

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Behavioral Health Services Director's Update for the
Client Council

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City & County of San Francisco
Department of Public Health

Agenda

- Mission, Vision, and Roadmap
- Connections to Treatment and Safer Use Supplies Distribution
- Street Team Consolidation
- Open Now: Stabilization Unit
- Adult Residential Care Facility Expansion
- Opioid Settlement Black/African American Programs



Our Vision, Mission, and Key Tactics

Vision

For all San Franciscans to experience **mental and emotional well-being** and **participate meaningfully** in the community across lifespans and generations.

Mission

To provide **equitable**, effective substance use and mental health care and promote **behavioral health and wellness** among all San Franciscans.



Tackling SF's Behavioral Health and Homelessness Crisis



Our Goals

Build a more responsive and proactive behavioral health system of care that will help move people quickly from the streets into effective treatment and sustained recovery

Reduce fatal overdoses and reduce disparities in overdose rates across the city

We Need a More Responsive Behavioral Health System

- Quickly links people to shelter/housing, treatment, and services
- Ensures sufficient access to the right level of care with the right clinical support
- Guides people through every step—from initial engagement to long-term recovery
- Offers both low-barrier treatment options as well as recovery-oriented models to help everyone move toward effective treatment and sustained recovery
- Stops the cycle of people falling through the cracks

SFDPH Roadmap for the Behavioral Health Crisis

1. **Expand Treatment Beds and Services** – We need to expand treatment beds and services, at the right levels of clinical intensity, including more clinical care in shelters
2. **Accelerate and Simplify Entry to Care** – We need to more quickly connect people to treatment and stabilization services, whenever someone needs or is ready for treatment
3. **Support People To Progress Through Care** – We need to do a better job being “sticky” – supporting people to engage and stay the course through evidence-based treatment and recovery – without falling through the cracks
4. **Pair Safer Use Supplies with Proactive Linkages to Care** – We are requiring that distribution of supplies be paired with counseling and connections to treatment, and piloting a new smoking supply policy for public spaces
5. **Build a Comprehensive Pathway to Recovery** – We need all the tools in the toolkit, ranging from low-barrier stabilization to recovery-oriented treatment and step-down services, to help everyone on the street move forward
6. **Prevent overdoses** – We need to continue overdose prevention efforts, especially in permanent supportive housing, through culturally congruent programs, and by moving upstream in care

Pilot Policy: Connections to Treatment and Safer Use Supplies Distribution



Connections to Treatment and Safer Use Supplies Distribution

- Beginning April 30, all DPH-funded programs that distribute safer use supplies must include proactive counseling and connections to treatment.
- DPH-funded programs will no longer distribute safer smoking supplies (foil, pipes, and straws) in public spaces. Programs will be moved indoors or into approved controlled spaces, with most programs making the transition by April 30 and all programs by May 30.
- DPH is not pulling back from longstanding, evidenced-based sterile syringe access programs. Decades of research shows sterile syringe programs reduce HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C and help connect people to treatment and health services.
- This policy does not impact the distribution of naloxone.
- This pilot is one of many efforts to combat the fentanyl crisis and connect more people to treatment and recovery. We will continue to drive public health policies based on the data and evidence.



Street Team Consolidation



Citywide Street Team Consolidation Update

- On March 25, [Mayor Lurie announced](#) the consolidation of City street teams across six departments (Public Health, Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Emergency Management, Public Works, Police, and Fire) to operate as one team, under a new, unified model.
- In early 2025, DPH consolidated its four street care teams (BEST Neighborhoods, Street Medicine, Post Overdose Engagement Team (POET), Night Navigation) and renamed them Street Health.
- Like BEST Neighborhoods, the unified street team will be neighborhood-based and prioritize high-risk individuals. DPH Street Health will provide medical, behavioral health, overdose prevention, and support services.
- Each neighborhood-based team will be staffed with a BHS Lead, Behavioral Health Clinician, Registered Nurse, Health Worker, dedicated Nurse Practitioner/Physician, Psychiatrists, and 3-4 RAMS peer specialists.
- The Tenderloin/Northern, Mission and Citywide unified street teams launched in March, and the Southern/Central, Park/Richmond/Sunset, and Bayview/Ingleside teams will launch on May 12.

Open Now: Stabilization Unit



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Stabilization Unit at 822 Geary



822 Geary

- Opened in April and is designed to serve people in the immediate community.
- Provides immediate, voluntary medical care for people experiencing an urgent mental health and/or substance use need.
- Will have 16 beds, operate 24/7, and be staffed by medical professionals who will provide treatment.
- Will receive police and street team drops off and paramedic emergency transport.
- After a competitive RFP process, DPH has contracted with Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. to operate the program.



Adult Residential Care Facility Expansion



Behavioral Health Adult Residential Care Facility Expansion



624 Laguna Street

- Acquired **624 Laguna Street** in August 2024:
 - Residential Care Facility in Hayes Valley with 56 beds
 - Price: \$13.8 million (one-time Prop C acquisition funds)
 - Expands the number of Residential Care Facility beds in San Francisco that are accessible to DPH's senior and adult clients with behavioral health needs who require support with daily tasks
- Plans to acquire the adjacent Residential Care Facility at **601 Laguna Street** (44 beds) in 2025.



Black/African American Overdose Prevention Programs



Black/African American Overdose Prevention Programs

Funding (\$7.1M in FY25 and \$8.8M in FY26) for five black-led/serving organizations to provide overdose prevention services such as outreach, naloxone distribution and trainings, warm-handoff services, and more.

Program	Services
Community Holistic Overdose Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach • Naloxone distribution and trainings • Warm hand-offs to treatment • Speaker series • Black health and resource fair
Community Holistic Overdose Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community needs assessment • Outreach • Naloxone distribution and trainings • Warm hand-offs to treatment
Substance Use Prevention and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community presentations • Naloxone distribution and trainings • Outreach • Health educator trainings
Bayview Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and successful navigation to MOUD
Culturally Congruent Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and distribute culturally congruent • Overdose prevention materials (print and social media)
The Shop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-hours of drop-ins/week • Barbershop services and health education • Warm hand-offs to treatment • Naloxone distribution and training
Contingency Management (CM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four cycles of CM/year with at least 12 participants per cycle
Substance Use Disorder Clubhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubhouse model for Westside methadone clients • Two days/week of programming

Thank you