

**SAN FRANCISCO
HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM**

Affordable, Quality Benefits & Well-Being

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 18, 2021
TO: Health Service Board
FROM: Dr. Stephen Follansbee, Health Service Board President
RE: President's Report

Dear Board Members,

So much to say, so little time.

All HSB Commissioners, along with all other employees of the City and County of San Francisco, were required to complete a 30-minute online training in COVID-19 this month. Although we seem inundated with information from a variety of sources, a recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation reported that 78% of respondents believed or at least considered to be true one out of eight misstatements presented to them. Misinformation is rampant and more easily spread than true information. All of us should be comfortable accessing accurate information from one or two trusted sources. As a reminder, the San Francisco Department of Public Health maintains a robust and comprehensive website at www.sfdph.org. Look for the [Coronavirus Facts Here](#) page.

For information on the KFF COVID-19 mis-information survey and other interesting reports, go to www.kff.org/.

As part of the discussion on health care disparities, it is important to add the issue of Age Bias to the agenda. "They Treat Me Like I Am Old and Stupid" is just one of many reports chronicling this important issue. Provider bias and lack of provider training in geriatrics are just two issues, which includes also the fact that most pharmaceutical research leading to medication licensure with the US FDA excludes those over 60-65 years old from the research subjects. As we address the Medicare Senior Advantage options we need to understand how the Medicare Advantage plans are addressing the gerontologist shortage.

For more information, one can access the National Institute of Aging at NIH website www.nia.nih.gov or search the Kaiser Health News website for more articles at <https://khn.org/>.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Follansbee