

Edward A. Chow, M.D.
President

James Loyce, Jr., M.S.
Vice President

Dan Bernal
Commissioner

Cecilia Chung
Commissioner

Laurie Green, M.D.
Commissioner

Tessie M. Guillermo
Commissioner

David J. Sanchez, Jr., Ph.D.
Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO**

**London N. Breed Mayor
Department of Public Health**



Grant Colfax M.D.
Director of Health

Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.
Executive Secretary

TEL (415) 554-2666

FAX (415) 554-2665

Web Site: <http://www.sfdph.org>

**MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday February 19, 2019 4:00 p.m.
101 Grove Street, Room 300
San Francisco, CA 94102**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Cecilia Chung
Commissioner Dan Bernal
Commissioner Laurie Green, MD
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo
Commissioner James Loyce, Jr., M.S., Vice President
Commissioner David J. Sanchez Jr., Ph.D.

Excused: Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D., President

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm.

Sean Esbernd, Mayor's Office Chief of Staff, welcomed Dr. Colfax as the new Director of Health. He also thanked Greg Wagner, SFDPH CFO, for serving as an effective SFDPH Acting Director of Health for approximately six months, which fulfilling his duties as the SFDPH Chief Financial Officer.

Commissioner Loyce presented Mr. Wagner with a Public Hero Award and expressed the Health Commission's gratitude for his effective leadership as Acting Director of Health.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Public Comment:

Michael Petralis stated that when Dr. Colfax previously worked for the SFDPH, he made SFDPH HIV prevention policy while attending an out of town conference. He requested that Dr. Colfax make all future policy within a public setting. He also stated that he wishes the SFDPH to change the name of Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital to San Francisco General Hospital.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the February 5, 2019 minutes.

3) DIRECTORS REPORT

Grant Colfax MD, Director of Health, gave the report. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Adult Urgent Care Center relocates

On February 12th, Mayor London Breed led a ribbon-cutting ceremony to preview the opening of the Adult Urgent Care Center's new clinic space and to celebrate the capital project completion and relocation. The center is relocating to the first floor in Building 5, Unit 1E on the Zuckerberg San Francisco General (ZSFG) campus. Adult Urgent Care officially opens for patients in the new location on February 21st.

In addition to the ZSFG community, the Health department (DPH) and Public Works department's (DPW) leaders and staff, and Patient Advisory Committee members participated and toured the clinic. The expanded clinic has 12 patient rooms – 3 additional rooms than the current space. The \$1.8 million capital project was partially funded by the 2016 Public Health and Safety Bond (Prop A) and the City's Capital Budget. The project used design services from DPW, and pre-construction and optimization work from DPH Facilities Services. Adult Urgent Care will be the first clinic to relocate to Building 5 as part of a campus-wide effort to improve patient safety and care by centralizing outpatient clinics on the ZSFG campus. Building 5 is undergoing a seismic retrofit to strengthen the building in the event of an earthquake. Once complete, safety will be further enhanced for outpatient clinics at ZSFG.

Methamphetamine Task Force

On February 8th, Mayor London N. Breed and Supervisor Rafael Mandelman announced the formation of a Methamphetamine Task Force to address the rise in methamphetamine use in San Francisco. The Department of Public Health will take lead and coordinate the Task Force alongside with Mayor Breed and Supervisor Mandelman.

The Task Force will examine the methamphetamine landscape, impacts on residents, and opportunities and challenges for increasing rehabilitation and treatment options, including expanding existing prevention and law enforcement programs. The Task Force will be multi-disciplinary and multi-sector, with members including medical and public health professionals, researchers, substance use disorder treatment providers, emergency responders, criminal justice and law enforcement officials, drug policy experts, and current and/or former substance users.

The Task Force will release a comprehensive report with recommendations on harm reduction strategies to decrease and manage methamphetamine use, identify best practices for treatment and service options for current users, and develop policy recommendations to reduce the medical and social impacts of methamphetamine use on San Franciscans. The Task Force is an opportunity to further support cross-departmental collaboration, increase public awareness of substance use and abuse, and examine cost-effective strategies to better manage the impacts of methamphetamine use on the City's systems and its residents.

