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Commissioner

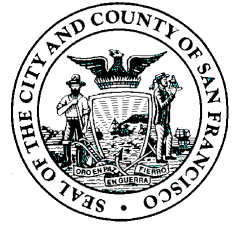
Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner

Cecilia Chung
Commissioner

Suzanne Girauo ED.D
Commissioner

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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday February 20, 2023 2:00 p.m.

101 Grove Street, Room 300

San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Suzanne Girauo, Ph.D , Chair
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Member

The meeting was called to order at 2:02pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2023 MEETING

Action Taken: The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

3) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAM UNPERMITTED FOOD VENDING

Environmental Health Staff: Terrance Hong, Danny Ngyuen, Abel Simon, and Christina Lee, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Girauo asked how consumers can call to report an unlicensed vendor. Mr. Hong stated that 311 can be contacted to report a suspected unlicensed vendor. He noted that the intent of the DPH outreach to these vendors is to educate them on how to become a licensed vendor and/or adhere to DPH food safety guidelines.

Commissioner Girauo asked if DPH outreach results in getting vendors' contact information. Mr. Hong stated that during outreach, DPH staff give their contact information to vendors and request the vendor's contact information.

Commissioner Giraudo noted on the slide of challenges that there are several city agencies involved in permitting and monitoring these vendors. Mr. Hong stated that many of these vendors do not pay attention to the three city agencies involved in outreach, monitoring, and permitting.

Commissioner Giraudo asked how DPH inspectors would respond if a vendor pulls out a weapon during their interactions. Mr. Hong stated that DPH staff are educated on how to take care of themselves, including removing themselves, in dangerous situations. He noted that the Police and DPW workers usually accompany DPH staff in outreach efforts.

Commissioner Chung asked for an estimation of how many unpermitted food cart vendors there are in San Francisco. Mr. Wong stated that approximately 400 unlicensed food cart vendors are in San Francisco. He noted that many vendors work within a criminal network; when the DPH approaches one vendor, others in the area immediately scatter, which impacts the effectiveness of the outreach. Commissioner Chung requested that future updates include preemptive solutions to the outreach issue.

Commissioner Christian asked if the DPH is communicating with community groups to ascertain if there is possible coercion and/or human trafficking involved in these networks. Mr. Hong stated that the DPH works with community groups in these neighborhoods in attempt to understand all relevant issues that may impact their outreach and education efforts. The DPH also educates community groups on DPH food safety guidelines and processes.

Commissioner Christian asked for staff to walk the Commissioners through a DPH contact with an unpermitted vendor. Mr. Hong stated that the DPH staff may use a translator in the communication. Staff members let the vendor know that the DPH will be conducting a food inspection, including possibly impounding unsafe food samples. Staff uses a thermometer to test the internal temperature of food and asks if the vendor has any questions about the process. If food is impounded and any citations given, the vendor is invited to a hearing with the Environmental Health Director hearing to discuss their case. Vendors may participate in person or remotely in these hearings.

Commissioner Christian asked for more information on how impounded food or equipment is handled. Mr. Hong stated that impounded food may be destroyed. Unsafe equipment may be impounded by DPW; vendors can make a request at the hearing to pick up the equipment.

Commissioner Chung asked if there is data on the level of food poisoning from food eaten at these vendors. Mr. Hong stated that there have not been many cases related to food poisoning from these vendors.

4) SAN FRANCISCO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT FY23/24-FY25/26 THREE-YEAR INTEGRATIVE PLAN

Jessica N. Brown, MPH, Director, Office of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion/Mental Health Services Act, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo asked for more information on the outcome data for MHSA contractors. Ms. Brown stated that the MHSA plan requires outcomes by category. Commissioner Giraudo stated that the Commissioners would like a better understanding of the required outcomes in future updates.

Commissioner Giraudo asked if FY23/24 programs' outcome data will be evaluated for the first year. Ms. Brown stated that the outcome data evaluation depends on the date the contract is certified. The year-end report contains the outcome data. Commissioner Giraudo requested that Mr. Brown provide an update in the fall.

Commissioner Chung stated that it is wonderful how many services are funded through MHSA. She asked if the MHSA funded system includes enough LGBTQ specific services and providers. Ms. Brown stated that there are a variety of programs focused on LGBTQ services; the system is able to be innovative and expansive in how care is coordinated. She noted that the DPH adds culturally specific desired qualifications in their job descriptions. She added that services are culturally congruent while addressing racial trauma.

Commissioner Christian thanked Ms. Brown for the presentation and noted that the DPH could make revenue if it could market is cultural congruent care. She praised the peer specialists, and noted that she is knowledgeable about their efficacy through her work in the justice and court systems. Ms. Brown stated that the high costs of living in San Francisco and with the relatively low salaries for the peers makes it sometimes difficult to hire and retain these important staff.

5) EMERGING ISSUES

This item was not discussed.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37pm.