

One Year Later, MEA Members Remain Resilient in the Face of COVID-19

By Carol Karimi, Board Member

On March 9, 2020, Mayor London Breed and other California leaders were summoned to Sacramento to meet with Governor Gavin Newsom. COVID-19 was emerging as a serious health crisis. On March 16, the City of San Francisco announced its first two COVID-19 cases and issued a shelter-in-place order.

Mayor Breed took decisive action to contain the spread of the disease early. Municipal Executive Association (MEA) managers mobilized quickly to respond to Mayor Breed's call to action and meet the pandemic head-on. Of nearly 32,000 City employees, only 1,400 are MEA managers.

The order signaled to managers that plans for working remotely would need to be set in motion in order to keep employees safe while maintaining day to day operations throughout the City and County of San Francisco.

MEA managers worked tirelessly to transition teams into effective remote-based units. Public-facing departments had the added challenge of finding new ways to provide services online.

The Department of Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) moved its headquarters from 1011 Turk Street to what became the COVID Command Center (CCC) at Moscone.

For nearly one year, MEA managers were among 1,000 Disaster Service Workers (DSW) who reported to the CCC. Managers were on the frontlines helping the City prepare and cope with the pandemic.

Emergency operations included setting up temporary shelters and housing for people experiencing homelessness and needing to quarantine, securing and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE), providing free meal deliveries and transportation, and overseeing logistics for community test sites across San Francisco.

Under DEM's exceptional leadership, more than 11,000 San Francisco public servants were involved in the City's overall emergency response. MEA managers from the Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Emergency Management (DEM), Human Services Agency (HSA) and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) worked around the clock serving the most vulnerable populations in the City.

Managers from the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF), with the support of San Francisco Recreation & Parks (REC), set up 84 community learning hubs and emergency child care programs serving 1,972 children and youth while their parents, many essential service workers, reported to duty during the pandemic. DEM

and CCC responders distributed more than three million health and safety flyers in multiple languages to help residents stay safe and informed about how to access critical services while sheltering in place.

As of the shelter-in-place anniversary, more than 1.6 million COVID-19 tests have been administered, over two million bags of groceries distributed, 1.6 million meals provided to people experiencing food insecurity, and 236,000 residents have received at least one vaccine dose.

In addition to emergency response efforts, MEA managers continued running day to day operations for the City. From water and power (PUC), to keeping streets safe (DPW), and every public service in between, MEA managers and City employees delivered in spite of the severe restrictions imposed by COVID-19. MTA managed to successfully stave off layoffs and made rapid changes in order to preserve its workforce while providing limited public transportation services across the City.

“MEA managers stepped up in every way,” explains CCC Unified Commander and MEA Board Secretary Linda Yeung (DEM). “We saw compassion, equity and inclusion from every department. Our managers helped save lives and keep our most vulnerable residents safe, housed, and fed.”

The Controller’s Office (CON) faced the daunting task of keeping the City’s day to day financial functions running without disruption. To compound the situation even further, the City projected a deficit of \$1.1 to \$1.7 billion due to revenue shortfalls.

CON worked hard to ensure that COVID-19 response hours were captured and reported in a timely manner. Thanks to their diligent oversight and a new Administration in the White House, the City’s shortfall was lower than initially anticipated due to 100% reimbursement from FEMA.

MEA managers demonstrated exceptional resilience in the face of COVID-19 and its devastating effects on California and the nation as a whole. Tragically, as of March 21st, over 542,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the United States. With the help of MEA managers, the City continues its ongoing response efforts and will be moving into recovery efforts shortly including assisting with administering vaccines to San Francisco residents.

“Our managers are strong, resilient and committed to serving the people of San Francisco,” beams MEA President Jocelyn Quintos (CON). “We are tremendously proud of them.”

Below is a list of MEA members who served as DSW workers during the pandemic.

Abbie S Yant	Dyanna V Quizon	Kenneth A Bukowski	Paula L Florence

Abubaker E Azam	Edmund A Egan	Kenneth P Salmon	Peter S Yee
Aiyana A Johnson	Edward T Ochi	Kevin D Dyer	Philip A Ginsburg
Alaric Degrafinried	Edwin Batongbacal	Kevin S Teahan	Philip J Cranna
Alexander J Magee	Elizabeth M Watty	Kevin T Fisher-Paulson	Porsche Chanel Bunton
Alison M Johnson	Elvis A Lavarreda	Kimberly M Burrus	Quyen D Nim
Almir L Guimaraes	Emily G Gibbs	Kimberly M Castillo	Rachel Gardunio
Amie R Fishman	Emylene F Aspilla	Kimberly W Ackerman	Rachel K Emanuel
Amy B Cohen	Eric Andersen	Krista L Blyth-Gaeta	Ramon Hernandez
Amy D Ramirez	Eric J Sutera	Krista Marie Ballard Kniffen	Rashid D Herd
Ana Contreras	Eric L Sandler	Kristen S Holland	Regina M Dick-Endrizzi
Ana Herrera	Erin M Cooke	Kristin H Schildwachter	Richard A. D. Nelson
Anabel Simonelli-Kupelian	Evelyn H Bruce	Larry J Mares	Rikki L De Wit
Andrea Caporale	Francis Tsang	Laura M Moye	Robert E Walsh
Andrew Holcomb	George F Ridgely Jr	Laurie Juengert	Robert E Watkins
Andrew A Maimoni	Gina M Simi	Leanne E Nhan	Robert H Muhammad
Andrew D Murrell	Gino T Assereto	Leroy P Sisneros	Robert M Rotiski
Andrew F Degraca	Glacier R Ybanez	Linda C Barnard	Robert M Smuts
AnMarie Rodgers	Gloria L Chan	Linda J Gerull	Robert S Aicardi
Anna C Robert	Gregory P Slocum	Lisa A Pagan	Roberto Lombardi
Anna M Biasbas	Gretchen A Rude	Lisa B Wayne	Robin E Brown
Anne Marie C Donnelly	Grier M Mathews	Lorraine L Banford	Rod K Iwashita
Anthony Bardo	Hao Xie	Lourdes E Benvenuti	Romika M Williams
Anthony J Tyson	Hazelle B Fernandez	Lourdes P Feliciano	Romulus K Asenloo
Ariana N Luchsinger	Heather J Pohl	Luenna H Kim	Rosa E Ortiz
Audrey R Lawrence	Heather K.L. Davis	Lydia B Zaverukha	Ryan P Iwata
Aumijo L Sheftel-Gomez	Ian M Hart	Marco C Bruno	Sahil Rahim
Aung M Hein	Ian R Law	Margaret A Stevenson	Salla T Vaerma-Jadlos
Ayanna S Bennett	Irene Agustin	Margaret A Weiland	Salvador Menjivar
Brian E Strong	Ishani Baruah	Marge S Vizcarra	Samantha J Rebelos
Brian K Cauley	Ivy V Fine	Maria Su	Samantha L Allen
Brittini C Ranahan	Jack J Chin	Maria H McKee	Sandra Eng
Carli E Paine	Jack R Wood	Marjorie C McGuire	Sandy Chan
Carlos A Benitez	Jacqueline Battle	Mark Corso	Sarah A Madland
Carmen Le Franc	Jacqueline Ortiz-Forman	Mark P Dela Rosa	Sarah B Jones
Carol J Sionkowski	James P Burruel	Mark S McLean	Scarlett Fung-Ming L Lam
Carrie L Beshears	James T Brassil	Mark W Tilley	Scott W Walton
Catherine V Delneo	Janan A Howell	Marlo K Simmons-Briggs	Shakirah M Simley
Cathlena M Morrison	Jane Gong	Martha A Cohen	Sheila C Robleto
Cecile Soto	Janell Myhre	Mary Irwin	Shellie A Cocking
Chandra A Johnson	Jason H Jackson	Mary C Perez	Shireen L McSpadden
Charles Perl	Jean S Suskind	Mary Ellen Carroll	Siew-Chin Yeong

Charles C Navigante	Jeannie M Wong	Matthew D Hansen	Sonesh K. Lakhmani
Charles W Drane	Jeffrey E Airth	Matthew E Valdez	Stacy A King
Chauncey L Jackson	Jeffrey J Figone	Matthew S Reeves	Stephanie C Williams
Cheryl L Sperry	Jeffrey R Scarafia	Matthew T Naclerio	Stephanie K Rossi
Chia Yu Ma	Jenine L Smith	Maureen P Singleton	Stephen D Flannery
Christine B Nath	Jennifer Carton-Wade	Megan R Elliott	Steven Lee
Christine V Siador	Jennifer E Rice	Melissa Andretta	Steven P Cismowski
Christopher J Boettcher	Jenny Wei-Ying Louie	Melissa A Mcgee	Susan Buchbinder
Cindy L Ward	Jerad L Weiner	Melvyn E Henry Jr	Svetlana Vaksberg
Clair KJ Farley	Jeremy Hallisey	Merrick Pascual	Tanita J Dawson
Clarence F Robinson III	Jill M Nielsen	Michael Liang	Tara M Moriarty
Claudia J Gorham	Jocelyn B Quintos	Michael Makstman	Taraneh Moayed
Clifford Jeffrey Bramlett	Jodi M Traversaro	Michael A Cochran	Terri E Austin
Craig A Lee	John Romaidis	Michael D Zaugg	Thomas J Fortin
Craig P Dziedzic	John C Scarpulla	Michael J Dougherty	Thomas J Istvan
Crezia R Tano	John F Brown	Michael J Lambert	Tiana Wertheim
Crispin J Hollings	John K Tsutakawa	Michael M Lat	Timothy J Felton
Cynthia W Kauffman	John T Grimes	Michael P Kelly	Todd C Robinson
Dan J Schwager	John W Knox White	Michael P Lennon	Todd L Rydstrom
Daniel B Kaplan	Jonas P Ionin	Michele D Fisher	Todd S Riley
Daniel S Kreuscher	Joseph L Huang	Michelle Pallavicini	Toni Rucker
Daryl M Robinson	Joshua A Arce	Michelle M Jeffers	Tracey Packer
David E Smith	Judith Bachman	Mike G Keohane	Tracy Zhu
David K Iribarne	Julia F Ma	Min Fang	Tramaine D Johnson
David V Tu	Julie Ansell	Nancy C Alfaro	Travis B Fox
Deanna J DeSedas	June Weintraub	Nancy H Crowley	Trent E Rhorer
Deborah Sherwood	Junise K Hill	Nancy L Hom	Tyrone T Jue
Deborah A Chilvers	Justine D Hinderliter	Natalie M Toledo	Vici F Pars
Deborah O Raphael	Kaitlyn L Azevedo	Natasha Mihal	Viktoriya Wise
Denise B Payton	Kanh Chara Vatey Kong	Noelle E Simmons	Wallace W Tang
Diane Y Oshima	Karen E Frye	Norman L Goldwyn	Wendy A Suhr
Dianna Jou	Karen J Yee	Omar L Carvallo	William H Barnes III
Don T Lampe	Karen S Wong	Oscar A Wallace	William P Teahan
Donald E Wheatley	Karri J Ving	Palminder K Hernandez	William S Blum
Donald W Jones	Katherine R Daniel	Patricia A Erwin	William T Lee
Doris I Barone	Kathleen A Shadoan	Patrick Fosdahl	Zackary T Taylor
Douglas Yakel	Kathleen M McEvoy	Patrick Joseph Mulligan	
Dung H Nguyen	Keigo Yoshida	Paula S Michael	