Help in Count of People Experiencing Homelessness

- Each year, County employees volunteer to spend some of their early morning hours walking or driving throughout the region to get a better idea of how many people are experiencing homelessness.
- During Last-Thing-Count, volunteers counted 9,500 people.
- The count plays a vital role in helping our region apply for federal and state funding, assesses local needs and track progress in reducing homelessness.
- Volunteers will talk with people and gather information about their circumstances to better understand the scope of homelessness in our region.

Members of the public can also join the count. If you know family or friends who would like to participate, they can [sign up to volunteer](#).



20 Public Health Wins in 2025

On **December 30, 2025**, Your Local Epidemiologist shared notable highlights from 2025. Categories include:

- Triumphs in the field,
- Turning the tide,
- Policy at play,
- International successes, and
- Standing up for science.



[20 public health wins in 2025](#)

Source: https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/20-public-health-wins-in-2025?r=oftoz&utm_medium=ios&utm_source=direct&utm_campaign=triedRedirect&utm_content=triedRedirect



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Public Health Director Update

Adrienne Yancey, MPH, Interim Public Health Director, Public Health Services

- There have been no Board letters for the last two months.
- Funding for the lab
- Succession planning to have staff training on board

Public Health Services

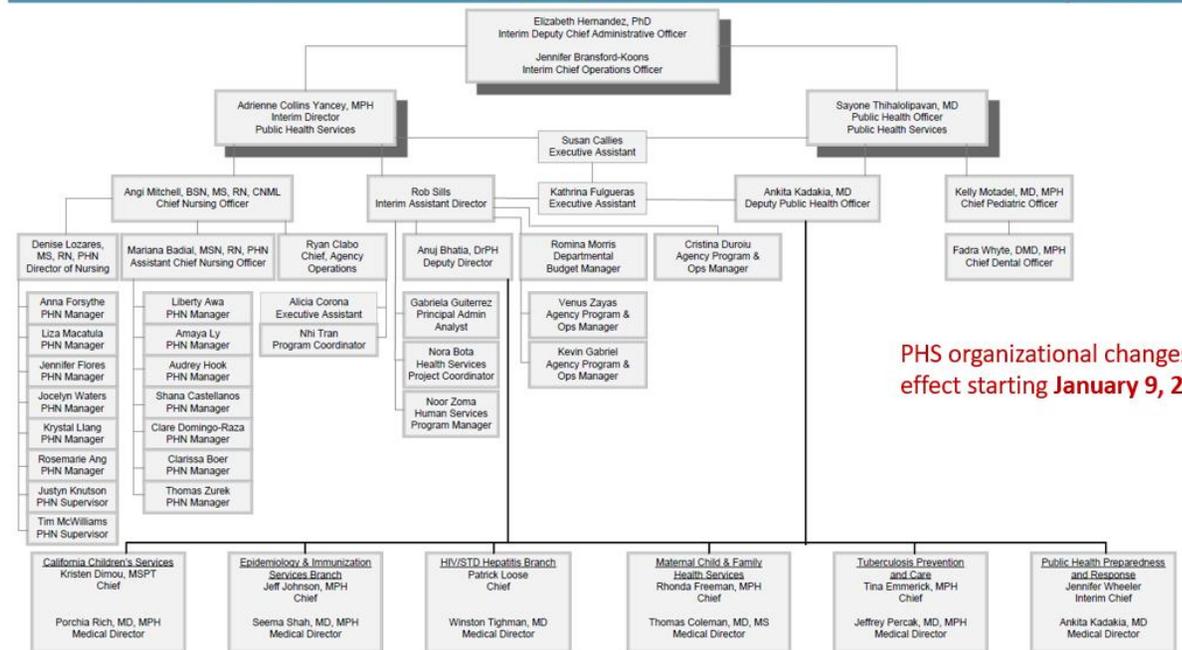
BOARD LETTER FORECAST	
Board Meeting Date	Subject
March 3, 2026	Acceptance of Additional LabAspire Funds
April 21, 2026	Authorize acceptance of funding for the Refugee Health Programs (RHAP/RHPP) and apply for future funding opportunities
April 26, 2025	Authorize acceptance of funding for Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention and Collaboration, from CDPH
May 12, 2026	Authorize acceptance of funding from California Department of Public Health for Future of Public Health Funding
August 18, 2026	Authorize acceptance of funding from Center for Disease Control and Prevention for Strengthening US Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce via the Public Health Infrastructure Grant

Medical Care Services (MCS)/Public Health Services (PHS) Integration Updates

Based on workgroup recommendations, MCS/PHS will begin to implement the first phase of the integration, effective January 9, 2026, to include:

- The Chief Nursing Officer, Office of Nursing Excellence and the Public Health Center teams, administrative and data staff who support these functions will move from reporting to the MCS Director to reporting to the PHS Director.
- The Chief Pediatric Officer and Chief Dental Officer will move from reporting to the Chief Medical Officer to the Public Health Officer temporarily as the org chart structure continues to be fleshed out.
- The overall combined Department will continue to be named Public Health Services.
- A team of 18 current MCS team members will faction off into a small unit reporting to the Agency Executive Office focused on Health Strategy and Medi-Cal Coordination (official name to be determined). This team will include the Chief Medical Officer, MCS Director and the staff who support those efforts indicated above.
- There are no changes for the Pharmacy at this time.

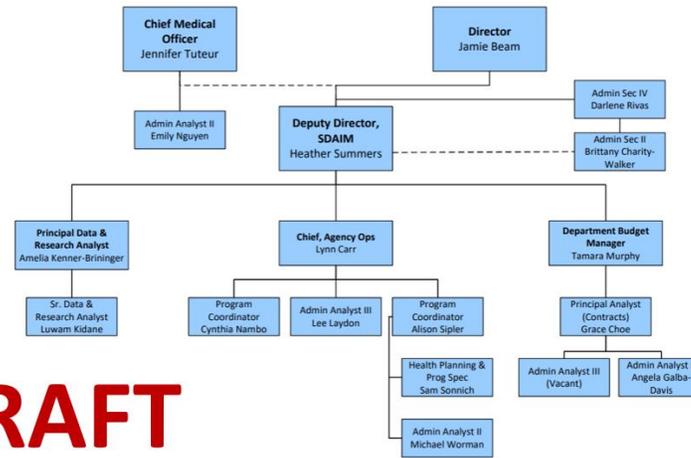
Health & Human Services Agency – Public Health Services 2026



PHS organizational changes will be in effect starting January 9, 2026



Health/Medi-Cal Strategy Reorganization
(Draft)



DRAFT



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Leadership Transitions Announced as County Continues Transformation



- **Nadia Privara Brahms** had been appointed as the Behavioral Health Services Director, effective Jan. 9, after serving as the Acting Director for the past several months.
- **Eric Shotsugu** has been appointed as the Chief Information Officer of the County Technology Office after serving in an acting role since August.
- **Shawn Brom** has been selected as the new Registrar of Voters following a broad national search. Brom currently serves as Assistant Registrar and brings more than 25 years of experience with the San Diego County Registrar of Voters.

Source: https://www.countynewscenter.com/leadership-transitions-announced-as-county-continues-transformation/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=leadership-transitions-announced-as-county-continues-transformation



A New Chapter for Public Health Services – Epic Implementation Begins

- December marks the beginning of **OCHIN Epic Implementation**—a unified electronic health record (EHR) system that will bring together the many parts of PHS work across clinics, field services, and administration.
- **OCHIN is a national nonprofit health IT organization** that specializes in supporting public health and safety-net care. Their Epic platform is used by counties and community health centers across the country—and now, we're bringing it here to San Diego County.

Why this matters for Public Health

Epic will enable PHS to:

- Document information once and access the information across programs;
- Reduce duplication and improve care coordination; and
- Gain better data insights to support policy, planning, and equity.



Governor's Budget

The Governor is expected to release the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 State Budget on Friday, January 9th.



Question and Answer:

Tim Frasier: As these drugs are no longer going, these vaccines no longer being required, and that there is pushback by the public. It's a financial decision whether or not you stock all these medications and have them on hand if you're not having the demand that's coming in, and the reimbursement that actually follows. You mentioned reimbursement will stay the same since we're in the Western part of the country. I hadn't heard that yet, so I'm pleased to hear that. I think as we're having those difficult conversations and our patients are looking to refuse or not, it's likely to be the necessary questions. I wanted to make sure that the reimbursement still stands.

Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: AB144, allows the reimbursement that California can control.

Geysil: I'm reading that, for the HPV vaccine, maybe the second dose is not going to be covered?

Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: That is from the national recommendations. Again, Western states, we're sticking with the evidence. That has not changed for us in California. For the ones that are required to follow the Western States Alliance, they should be covered.

Paul Heygi: If it is covered by the Department of Managed Services or Medicaid, that state law requires, if this Western State Coalition approves it, then it's still covered in California, presumably the other states did the same. So, if somebody is in a health plan that's a national plan, it's not managed by California, that wouldn't be covered, but the vast majority of health insurance that we have is managed by California.

Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: And that's another great example of a vaccine that we know is effective. We've seen declines of deaths due to HPV and cervical cancer, and so we know that it's an effective vaccine, and while there are trials looking at, how much more effective is the second dose? Do we really need the second dose? The data is not out yet, and yesterday's news happened without presentation of any additional or new data. Some vaccine is better than no vaccine in terms of HPV, but, but it's not clear that the second dose is, extra right now, or not unnecessary.

James Lepanto: Thank you for the Coalition, it indeed helps. How much confusion is this causing to the public. Are we tracking current data on vaccinations? Have we seen it already dropped in San Diego?

Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: Yes, we are tracking. We have seen in declines in school for immunizations and vaccines. We have been talking to OBGYN groups and we would like to share local data.

Public Question: What is the mechanism you are using to update the providers?

Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: We have partnerships with providers and medical society that routinely include updates in their newsletters. If there are other opportunities, please let us know.

Victoria Floyd: In East County you hear a lot of skepticisms. There are co-occurring things that happen when they're vaccinated at certain ages. What would the County stance be on highlighting those other co-occurring factors, or is there data that you are tracking, from CDC that you're aligned with at this point to help with that?

Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: Those are fair questions. A lot of what we need to do is really go to the community level, work with people who are willing to talk and have those conversations in places like East County, maybe where there are higher rates, and answer those questions. There is always a vaccine adverse event reporting system, it's called VAERS, which people can use if they have incidents, but anytime you have any intervention, things can always happen by chance. That is what, at least the previous, Vaccine Advisory Committee used to do, is look at that data over time, and then see if that is really an actual signal or an association. That is what the folks at the CDC do, but we have to tell that story, that there is significant monitoring. Vaccines are one of the most monitored pharmaceuticals and they're still safe and effective.

Tim Fraser: Is there a safety mandate, like wearing mask for example, to prevent Silicosis?

James Lepanto: In the medical field, we have to require masking and hairnets. Let's throw it on there for public health.

Joanne Franciscus: They don't need to make the mask mandatory; they just need to make it presumptive that it's employer liability.

	<p>Tim Fraser: HHS put out their new proposed rule on gender-affirming care for youth. I saw Attorney General Bonser put out a statement that in California, we have to follow State law. Most of the time, Federal law supersedes State law, and if you are putting Federal dollars at risk by doing it, there is a lot of confusion out in the community right now about this, and what law supersedes what, and where to follow.</p> <p>Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: This was in November; it was just after our last meeting.</p> <p>Jack Dailey: There is also a pending litigation on the federal funding restrictions relating to minor degenerative care, so it is not a settled law.</p> <p>Barry Jantz: Was there something in the press within the last week and a half, about Air Purification Unit update?</p> <p>Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: They've exhausted their funding. They accounted for 10,000 units. Air Pollution Patrol District did have funding and they voted at their last Governing Board Meeting in December to have a little bit of funding to continue a smaller scale of that program and maybe contract it out. They have done a survey showing that folks are happy with it.</p>
VII. ROUNDTABLE	None.
VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT	We enjoyed this meeting. Thank you.
IX. ADJOURN	Meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM.
Next Meeting	HSAB Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 CAC: 1600 Pacific Hwy San Diego, CA 92101, Room 302, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm