

UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE COUNCIL 2013 MISSION, GOALS, PRINCIPLES, AND STRUCTURE

Background

In February 2006, then-Mayor Newsom convened the San Francisco Universal Healthcare Council (UHC) “to develop the parameters of a program that would provide health care for all uninsured San Francisco residents.” The work of the UHC ultimately resulted in the creation of the Healthy San Francisco program and the Health Care Security Ordinance.

On July 25, 2013, Mayor Lee asked Director of Health, Barbara Garcia, to reconstitute the UHC to examine San Francisco’s implementation of the Federal Affordable Care Act and engage stakeholders in identifying necessary local policies to support the implementation process.

Mission

To engage stakeholders in a data-driven process to examine San Francisco’s implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) and its integration with local health care coverage policies, including the City’s Health Care Security Ordinance.

Goals

- Understand the characteristics of San Francisco’s current and future insured and uninsured populations
- Review the impact of current City programs and policies to increase access to health care
- Understand the new insurance options available under the ACA
- Compare current local coverage options to new insurance options
- Examine the intersection of the ACA and San Francisco’s Health Care Security Ordinance and its Employer Spending Requirement
- Identify local policy solutions to ensure residents can leverage State and federal benefits and maximize enrollment in health insurance

Draft Principles

The following draft principles are adapted from the 2006 UHC and updated to reflect the current charge of the 2013 UHC in this post-ACA environment.

- **Support the Affordable Care Act** – The UHC supports the ACA and is committed to full implementation of the ACA in San Francisco.

- **Maximize Enrollment into Health Insurance** – Health insurance is better than uninsurance and the UHC is committed to maximizing enrollment of San Franciscans into the new health insurance opportunities created by the ACA.
- **Leverage State and Federal Funding** – All available state and federal funds that support enrollment of San Franciscans into health insurance should be utilized.
- **Maintain Healthy San Francisco** – Though Healthy San Francisco is not health insurance, it provides access to health care services for San Francisco's most vulnerable uninsured. Healthy San Francisco should be preserved for individuals who do not qualify for publicly-funded health insurance.
- **Maximize Affordability** – Health insurance options must be affordable for San Franciscans to maximize enrollment.

UHC Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
September 26, 2013	10AM-11:30AM	25 Van Ness Ave, Room 610
October 10, 2013	10AM-12PM	TBD
October 24, 2013	10AM-12PM	TBD
November 7, 2013	10AM-12PM	TBD
November 14, 2013	10AM-12PM	TBD

Structure

Membership

The UHC will be co-chaired by Barbara Garcia, Director of Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health, and Dr. Sandra Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer, The San Francisco Foundation. See Universal Healthcare Council 2013 Membership List, attached, for the full list of members.

Decision-making

The UHC will seek to identify areas of consensus around key policy issues. On issues where there is no consensus, different perspectives will be noted in the formal report or recommendations to the Mayor and community.

Member Responsibilities

UHC members will have the following responsibilities:

- Participate in UHC meetings between September 2013 and November 2013;
- Review data, research, and analysis prepared by the Research Team;
- Share expertise on health care and the impact of the ACA in San Francisco;

- Develop policy recommendations ; and
- At the conclusion of the Council, a report will be developed outlining agreements (and dissensions) by the group.

Research Support

A Research Team will be led by the Department of Public Health and will also include staff from the Office of Labor, Standards and Enforcement, and the Controller's Office. The Research Team will support the Council with targeted information to inform the development of policy recommendations, as well as with any other information requests made by Council members.

