IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH POLICY & ADVOCACY

Health Care for the Homeless | October 16, 2019

Strategic Initiatives & Public Affairs (SIPA)
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Presentation Outline

- Intro & Overview
- Policy & Advocacy Overview
- Alameda County Context
- Important Dates
- Get Involved
  - Legislative Council
  - How to Get Involved

HCSA Strategic Initiatives & Public Affairs (SIPA)

- Work
  - Agency-wide coordination of policy, communications, and collaborations
  - HCSA Legislative Council
  - Advance HCSA’s vision and mission through proactive strategies

- Team
  - Aneeka Chaudhry, SIPA Director
  - Eileen Ng, Policy Director
  - Jerri Randrup, Public Information Director
  - Jamie Yee, Policy and Program Analyst

POLICY & ADVOCACY OVERVIEW
Policy

laws, regulations, funding, & other government actions

Policy

- Local, State, Federal Government
  - Legislative proposals (bills)
  - Budget
  - Resolutions & Principles
  - Rules, Regulations & Guidance
- Examples:
  - 1115 and 1915 Waivers
  - 42 CFR Part 2 changes
  - Measure A ballot measure

Specific to programs
- Administration & implementation
- Changes to policies and procedures
- Staffing
- Contracts

Examples:
- WPC implementation
- Data sharing MOUs
- Measure A contracts

Advocacy
activities to influence or change policy

- Includes emails, letters, regulatory comments, calls, testimony, meetings, social media, op-eds, etc.
- County Employees
  - May not use County time or resources to engage in political activity or advocacy
  - Must use personal time and identify as citizen if engaging as citizen
  - May not engage in work-related advocacy without an official County position

Official County positions
- All official positions are approved by the BOS
- Guided by the Alameda County Legislative Platform
- Require program, departmental, and agency approval before submission to BOS

Key Policy Issues Tracked in 2019

- Public Charge
- Affordable Care Act
- Nondiscrimination in Health and Health Education Programs or Activities Proposed Rule
- Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records Proposed Rule
- Bills:
  - AB 143 (Quirk-Silva) Shelter crisis: homeless shelters: Counties of Alameda and Orange: City of San Jose – COUNTY SPONSORED
  - AB 728 (Santiago) Homeless multidisciplinary personnel teams – SUPPORT
  - AB 816 (Quirk-Silva) California Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool Program – SUPPORT

ALAMEDA COUNTY
CONTEXT
Personnel/Administration/Legislation Committee (BOS PAL)

- Reviews federal, state, and local legislation and other regulatory and administrative matters referred by County departments
- Reviews and signs all letters of support or opposition for legislative & regulatory matters
- Recommends approval of the County’s legislative platform and priorities
- Advances all recommendations to the Full Board of Supervisors for final approval
- Provides direction to the County’s State and federal lobbyists on advancing the County’s legislative agenda

HCSA’s Role:
- Attend PAL Committee Meetings
- Bring recommended positions to PAL Committee

County Platform and Priorities

Guide legislative and advocacy work on state and federal issues

Legislative Platform
- Updated every two years & organized around Vision 2026
- Identifies policy principles and priorities across all County agencies
- HCSA priorities covered in: Healthcare for All, Employment for All, Eliminate Poverty & Hunger, and Eliminate Homelessness

Legislative Priorities
- Updated annually and highlights specific legislative priorities for the year

HCSA Policy Priorities

- Identifies policy principles and priorities across HCSA’s programs and departments
  - Reflects input from staff, Legislative Council, & Agency Leadership Team
- Guide HCSA’s policy and advocacy work & contribution to County’s platform and priorities
- Informs staff, public, electeds, associations, and others
- 2019 Policy Priorities
- 2020 Policy Priorities: currently being updated

HCSA Legislative Council

- Meetings open to any interested HCSA staff across all four departments
- Seeks to improve the health and wellbeing for all residents by advancing a social and health equity legislative agenda
  - Initiate health related legislative proposals
  - Monitor federal and state legislation, budget and rulemaking
  - Recommend positions to the Board of Supervisors to support, oppose, or amend health related legislation
- OAD Representatives:
  - Eileen Ng (OAD)
  - Sequoia Hall (EMS)
Alameda County Official Position Process

Key State Timelines

**Budget**
- Fiscal year begins July 1
- By January 10: Governor releases proposed budget for the next fiscal year
- By May 14: Governor releases revised budget proposal "May Revision"
- By June 15: Legislature must pass a balanced budget

*Budget trailer bills have longer timeline

**Legislation**
- Mid-January: Bill submission deadline
- Mid-February: Bill introduction deadline
- March: Policy committee review bills
- June: Policy committee review bills sent from other house
- Mid-September: Deadline to pass most bills out of the Legislative
- October: Governor signs into law or vetoes Bills passed by Legislature

HCSA's Role:
- Tracking and monitoring for impacts
- Recommend positions and proposals to the Board of Supervisors

Key Federal Timelines

**Budget**
- Fiscal year begins October 1
- February: President submits budget to Congress
- By April 15: Congressional Budget Resolution Appropriations bill
- By October 1: Appropriations bills passed

*Federal budget not required to be balanced; Congress may fund "contingency" or "rescue" term

**Legislation**
- Anytime during session – Introduce bill
- Set for committee hearings
- Mark up/Amendments
- Full committee action
- Floor action
- Refer to other chamber
- By December – President acts on bills

HCSA's Role:
- Tracking and monitoring for impacts
- Recommend positions to the Board of Supervisors

IMPORTANT DATES
How to Get Involved

To participate through HCSA Legislative Council
- Contact your Legislative Council Rep. and Eileen Ng for advice and to get your item on the Council agenda
- Provide a description of the item and the problem that it causes or solves, and answer the following questions:
  - Is it aligned with HCSA’s Policy Priorities and the County’s Legislative Platform?
  - What are the potential impacts on County residents?
  - Are there potential impacts on programs or County operations?
  - How does it impact the county/state/federal budget?

For regulatory comments, proactive legislative ideas, concerns, or questions:
- Contact Aneeka Chaudhry or Eileen Ng