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Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner

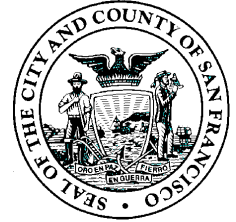
Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner

Cecilia Chung
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Suzanne Girauo ED.D
Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
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NOTES

HEALTH COMMISSION INFORMATION SESSION

Tuesday January 16, 2024 4:00 p.m.

101 Grove Street, Room 300

San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex

Note: Commissioners Green, Girauo, and Chow held an information session on January 16, 2024 because there was not a quorum (4) of Health Commissioners to hold a formal meeting. No actions were taken due to lack of a quorum. The Commissioners reviewed many items on the agenda and took public comment. Below are notes from this information session.

1) CALL TO ORDER

The information session began at 4:04pm. Commissioners Green, Girauo, and Chow participated.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2023.

This topic was not discussed because no actions were taken during the information session.

3) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Luke Bornheimer, "Support No Turn on Red Citywide," started this campaign to reduce pedestrian deaths. SFMTA's own evaluation showed that 92% of drivers complied with No Turn On Red, close calls decreased by 80%, and drivers blocking crosswalks decreased 72% after SFMTA implemented NTOR at 50 intersections in the Tenderloin in 2021. No Turn On Red increases safety, access, and comfort for people, and an overwhelming majority of drivers comply with NTOR, even with traffic enforcement at historic lows. A citywide No Turn On Red policy is an easy win for roadway safety and having a citywide policy will only increase compliance. A citywide policy also has widespread public support, including from people who primarily drive, some of whom talk about how a citywide policy would make driving more intuitive and reduce stress from other drivers aggressing at them when the driver behind them wants to turn on red. He urged the Health Commission to support this endeavor.

Andy Stone, San Francisco AIDS Foundation Senior Community Mobilization Manager, noted that during the upcoming budget cut process, he urged the Commission to consider that there is still a long way to go to reduce HIV transmission, especially among those unstably housed. He urged them to ensure communities have resources to address this long-term public health crisis; he also noted the importance of funding programs addressing the overdose crisis.

Public Comment:

Teresa Palmer submitted the following written comment:

Given the agonizing events at LHH since 2019, until recertification is completed, the beds at LHH are almost full, and all 120 beds are saved: the people of San Francisco deserve an update on recertification and a chance to get their questions answered on first and 3rd Tuesday Health commission meetings in addition to the 2nd Tuesday LHH JCC. To do less demonstrates the same lack of transparency and bad management that led to this mess in the first place. The City and County of San Francisco, and SFDPH must never forget what happened here, and must be accountable to the public. This is a huge part of not repeating past mistakes.

Normal Degelman submitted the following public comment:

Mr. Morewitz wrote on Jan 12 "LHH Recertification updates will continue to be part of future meeting agendas of second Health Commission meetings of the month, which take place on the 3rd Tuesday." Given the agonizing events at LHH since 2019, until recertification is completed, the beds at LHH are almost full, and all 120 beds are saved: the people of San Francisco deserve an update on recertification and a chance to get their questions answered on the first and 3rd Tuesday Health Commission meetings in addition to the 2nd Tuesday LHH JCC. To do less demonstrates the same lack of transparency and bad management that led to this mess in the first place. The City and County of San Francisco, and SFDPH must never forget what happened here, and must be accountable to the public. This is a huge part of not repeating past mistakes.

4) RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND A GIFT OF \$15,750 FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION

This topic was not discussed because no actions were taken during the information session.

5) FIRST HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 AND FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET

Jen Louie, DPH Chief Financial Officer, presented this topic.

Public Comment:

Debbie Lerman, San Francisco Human Services Network, stated that most of its members contract with the city. She noted that her organization developed a budget framework and principals to assist in prioritizing basic human needs such as health care, food, and shelter, that has already been shared with the DPH, the Mayor's Budget Director, and the Board of Supervisors. She stated that the most vulnerable populations need to be prioritized. She also noted the importance of funding initiatives/programs that leverage other funding and decrease health disparities.

Dr. Teresa Palmer stated that she cannot understand how the DPH can save money without totally getting into trouble. She knows personally what happens when there is under-staffing and under-training of staff. She hopes that the LHH readmissions will not be delayed because the budget cuts will prevent LHH from hiring necessary staff. She does not want fragile patients to be sent out of county. She cautioned that the DPH has to be aggressive in its budget and hiring processes to ensure adequate staffing.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo noted concern about whether the 55 vacant positions that the Commission will be eliminating as part of the budget process, include Behavioral Health positions that could impact services. Ms. Louie stated that Behavioral Health is a Mayoral and DPH priority. She noted that the DPH has approximately 8,000 FTEs; the 55 vacant positions to be cut are spread throughout the DPH organization so they will not all be coming from one area of the organization. Recruitment for Behavioral Health Services positions will

continue. The DPH will also be monitoring Behavioral Health Services staff departures to ensure it understands backfill needs to keep the system at the same level of readiness.

Commissioner Chow stated that he appreciates the work by DPH budget and finance staff. He is concerned that the DPH communicates with community-based organizations regarding cuts that may impact their contracts. He appreciates that the DPH has held meetings with community and DPH staff already and hopes as more detail of the DPH cuts are known, that impact organizations will be notified. Director Colfax stated that the meetings included opportunities for the staff and contracting agencies to ask questions and make comments. He noted that the Mayor has been clear about her priorities. The DPH has grown tremendously in the last decade. The DPH is attempting to analyze revenue potentials and eliminate vacant positions that are not part of its core services or those prioritized by the Mayor. He added that the DPH is reviewing possible duplication of effort within the Department as well as overlapping work with other city agencies.

Commissioner Green thanked the DPH for taking steps to communicate with the community and its own staff during this difficult budget process.

6) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant Colfax MD, DPH, Director of Health, presented this topic.

Public Comment:

Dr. Teresa Palmer asked if LHH will be submitting the required Plan of Correction into CMS tomorrow. She also asked how and when LHH would reach out to those former LHH residents who were previously discharged based on CMS mandates, to invite them to return, if they still qualify for skilled nursing care.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green congratulated Greg Wagner for being appointed as Controller by Mayor Breed. She appreciates his skillful support of the Health Commission and the DPH.

Commissioner Chow asked if San Francisco has a shortage of TB medications for its residents. Dr. Susan Philip, San Francisco Health Officer and Director of the Population Health Branch, stated that the DPH TB program has been working diligently with the state to ensure San Francisco residents have a back-up supply of medications. She noted it has taken DPH innovation to get the necessary supply of medications.

Commissioner Giraud thanked Mr. Wagner for his years of service to the DPH and congratulated him on his appointment.

7) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

This topic was deferred to the February 6, 2024 Health Commission meeting because information from this information session relates to contract-related items on the Consent Calendar.

8) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Chow, LHH JCC member, provided the following information regarding the January 9, 2024 LHH JCC meeting and the LHH recertification update:

At the January 9th Laguna Honda JCC meeting, Mr. Pickens gave a verbal update on the recertification effort. Laguna Honda received the 2567 report for the Health Monitoring portion of the CMS Recertification survey on January 2nd and the 2567 report for the Fire Life Safety and Emergency Preparedness portion on January 3rd. He reported that these 2567 documents show improvement from prior CMS monitoring surveys with findings of lower scope and severity. Laguna Honda staff submitted the Plan of Correction for the Fire Life Safety on Saturday, January 13th and will submit the Plan of Correction for the Health Monitoring survey on Wednesday,

January 17th. CDPH must first approve the Plan of Correction proposed by Laguna Honda. Subsequent to approval of the Plan of Correction, CDPH must then *validate* successful completion of the Plan of Correction. Once CDPH validates the Plans of Correction, they will inform CMS. CMS will then make a determination of Laguna Honda recertification into the Medicare program. Laguna Honda has made significant improvements throughout the recertification process and there has been a great deal of positive change in operations and in leadership. It is critical that these improvements are sustained so that Laguna never again must deal with this situation, and it can assure excellent and regulatory compliant care for every resident, in every interaction today, and in the future. To help achieve this, Laguna Honda will resume admissions only when leaders are confident that the changes and improvements made are being sustained over the long term. It is likely that when admission resume, they will start slowly. The DPH and Laguna Honda leaders know the key role Laguna Honda plays in San Francisco and the need for high-quality skilled nursing care and they are working hard to resume regular operations. Laguna Honda leaders will continue to report to the JCC and the full Health Commission after recertification to share plans to sustain improvements and return to regular operations. In addition to this recertification update, the Laguna Honda JCC discussed the Regulatory Affairs Reports for November and December and recommended the Laguna Honda policies on the Consent Calendar be approved after JCC members receive responses to their questions. The JCC members have received responses to their questions. In closed session, the JCC members approved the Credentials Report and PIPS Minutes report.

Public Comment:

Teresa Palmer submitted the following comment:

Give us an updated report (as of Jan 16) about how many of the 48 people waiting for safe discharge to the community have been discharged and where/what their placements are? The final Plan of Correction is due to be submitted tomorrow Jan 17. Has it been submitted? When will the public be able to see the "Sustainability Transition Plan"? As this plan will affect the date of resumption of admissions and the rate of admissions, it is important to those of us who may soon need a bed. Please update us on potential dates for resumption of admissions. How will LHH reach out to those nursing home residents who are survivors of eviction to assist them if they wish to return? If it is a first priority, it cannot be a passive one.

Carol Bettencourt submitted the following comment:

Can we be given an updated report (as of today) about how many of the 48 people determined eligible for discharge as no longer needing skilled level of care have been discharged and what their placements were. Also, we were told that the final Plan of Correction is due to be submitted tomorrow. Has it been submitted? When will the public be able to see the "Sustainability Transition Plan"? This plan is important because it will affect the date of resumption and rate of admissions. Please update us on potential dates for resumption of admissions. How will LHH reach out to those nursing home residents who are survivors of eviction if they wish to return? At last week's meeting we were told this was a priority, but were given no information about how it will be done.

9) FOR ACTION: CONSENT CALENDAR

This topic was not discussed because no actions were taken during the information session.

10) OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Giraud, Health Commission representative on the SFGH Foundation board of directors, announced that the Foundation's Heart's Gala would be held on February 8, 5-8:30pm. More information can be found at sfghf.org.

11) ADJOURNMENT

The information session ended at 5:22pm.