Heroes & Hearts 2019

On February 13th, Hearts in SF took place at Pier 48, a vibrant evening event honoring and highlighting the community and mental health care programs at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (ZSFG). San Francisco General Hospital Foundation (the Foundation) invited Patrick J. Kennedy, former Congressman and national mental health advocate, as the special keynote speaker at Hearts in SF. During a seated community dinner, guests heard the inspirational views on the state of mental health and addiction care in America from former Congressman Kennedy, as well as San Francisco civic leaders including the Honorable Mayor London Breed.

On February 7th, the Foundation has revealed a new Transform Mental and Behavioral Health Fund which is receiving record-breaking financial support from the community and San Francisco businesses, including an

early \$1 million grant from Bank of America, the fund's largest contribution so far. This fund will bring experts together, connect disparate resources, invest in systemic infrastructure, and test "not yet scaled" solutions. Funding will be directed towards projects that integrate and address the physical location of care and clinic, the technological coordination of care system-wide, and the programmatic social and behavioral health care needs of ZSFG's patient population. Examples of programs that will benefit from this fund include Mental and Behavioral Health Innovation, Renovation of Patient Care Areas Dedicated to Behavior Health, Social and Behavioral Health Integration, Substance Misuse and Opioid Treatment, Social Medicine, and Solid Start.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

On February 7th the San Francisco Department of Public Health – Community Health Equity & Promotion and Interdivisional Initiative in partnership with Community Based Organization, Hope SF and community members held an annual event for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAD) at the Community Space in Sunnydale. This event provided an opportunity for the people in the neighborhood to get tested for HIV and other STD's. The program began with a community member from the neighborhood speaking their truth around the importance of Black History and the impact it had on them. This followed up with participants singing the Black National Anthem. Several youth spoke about a few of the many amazing Black leaders and recited poems around HIV. Finally, it ended with a powerful skit with a daughter disclosing her HIV status to her mom and an incredible dance performance from the youth in the community.

The Lancet health journal features Getting to Zero

The February issue of The Lancet highlights the Department of Public Health's efforts to end the city's HIV epidemic. The mission of the Getting to Zero San Francisco consortium, formed in 2014, which draws together multiple organizations and agencies to drive down HIV infections and HIV-related deaths by 90% by 2020. Currently, Getting to Zero has a volunteer membership roster of 250, and a much greater number doing the work of its five committees: PrEP, RAPID, Retention and Re-Engagement, Stigma, and Adolescents/Young Adults. These committees are each charged with developing annual strategic plans, metrics, and milestones, and they combine multiple strategies to improve care for people with or at risk of HIV infection and prevent new infections from occurring.

Overall, data coming from San Francisco suggest the Getting to Zero efforts are paying off. In 2013, before the program began, there were 394 new HIV diagnoses. By 2017, this had fallen to 221, a 44% decrease. The rate of decrease slowed from 2016–17, with a fall of just 6%; however, early data from the first half of 2018 show there were 81 new diagnoses to the end of June. Should this trend hold, the new diagnoses for 2018 could drop below 200, the first time this landmark will have been reached since the start of the HIV epidemic in San Francisco. Viral suppression is 77% overall, an increase from 65% in 2013. HIV associated deaths have also fallen by more than 50% over the past 10 years.

Healthy SF serves as model for health care program

Over the last decade, the program called "Healthy San Francisco" (HSF), working in tandem with the Affordable Care Act and other state and city programs, has ensured that nobody inside city borders has to go without care. Since then, HSF has, in part at least, served as a model for local health initiatives in other parts of the country, including Los Angeles County and the city of New York. Several other cities have also expressed an interest in HSF such as New Orleans, Denver, Pittsburgh and Miami.

HSF offers access to healthcare to city residents who are 18 years and older, earn up to 500 percent of the federal poverty level, and have no other healthcare options. It is offered to qualified residents regardless of employment, immigration, or health status. Supporters saw the program as a way to better coordinate the services of the health facilities already in place in San Francisco, rather than starting from scratch. One key to the success of the program is that one clinic coordinates all aspects of a participant's medical care. San Francisco patients enroll in a "home clinic" where their clinic doctor then decides with the patients when they need any specialty care at a hospital.

San Francisco's Measles Vaccination Rate

Since Washington state declared a state of emergency due to a measles outbreak, health officials in San Francisco uses this as an opportunity to remind adults to immunize their children with a vaccination. Measles is highly contagious and viral and is a vaccine-preventable disease. Tightened state vaccination requirements have largely reduced the risk of such an outbreak here. When vaccination rates are high, the community is better protected from the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases

Since 2015, when California moved to eliminate 'personal belief' exemptions that allowed parents to avoid immunizing their children, San Francisco schools report the number of students with all required immunizations has increased 2.4 percent. The change has left the city at a safe and comfortable overall 94.9 percent vaccination rate.

Mayor Breed and Supervisor Peskin announce halt to balance billing at ZSFG until plan to improve long-term billing practice is implemented

On February 1st, Mayor London N. Breed, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, the Department of Public Health and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (ZSFG) announced immediate steps to improve billing practices at ZSFG for patients who have gotten stuck in the middle of disputes between the hospital and their insurance provider, including a temporary halt to the practice of balance billing.

Greg Wagner, Acting Director of Health, and Dr. Susan Ehrlich, CEO of ZSFG, outlined a set of immediate actions and elements of a comprehensive plan for improvement that will be developed within 90 days. This includes making changes to billing practices, financial assistance and patient communications. In addition, DPH and ZSFG are exploring policy solutions in coordination with local and state elected officials. DPH and ZSFG have continued to address the problem of insurance payment shortfalls. DPH's patient financial services department works with individuals year-round to help them with billing issues, including financial assistance and appeals to insurance plans.

DPH in the News (Feb 1 – Feb 13)

SF Weekly, Feb 13 2019, Mission bodywork businesses may receive reprieve from new law

<http://www.sfweekly.com/news/mission-bodywork-businesses-may-receive-reprieve-from-new-law/>

SF Examiner, Feb 13 2019, San Francisco's immune system is stronger than ever

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/san-franciscos-immune-system-stronger-ever/>

SF Bay, Feb 13 2019, SF General hospital shifts adult urgent care center to new building

<https://sfbay.ca/2019/02/13/sf-general-hospital-shifts-adult-urgent-care-center-to-new-building/>

KQED, Feb 13 2019, San Francisco Struggles to Respond to Methamphetamine Epidemic

<https://www.kqed.org/forum/2010101869630/san-francisco-struggles-to-respond-to-methamphetamine-epidemic>

PBS, Feb 13 2019, Democrat-led cities and states move toward universal health care on their own terms

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/democrat-led-cities-and-states-move-toward-universal-health-care-on-their-own-terms>

SF Examiner, Feb 12 2019, New urgent care unit set to open at ZSFGH next week

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/new-urgent-care-unit-set-open-zsfgh-next-week/>

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/sf-general-hospital-celebrates-relocation-urgent-care-center/>

BCN, Feb 12 2019, Public health officials unveil new Urgent Care unit set to open next week

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Public-Health-Officials-Unveil-New-Urgent-Care-13611444.php>

SF Examiner, Feb 11 2019, Impact of homeless conservatorship plan more limited than expected
<http://www.sfexaminer.com/impact-homeless-conservatorship-plan-limited-expected/>

Salon, Feb 10 2019, Cities are blazing the trail toward healthcare for all
https://www.salon.com/2019/02/10/cities-are-blazing-the-trail-toward-healthcare-for-all_partner/

SF Chronicle, Feb 8 2019, Meth deaths and ER visits climb sharply in SF, as leaders look for solutions
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Meth-deaths-and-ER-visits-climb-sharply-in-SF-as-13599681.php>

KQED, Feb 8 2019, Meth's Comeback: A New Speed Epidemic Takes Its Toll on San Francisco
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11724407/meths-comeback-a-new-speed-epidemic-takes-its-toll-on-san-francisco>

SF Bay Times, Feb 7 2019, Grant Colfax, Former Obama AIDS Policymaker, Appointed Director of SF Department of Public Health
<http://sfbaytimes.com/grant-colfax-former-obama-aids-policymaker-appointed-director-sf-department-public-health/>

BAR, Feb 6 2019, Supervised injection bill reintroduced
https://www.ebar.com/news/news/271890/supervised_injection_bill_reintroduced

Washington Post, Feb 5 2019, So far, the deadly fentanyl epidemic hasn't hit California.
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/02/05/so-far-california-has-avoided-fentanyl-epidemic-plaguing-many-areas-of-us/>

MedPage, Feb 4 2019, Methodology Fixes Coming for Calif. Death Certificate Project
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/painmanagement/opioids/77811>

BAR, Feb 4 2019, Reaction Positive to Breed's Hiring Colfax to Lead SF DPH
https://sanfrancisco.edgemedianetwork.com/news/news/271674/reaction_positive_to_breeds_hiring_colfax_to_lead_sf_dph

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis urged the SFDPH to take a stand on the high prices of Gilead HIV and Hepatitis C drugs. The high prices of Truvada are important to address. He also stated that it is very important to address previous SFDPH media campaigns that added to HIV and LGBTQ stigma. He requested a public media campaign to thank people living with HIV for their advocacy and help with the epidemic.

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Petrelis urged Commissioner Bernal to hold public meetings in his role as Speaker Pelosi's Chief of Staff.

5) COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Commissioner Bernal, Community and Public Health Committee member, stated that the Committee discussed three items. Dr. Ayanna Bennett, Director of Interdivisional Initiatives, and Ron Weigelt, Director of Human Resources, gave a SFDPH equity update. Naveena Bobba MD, SFDPH Deputy Director, presented a resolution: "Incarceration is a Public Health Issue." Committee members gave input and recommended that the resolution be considered by the full Health Commission. Kavous Ghane Bassiri, Director of Behavioral Health Services, gave a San Francisco Health Network Behavioral Health Services update. Commissioner Bernal noted that Mr. Ghane Bassiri will be leaving the SFDPH next month.

6) SFDPH NON-HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE AWARDS

James E. Loyce Jr., Health Commission Vice President, introduced the item.

The following individuals and groups were presented awards:

- Nurse Family Partnership
- Population Health Division Office of Operations, Finance and Performance Management:
Marise Rodriguez and Darlene Daevu
- Sean Portwood, Facilities Manager
- Lisa O'Malley, Environmental Health Principal Inspector
- Faye Deguzman, Executive Secretary for the SFDPH Director of Health

7) RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO AUTHORIZE THE SFDPH TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND A GIFT OF \$200,000 TO THE LHH GIFT FUND FROM THE RICHARD AND BONNIE GREEN SURVIVOR'S TRUST

Mivic Hirose, LHH Executive Administrator, introduced the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Sanchez thanked the Richard and Bonnie Green Survivor's Trust for their generous contribution.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See attachment)

8) ZSFG PATIENT BILLING AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Greg Wagner, CFO, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal asked for more information in regard to examining ZSFG trauma services since the hospital is the only level 1 trauma center in the area. Mr. Wagner stated that the SFDPH is striving to develop a fair out-of-pocket cap to address this and related issues. He also stated that the City is looking into legislative changes to focus on working with the private insurance companies to collect appropriate fees.

Commissioner Green commended the SFDPH and ZSFG administrations for the effective response in such a short period of time. She is concerned that larger employers are offering insurance plans that require employees to pay a large out-of-pocket portion of their medical care cost. Mr. Wagner stated that among PPO plans, there is large diversity; he reminded the Commissioners that because ZSFG is the only local level 1 trauma center, the hospital deals with many out-of-state insurance plans.

Commissioner Chung asked whether insurance companies have the right to reduce the amount they pay ZSFG. Mr. Wagner stated that insurance companies have not denied the necessity of services provided at ZSFG. However, the law allows them to pay "usual and customary" costs, which is defined by the insurance companies. Mr. Wagner added that the SFDPH has successfully brought legal action against insurance companies in the past.

Commissioner Guillermo thanked Mr. Wagner and all those involved for responding so quickly with proposed changes to ZSFG billing practices and procedures. She encouraged the Commission and SFDPH to have realistic expectations in developing solutions in 90 days; she cautioned that national insurance revenue issues are very complex. She supports the effort lower patient out-of-pocket cost.

Commissioner Sanchez encouraged the SFDPH and ZSFG to ensure that all eligibility procedures be translated and communicated in multiple languages to meet the needs of the diverse populations accessing care at the hospital.

Commissioner Loyce thanked Mr. Wagner for his assertiveness in dealing with these issues.

9) HOMELESS MORTALITY IN SAN FRANCISCO: OPPORTUNITIES FOR PREVENTION

Barry Zevin MD, Medical Director, Street Medicine and Shelter Health, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Deena Lahn, San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium Vice President for Policy and External Affairs, stated that her organization is a federal grantee healthcare for the homeless provider. She noted that the report shows a lack of coordination among entities serving the homeless population. She also noted that housing lists do not take into account health status and encouraged improvement in this area.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guillermo thanked Dr. Zevin for the impactful report and asked how the document can be used to move effective strategies and policies forward. Dr. Zevin stated that learning from the data is essential. He noted that the new Methamphetamine Task Force will be a useful to explore solutions for this cohort. He is also looking to better connect severe alcohol users with services that support them through relapses.

Commissioner Loyce asked if the report is being sent to the local Homeless Coordinating Board. Dr. Zevin stated that he is presenting the report to the Whole Person Care Advisory Group and added that he will send the report to the Homeless Coordinating Board.

Commissioner Bernal noted that data on transgender individuals was difficult to obtain because not all CCSF entities are collecting this data. Dr. Zevin stated that as sexual orientation and gender information is routinely collected at hospitals and Psychiatric Emergency Services, the data will help with developing effective strategies.

Dr. Colfax thanked Dr. Zevin for the report and his impactful work. He added that individuals who are homeless age faster and so chronological age may not be reflective of their life experience. He voiced concern that the percent of African Americans represented in the data is high.

10) OTHER BUSINESS:

This item was not discussed.

11) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Sanchez, LHH JCC Chair, stated that at the February 12, 2019 meeting, the Committee met primarily in closed session to review credentials and quality reports.

12) CLOSED SESSION

- A) Public comments on all matters pertaining to the closed session
- B) Vote on whether to hold a closed session (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.11)
- C). Closed Session pursuant to Cal. Government Code Sections 1156, 1156.1, 1157, 1157.5 and 1157.6; Health and Safety Code Section 1461; and California Constitution, Article I, Section 1:

FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CONSIDERATION OF CREDENTIALING MATTERS

- D) Reconvene in Open Session: Motions and vote on whether to disclose any or all of the closed session discussions, San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a)

Action taken: The Health Commission voted not to disclose the discussion held in closed session.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59pm.

**Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 19-4**

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND A GIFT OF \$200,000.00 TO THE LAGUNA HONDA GIFT FUND FROM THE RICHARD AND BONNIE GREEN SURVIVIOR'S TRUST.

WHEREAS, the Richard and Bonnie Green Survivor's Trust provides for the distribution of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) to the Laguna Honda Gift Fund; and

WHEREAS, the successor trustee of the Richard and Bonnie Green Survivor's Trust has notified Laguna Honda that proceeds from the trust will be distributed; and

WHEREAS, Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center (Laguna Honda) is part of the San Francisco Health Network operated by the Department of Public Health and is a safety net and community hospital, with a mission to provide a welcoming, therapeutic, and a healing environment that promotes the individual's health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Laguna Honda Hospital Gift Fund is used to benefit the residents at Laguna Honda, including providing comfort and support for hospital residents; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Health Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisor authorize Department of Public Health to accept and expend a gift of cash of up two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) donated to the Laguna Honda Hospital Gift Fund to support resident care programs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the donation will be accepted and expended consistent with San Francisco Administrative Code Sections governing the acceptance of gifts to the City and County of San Francisco, including San Francisco Administrative Code Section 10.100-201.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Francisco Health Commission is grateful to the Green family.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on January 19, 2019, adopted the foregoing resolution

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary