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Minutes

HEALTH COMMISSION

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 16th, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

101 Grove, Room 302, San Francisco, CA 94102

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present:

Commissioner Margine Sako, Chair

Commissioner James M. Illig, Member

Commissioner Catherine Waters R.N., Ph.D., Member

Commissioner Sako called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2010 and FEBRUARY 16, 2010 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Action Taken: The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2010 and February 16, 2010 meetings.

3) FOLLOW-UP TO PRESENTATION ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN SAN FRANCISCO

John Brown MD, Medical Director of the San Francisco EMS Agency; Karl Sporer MD, Medical Director of the Fire Department, and Peter Howes, Chief of SFFD EMS answered questions from the Committee members.

Commissioner Follow-Up /Action

The following are responses by the presenters to questions from the Commissioners regarding EMS:

- The Fire Department has limited the shift length for paramedics working on ambulances due to issues of fatigue.

- The Fire Department medical personnel working on fire engines or trucks have no defined measures of maximum hours worked or the number of continuous shifts allowed to work. These staff are responsible for responding to medical situations and performing fire suppression activities.
- The Fire Department has started to implement a pilot project for a mobile data system and protocol to insure that there is adequate documentation of the medical care provided by any first responder.
- There is an biannual internal review of all EMS policies and protocols
- There has been one presentation to the San Francisco hospital presidents on the STEMI system. To date, San Francisco General Hospital is the only hospital choosing to participate.

The Committee asked that future presentations from EMS include reports of site visits they have made.

The Committee will send a letter to the Hospital Council encouraging members to consider participating in a STEMI system. The Committee will also send a letter to the Fire Department encouraging them to consider applying their current policies for shift length on ambulances for all personnel responding to medical emergencies.

4) 2010 HIV PREVENTION PLAN AND POSSIBLE ACTION:NIH GRANT: HIV/AIDS RESEARCH CENTER

Grant Colfax, MD, Director HIV Prevention presented the 2010 HIV Prevention Plan; Martin Soto, Director of Finance, HIV Research and Barbara Garcia, Deputy Director presented information on the NIH Grant to renovate the building at 25 Van Ness.

Commissioner Follow-Up /Action

The following are responses by Dr. Colfax to questions from the Commissioners regarding the 2010 HIV Prevention Plan:

- An HIV test kits costs about \$20; health insurance reimbursement for the test is approximately \$25. The cost for total services of conducting an HIV test, which includes staff and lab time, is approximately \$100. Insurance reimbursement for a primary care visit in which HIV testing is done is \$100.
- A separate written consent is no longer needed to do an HIV test; a verbal consent is still required.
- HIV is a reportable disease.
- Data shows that most people who test HIV positive reduce HIV transmission behavior.
- Syringes passed out in needle exchange have historically been paid for with General Funds. The success of the San Francisco syringe exchange has greatly contributed to the reduction of HIV and Hepatitis B in San Francisco.

The following are responses by Mr. Soto and Ms. Garcia to questions from the Commissioners regarding the NIH Grant to renovate the building at 25 Van Ness.

- The City owns the building at 25 Van Ness.
- The renovation will be using ecologically friendly materials and will provide an additional 9,000 square feet of usable space. A requirement of the NIH grant is that the renovated space must be used for research
- Mark Primeau, DPH consultant, is managing this construction project. .

5) COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE CALENDAR

At the next meeting the Committee will hear presentations from Marc Trotz on upcoming DPH Housing programs and Rajiv Bhatia, MD on new initiatives in Environmental Health Services.

6) EMERGING ISSUES

None

7) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm.

Mark Morewitz
Health Commission Executive Secretary