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HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

3:00 p.m.

101 Grove Street, Room 220

San Francisco, CA 94102

1) CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Tierney called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Steven Tierney, Ed.D., Chair
Commissioner Edward A. Chow, M.D., Member
Commissioner Sonia Melara, MSW, Member
Commissioner James M. Illig, Ex Officio

Attendees: Barbara Garcia, Community Programs, Mitchell H. Katz, M.D., Health Director, Anne Kronenberg, Director, Office of Policy and Planning, Gene O'Connell, SFGH&TC Executive Administrator, Anne Okubo, Deputy Finance Director, Gregg Sass, Chief Financial Officer and Rebekah Varela, Office of Policy and Planning.

2) PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES

Commissioner Tierney said the Finance Committee called for this special meeting to discuss budget principles that will be used as guidelines for how we allocate money and when necessary how we apply budget reductions, as well as to discuss procedures for reviewing the budget. The focus of this meeting is on the budget principles; procedures will be discussed at a separate meeting. Commissioner Tierney is particularly interested in discussing how to include DPH partners in a meaningful way in this process, and tying budget efforts into DPH's strategic planning efforts.

Commissioner Melara gave an update on the discussion that took place at the August 19th Citywide Health Planning and Effectiveness Committee, which resulted in some broad discussion points that will inform today's discussion.

Commissioner Illig said it is the guaranteed increase in civil service salaries that drives the budget increase. This is why he is pushing for a principle that states that budget cuts are proportional to the problem.

Commissioner Chow said the Health Commission should speak on behalf of the programs that are necessary to operate the best health department possible, and when the Department is given a budget target, make decisions around these priority programs. Be very specific about what the city needs, and what program are untouchable.

Commissioner Tierney said one of his priorities is to have a strategic plan that is tied into the budget in a direct, tight way that can be evaluated.

Commissioner Melara said that there are many efforts happening within the Health Department but also in other Departments and all this work needs to be identified and brought together. She wants the budget principles to acknowledge the priorities of other departments.

The Committee discussed Dr. Katz's budget principles document and agreed to next steps:

1. Use Dr. Katz's document as the baseline document.
2. Refine principle #3 regarding vulnerable populations.
3. Include additional priorities to include:
 - a. Citywide planning piece encompassed by the Community Benefits Partnership;
 - b. The Health Commission will move aggressively to develop measures and outcomes for all programs that it operates and funds;
 - c. Include a more explicit principle regarding core public health functions;
 - d. The Commission and Department has as a priority developing and enhancing relationships with partners that make up our system of care, including CBOs, San Francisco Community Benefits Partnership and UC, among others.
4. The revised principles will be circulated among Commissioners and discussed at the September 9th Finance Committee meeting and Health Commission meeting.

Public Comment

Alexandra Kutik suggests that planning begin with an assessment of the system, including what has happened to services and clients as a result of the budget cuts.

3) **EMERGING ISSUES**

None.

4) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

5) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Michele M. Seaton
Health Commission Executive Secretary