



Are You Ready?

A Medical Respite and Sobering Center's Response to Emergencies

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Objectives

- Provide an overview of the Medical Respite and Sobering Center (MRSC)
- Describe MRSC's original role in Emergency Preparedness measures
- Describe the evolution of MRSC's place in the continuum of care
- Describe challenges
- Moving forward



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Medical Respite and Sobering Center – Who are we?

- 2 programs under 1 roof with 2 distinct purposes
- Medical Respite Program overview
- Sobering Center overview



Sobering Center: Already existing role

- Bay to Breakers
- Pride Weekend
- New Year's Eve
- Reddinet



Sobering Center: Cold Snap

- San Francisco Cold Snap protocol
- Extra chairs and mattresses down during cold and rainy nights



FREEZE WARNING MONDAY NIGHT TO TUESDAY MORNING

FREEZE WARNING

- Monday night through Tuesday morning.
- Temps in the 20s to lower 30s.
- Freezing temperatures can damage or kill plants that are sensitive to cold. Please check on the elderly and make sure animals have a warm shelter.

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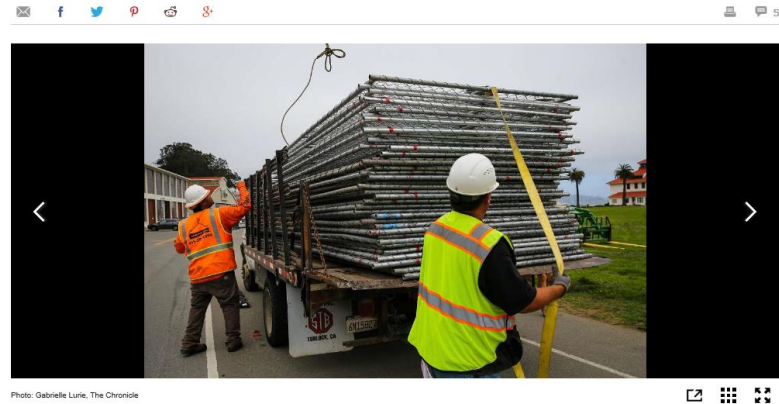
The Evolution Begins...CPMC Power Outage

- April 2017 - Sudden power outage at community hospital, clients being transferred to ZSFG (Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, SF safety net hospital)
- ZSFG needed to take clients from a community hospital.
 - MRSC licensing
 - Where do we fit into this, what clients can we take
 - Prioritizing needs of homeless clients

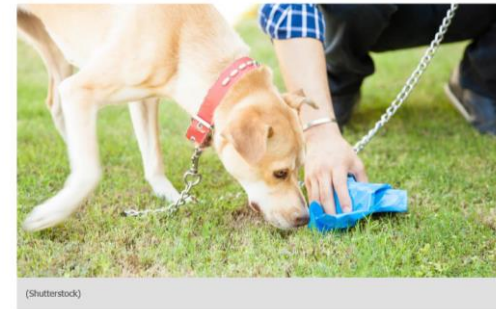
Crissy Field Rallies – August 2017

SF, protesters brace themselves for far-right rally at Crissy Field

By Lizzie Johnson | August 25, 2017 | Updated: August 25, 2017 10:42am



PROTEST Dog walkers plan 'poop protest' at Crissy Field in San Francisco



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Crissy Field Rallies

- Medical Respite is called to offload clients from hospitals to make space for possible trauma clients – fears of violence post-Charlottesville rallies
- Had available beds because we were in our expansion
 - Physical Beds and public health nurses in the community
- Discharged clients, worked with shelter health
- Use of sobering beds
- Almost needed extra Sobering support

Record-breaking Heat Wave – Sept 2017



“The coldest winter I ever spent was a Summer in San Francisco” – Anonymous

It was downtown San Francisco that, somewhat unexpectedly, set the most prominent high, recording 106 degrees by late Friday afternoon. That eclipsed the city’s all-time-high reading of 103 degrees, set in 2000. The predicted high in San Francisco on Friday had been 88.

“This was the highest reading since records were first kept there in 1874,” National Weather Service meteorologist Duane Dykema said Friday afternoon. “That’s the oldest climate station in California. That’s a significant record.”



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Sobering Center as a Cooling Center

- Labor day weekend
- 2% of homes in SF have air conditioning
- Work with street medicine to bring people in
- Lesson learned: Existing infrastructure wasn't sufficient
- Brought in portable AC's, fans
- Preparations for upcoming year already in progress



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North Bay Fires – October 2017

- Clients could present to Sobering to rest inside away from poor air quality
- Worked with Street Medicine and HOT to bring clients indoors
- Similar to cooling center response



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Hepatitis A

National

Hepatitis A outbreak among homeless a byproduct of California's housing crunch

By **Scott Wilson** | October 25, 2017 | [Email the author](#)



To get ahead of hepatitis A epidemic, SF to vaccinate citizens of streets

By **Rachel Swan** | October 4, 2017 | Updated: October 4, 2017 2:30pm



- Assessing all clients on admit to Sobering
- Working with IZ and Communicable Disease in SF for vaccinations
- Requiring Hep A on admit for respite



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MRSC as a partner at EOC

- Part of city-wide heat wave debrief
- Roles now defined for:
 - Emergency preparedness
 - Natural disaster response
 - Outbreak mitigation
 - System level support
- Expected to be present for EOC planning
- Being added for radio capability
- Setting up a Clinician Disaster Training for all of Respite and Sobering clinical staff
- As a program, we are updating our disaster protocols
- Last week's response to strike at community hospitals



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Lessons Learned

- Supporting program infrastructure
- Adding additional Sobering beds (5 mattresses, 5 chairs): learned how to prioritize who goes to which chair, how to make space
- Maintaining EMS drop off capability
- LLOC clients to Respite in times of need (prioritize already referred clients)
- Limitations in communicating without being on city EMR



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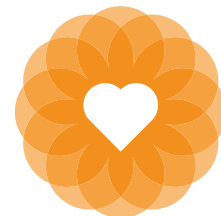
Moving Forward

- Ensure that people experiencing homelessness are also cared for in times of disasters
- Public health community-based programs CAN provide this support:
 - be called upon to support city-wide emergency response efforts!
- Community HCH programs should be prepared to assist in a disaster
 - Facility example



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Questions?

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