

Health Care Services Master Plan Task Force

Memorandum

DATE: September 15, 2011

TO: Members of the Health Care Services Master Plan (HCSMP) Task Force

FROM: Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH, Co-Chair, HCSMP Task Force
Roma Guy, MSW, Co-Chair, HCSMP Task Force

RE: Proposed Additions to Health Care Services Master Plan Task Force Discussion Structure

At the July 27, 2011 launch meeting of the Health Care Services Master Plan (HCSMP) Task Force, many members voiced concerns regarding the time allotted to Task Force discussion relative to the charge of informing a comprehensive HCSMP for San Francisco. Hearing your concerns, we have engaged in numerous conversations to determine possible ways by which to maximize member dialogue and be respectful of each member's time. After weighing various options, we would like to propose for your consideration an enhancement to the process we originally outlined.

We propose adding to the Task Force calendar a series of issue-specific meetings that would allow interested members to engage in policy discussions on key topics essential to the Task Force charge and the development of the HCSMP. (Please see details below.) We hope that you will find our suggestions responsive to your concerns, though please rest assured that we will proceed down this revised path only with Task Force support. Our September 22nd meeting agenda will include time to discuss and decide upon this proposal. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

OVERVIEW

In addition to the five remaining meetings of the full HCSMP Task Force, we propose hosting four supplemental sessions open to all interested members, each of which would focus on a topic important to the HCSMP as mandated by San Francisco Ordinance No. 300-11; all additional sessions would be open to the public and would allow limited time for public comment. These issue-based meetings would take place on Task Force "off months," months during which the full Task Force is not currently scheduled to meet. The currently scheduled meetings would remain neighborhood-focused and be a key opportunity for Task Force members to receive community input on their access to health care services. We make the distinction between the issue-based vs. neighborhood meetings as:

- We wish to preserve our commitment to community engagement by hosting full Task Force meetings in different neighborhood locations and designating substantive time for public comment.
- The additional issue-based meetings will build on feedback gained at the neighborhood meetings while allowing interested Task Force members to discuss the implications of key policy issues important to the development of a fully-informed HCSMP.

PROPOSED FORMAT

We propose that the four issue-based meetings target the following topics, all of which would feature health equity as a cross-cutting theme:

- Impact of Federal Health Care Reform + 1115 Medicaid Waiver on Patient Demand and Facility Capacity: What do these policy changes require, and how will they impact San Francisco? For example, what are the impacts of these policies on San Francisco’s uninsured? How will the changes proposed in Health Reform change the delivery of health care into the future?
- Healthcare Financing: There is increasing focus on outcomes- versus episodic-based reimbursement. How might this impact financing for health care services and charity care? Will certain San Francisco neighborhoods be disproportionately affected by such changes?
- Health Care Technology and Innovation: What are the possible implications of electronic health records and telemedicine on access to health services in San Francisco? To what extent has San Francisco implemented or planned to implement such technologies? What are the benefits and efficiencies and how might these impact health care delivery?
- Connectivity: To what extent are San Francisco’s neighborhoods connected – via public transportation, roadways, communication options, etc. – to needed health care services? To what extent is proximity of services related to or necessary for access? Do certain neighborhoods and/or populations face unique barriers to health care access (e.g., because of language and culture, race, immigration status, gender identity, etc.)?

To prepare interested Task Force members for each issue-based discussion, SFDPH staff – with support from Harder + Company, the San Francisco Planning Department, and other sources – would prepare a related issue brief in advance of each meeting. Each brief, similar to a “white paper,” would present an overview of the topic to be discussed as well as research that connects the selected topic to San Francisco’s communities and existing health care structure. Staff would ensure that all Task Force members receive each brief at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting, so members may adequately prepare for discussion.

Each meeting would begin with an overview presentation on the specified topic followed by substantive time for Task Force discussion and time for public comment. As your Co-chairs, we would commit to preparing for, attending, and leading –with facilitation support provided by Harder + Company – each issue-based discussion, so that we may maximize your time and expertise. By the conclusion of each

issue-based session, our hope would be to generate a series of possible HCSMP recommendations for consideration by the broader Task Force and, ultimately, Departments of Public Health and Planning.

All Task Force members would be encouraged to participate in the issue meetings. However, we understand that this is outside the commitment we requested and that other obligations might prevent members from attending all sessions. All Task Force members, whether or not they are able to attend the issue meetings, will receive all materials from the issue meetings. Members unable to attend may also provide their thoughts/comments directly to one or both of us by email or phone.

TASK FORCE MEETING SCHEDULE

The Task Force was originally scheduled to meet on the fourth Thursday of every other month from July through May, with the exception of November, which was scheduled for November 17th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. To remain as consistent as possible with this original meeting schedule, we propose hosting the four issue-based sessions on the 4th Thursday of those months not already scheduled for a full Task Force neighborhood meeting.

We also wish to propose an additional schedule change. At the Task Force’s launch meeting, some members suggested that at least one neighborhood meeting should take place on a Saturday to better accommodate the public. In an effort to respond to Task Force suggestions, we propose hosting the group’s second neighborhood meeting, currently scheduled for November 17th, on Saturday, December 3, likely between 10am and 12:30pm. Following is the revised Task Force schedule that we propose.

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Topic
Thursday September 22, 2011	5:00pm – 7:30pm	Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (515 Cortland Avenue)	Mission, Bernal Heights, Excelsior, Ocean View, Outer Mission
Thursday October 27, 2011	2:00pm – 4:30pm	City Hall	Impact of Health Care Reform and 1115 Waiver on Patient Demand and Facility Capacity
Saturday December 3, 2011	10:00am – 12:30pm	TBD	Chinatown, Tenderloin, SOMA, and Civic Center
Thursday December 22, 2011	2:00pm – 4:30pm	City Hall	Healthcare Financing
Thursday January 26, 2012	5:00pm – 7:30pm	TBD	Western Addition, Richmond, and Sunset
Thursday February 23, 2012	2:00pm – 4:30pm	City Hall	Health Care Technology and Innovation
Thursday March 22, 2012	5:00pm – 7:30pm	TBD	Bayview Hunters Point, Visitacion Valley, and Potrero Hill
Thursday April 26, 2012	2:00pm – 4:30pm	City Hall	Connectivity
Thursday May 24, 2012	2:00pm – 4:30pm	City Hall	Review and Wrap-up of Task Force Work

FEEDBACK

The September 22 Task Force meeting agenda will allow time for discussing the revised Task Force structure proposed in this memo. Should you wish to make suggestions or share feedback in advance of that meeting, please contact Lori Cook, Senior Health Program Planner, via phone (415.554.2894) or email (loraine.cook@sfdph.org). Thank you in advance for your consideration of this proposal.