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MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday June 20, 2023 3:00 p.m.
101 Grove Street, Room 300
San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Susan Belinda Christian, J.D., Committee member
Edward A. Chow, MD

Commissioner Christian called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2023 MEETING

Action Taken: The committee unanimously approved the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes.

3) TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM UPDATE

Susannah Graves, MD, MPH, Director TB Prevention and Control Section, Rocio Agraz-Lara, RN, MSN, PHN, Nurse Manager, TB Clinic, and Cristy Dieterich, MPH, Program Manager, Newcomer's Health Health Program, presented the update.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Christian asked if the Newcomers Health Program and TB clinic are next door to each other. Ms. Agraz-Lara stated that an elevator separates the two clinics.

Commissioner Christian asked for information regarding the rate by which people with latent TB accept treatment. Ms. Agraz-Lara stated that anecdotally, this group accepts treatment willingly.

Commissioner Christian asked for a possible explanation for the decrease in TB cases. Dr. Graves stated that the possible reasons are multi-factorial. The COVID-19 pandemic decreased immigration which slightly impacted the number of TB cases. She added that most people acquiring TB have lived in San Francisco for many years. They may travel abroad to visit family but most people with TB have lived here more than 12 months. She also stated that most people with active TB had latent infection before their cases became active.

Commissioner Christian suggested adding a footnote to TB case data to give context to Asian Pacific Islander data, noting that only 1 person identifying as Pacific Islander had active TB in the last year.

Commissioner Christian also suggested including a footnote to explain why American Indian data is not included. Dr. Graves stated that when case numbers in a racial category are so small, there is concern about patient privacy when including this data. However, she noted that it would be appropriate to add a footnote saying that when there are less than 2 people in a category, data is not included.

Commissioner Chow asked how San Francisco TB data compares to other major cities. Dr. Graves noted that per capita, San Francisco has higher rates than larger cities such as New York and Los Angeles. She noted that other California counties that border Mexico have higher TB rates than San Francisco. Commissioner Chow suggested including these comparisons in future TB presentations.

Commissioner Chow supports adding footnotes when data is not shown for all racial groups to indicate that we have not forgotten or deprioritized these groups.

Commissioner Chow noted that Chinatown and Visitation Valley are where many Chinese people live. He asked if the DPH is reaching out to private medical providers who serve these populations to remind them that latent TB is a prevention opportunity. Dr. Graves welcomed Commissioner Chow's suggestion to outreach to the Chinese communities. She noted that when there is a TB case, the DPH outreaches to the medical provide to offer consultation and training. The DPH also reaches out to providers to share TB community training information.

Commissioner Chow asked if a PCR test would be used in screening at the Newcomer's clinic. Dr. Graves stated that PCR tests are used as a diagnostic tool after active TB is found through screening. Chest X-rays are used with new arrivals in addition to the regular TB screening too.

4) EMERGING ISSUES

This item was not discussed.

5) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

6) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm.