APPROVING THE CLOSURE OF THE BRIDGE TO WELLNESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Bridge to Wellness program is an outpatient psychiatric service providing intensive outpatient treatment services for clients who exhibit severe or disabling impairments related to an acute or chronic psychiatric or psychological condition or an exacerbation of a severe and persistent mental disorder; and,

WHEREAS, MediCare, the sole payor for the program, reduced its reimbursement of the program by 30 percent, which has resulted in an unstable financial situation for Bridge to Wellness; and,

WHEREAS, the growth of other community programs, particularly outpatient case management services, has significantly changed the landscape since Bridge to Wellness began and there has been an overall reduction in the number of clients accessing the program; and,

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of current Bridge to Wellness clients already have ongoing psychiatric and other mental health care in addition to Bridge to Wellness and the remaining one-third will be linked to the needed ongoing services before the program closes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Health Commission approves the closure of the Bridge to Wellness Program.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of _____ adopted the foregoing resolution.

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Michele M. Seaton
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission