I. “Shoo the Flu” Update

Dr. Erica Pan, Director, Division of Communicable Disease Control & Prevention, Alameda County Public Health Department, presented a PowerPoint presentation on “Shoo the Flu”, a program to prevent flu and the spread of flu among children in Alameda County.

In Alameda County, there are over 100,000 flu-related illnesses per year, and between 200 to 500 hospitalizations due to the flu. Expenses for flu-related illness in Alameda County are approximately $120 million annually.

The flu is preventable thru vaccination. “Shoo the Flu” is a program provided by the Public Health Department in partnership with several other agencies to provide flu vaccination to school children from Pre-K to 5th grade, in select schools across Oakland. The program is free and it requires parental consent.

The benefits to vaccinating children at school include:

- Increased vaccine coverage in school-aged kids
- Decreased community-wide transmission
- Reduced absenteeism
- Cost savings: direct health care costs and indirect: work days lost
- Safe and convenient for parents

This program is made possible through grant funding from the Page Foundation and this is the second year of a three-year grant. The State Department of Public Health provides the flu vaccines. Other partners include the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, the California Emerging Infections Program and the Oakland Unified School District.

In 2014 the program provided over 8,600 vaccines at 110 schools. For the 2015-2016 flu season the program will include over 140 schools which include private and charter schools and will also include schools in Piedmont and Castro Valley.

Long term goals of the program include building a community-based sustainable program to provide vaccines at schools and to develop a model reflecting cross sector collaboration that can expand and replicate.
II. Safe Sharps Disposal Report

Bill Pollock, Program Manager, Household Hazardous Waste Program, Alameda County Environmental Health Department Committee, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Sharps Disposal in Alameda County.

It is estimated that approximately three percent (3%) of households have a medical injection drug patient, in Alameda County it is estimated that there are over 12,000 daily injectors. The medical community has extensive information on patient education for self-injection but little information on the disposal of needles.

There were no regulatory disposal practices of sharps prior to 2006, and it was common practice to dispose of sharps in the household trash, by first mixing with bleach to sterilize. This disposal method posed a danger to the public and waste disposal workers. In 2006 SB 1305 was enacted to: 1) disallow household trash disposal of sharps; 2) require home generated sharps waste to be disposed of in approved containers 3) define sharps as household hazardous waste and be accepted at household hazardous waste facilities. The legislation did not provide funding to purchase sharps containers nor did it provide funding for disposal.

In 2009, SB 486 was enacted and requires producers of injectable drugs to file a document with the California Department of Recycling, Resources and Recovery to describe actions if any, taken to provide for the safe collection and proper disposal of the sharps waste. The legislation does not require manufacturers to provide disposal services. The most recent bills to regulate household sharps waste at the State level have failed.

Local ordinances have been enacted throughout counties in California to regulate household sharps waste, including San Luis Obispo, Sacramento, Tulare and Santa Cruz.

The Environmental Health Department is in discussion with County Counsel to bring forth a proposed Sharps Disposal Ordinance in Alameda County and will report back to the Health Committee after its completion.

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. Introduction of Alameda Health System’s Chief Executive Officer

Supervisor Wilma Chan introduced Delvecchio S. Finley, the new Chief Executive Officer of Alameda Health System.

Mr. Finley began is the new CEO three (3) weeks ago and he stated that working on primary care access is high on his list of priorities. Additional priorities include ambulatory services for primary and specialty care. In addition leadership has made progress regarding AHS finances. The Acute Tower at Highland Hospital will open in 2016, and AHS continues to focus on quality care and patient safety.
IV. Alameda Health System Performance Metrics

Rebecca Gebhart, Finance Director, Health Care Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Alameda Health System Performance Metrics.

Background:

Alameda county and Alameda Health System (AHS) are operation under a line-of-credit interim agreement and are negotiating a permanent agreement. The Board requested the Health Care Services Agency to work with AHS, the County Administrator’s Office and the Auditor’s Office to develop a set of metrics by June 30, 2015 on which AHS will report. The purpose of the metrics is to enable to the County and AHS to assess progress on improvement of the financial and operating condition of Alameda Health System.

The metric categories were approved by the Health Committee and this is the first report since the approval.

The metrics report includes the following:

- Data reporting is still being built and will be improved over time.
- Access is below target but improving
- Financial performance is below target but improving.
- AHS exceeds quality targets
- AHS services scores are slightly below target but improving
- Employee and physician engagement are very close to target.

Ms. Gebhart reported that future metrics report will show a trend, to determine if the metrics are progressing in the right direction.

Purpose:
- ✔ Report progress
- ☐ Advocacy or Education
- ☐ Request Health Committee Recommendation or Position
- ☐ Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

V. Alameda Health System Status Report

David Cox, Chief Financial Officer, Alameda Health System, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Alameda Health Systems’ Status Report.

Fiscal 2016 Net Negative Balance (NNB) Forecast

- AHS was in compliance at June 30th at $137 million
- Currently AHS is at $142 million NNB
- AHS forecasts compliance through fiscal year 2016
- Discussions are underway with the County on permanent line of credit agreements
- AHS has made excellent progress managing accounts payable and are now current with vendors
- AHS is pursuing opportunities for prompt pay discounts in excess of $1 million annually.
Purpose:
☑ Report progress
☐ Advocacy or Education
☐ Request Health Committee Recommendation or Position
☐ Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Rose stated that in February of 2014, the Board of Supervisors approved nine (9) programs to reduce re-hospitalizations for mental health clients in Alameda County. To date, six of the programs are still being defined and Mr. Rose suggested that the Board look more at outcomes being presented by Behavioral Health Care Services rather than programs.

Sonny Bearquiver stated that his father has had a claim against the County regarding Corizon Health Services since October 2013. Mr. Bearquiver has been trying to get better healthcare for his father in Santa Rita Jail and he has not received any assistance from Corizon.

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