1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner James Loyce, Jr., M.S., President
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.
Commissioner Laurie Green, M.D.
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo (left meeting at 6:25pm)

Excused: Commissioner Dan Bernal, Vice President
Commissioner Cecilia Chung
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D

The meeting was called to order at 4:06pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING of OCTOBER 3, 2019 AND OCTOBER 15, 2019

Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Chow requested that the October 3, 2019 minutes be corrected to note that Commissioner Loyce is Health Commission President and Commissioner Bernal is Vice President.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the October 3, 2019 minutes with the correction noted above.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the October 15, 2019 minutes.
Grant Colfax, Director of Health, gave the report. The full report can be viewed at: http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp

Kincade Fire Response
The Kincade Fire in Sonoma County has burned over 76K acres, and destroyed more than 282 structures including 141 homes. On Sunday, October 27, Mayor London Breed issued a proclamation declaring a local emergency to provide mutual aid in response to the Fire. As a result of the unprecedented emergency evacuation of about 200,000 people, the Human Services Agency (HSA) and the American Red Cross provided shelter for 200 people at St. Mary’s Cathedral. During these types of emergencies, City Departments, including the Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, and the Department of Emergency Management provide mutual aid to neighboring communities needing resources. In this particular instance, our medical team, organized by Dr. Hali Hammer and led by Shelter Health Nurse Kate Shuton, provided medical and behavioral health support for evacuees at the shelter. Stephanie Cushing, Director of the Environmental Health Branch and Dr. Julie Stoltey and Amie DuBois from Communicable Disease combined forces to inspect the shelter to protect against outbreaks of gastrointestinal and respiratory infections.

We monitored the Emergency Medical System (includes ambulances) and SF Hospital systems for potential impacts or surges. We monitored Air Quality and PG&E Power Safety shutoffs which impacted residents and staff. We supplied Public Information Officer staffing to the Sonoma County Emergency Operations Center, as well as for the San Francisco Emergency Operations Center at 1011 Turk Street. Our Department Operations Center, set up by Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response to monitor PSPS power shutoffs, stayed open through the incident, monitoring, informing and directing response to the incident. A big thanks to all who participated.

If you want to help support the disaster victims, financial donations are best. Food, clothing and household items are not being accepted at this time. More information here: https://socoemergency.org/home/recover/how-to-help/

Office of Health Equity
Mayor London Breed signed legislation on October 1 to create the San Francisco Office of Racial Equity. This is a historic commitment by our city to address the deep inequities that persist here. As Mayor Breed said that day, “We need action. We need consistency. We need a change like never before.” The Office of Racial Equity will sit within the Human Rights Commission (HRC), adding to its long-standing role as the principal champion for equity across the city. The HRC, through the Office of Racial Equity, will help city departments advance racial equity in every service. The SF Office of Racial Equity also will enforce two new requirements in the ordinance: all city agencies must make formal plans for how to advance racial equity and report on their progress, and they must designate staff and resources toward achieving their equity goals.

We share Mayor Breed’s vision and racial justice priorities. To ensure robust participation in this important work, we have established a DPH Office of Health Equity to align and coordinate with the HRC. The new DPH Office of Health Equity will have increased support for training and engagement and monitoring of equity efforts. The office represents an evolution of the former Office of Interdivisional Initiatives, reflecting the need to focus specifically on equity across the Department. The office will sit directly under the Director of Health and be led by Dr. Ayanna Bennett, who led Interdivisional Initiatives and currently leads the Black/African-American Health Initiative (BAAHI) as well as other key equity initiatives. BAAHI will continue under the Health Equity Office’s oversight. Equity work is the responsibility of every DPH employee. The DPH Office of Health Equity will start by creating and overseeing the department-wide annual equity plan, assist sections in creating their own equity plans, formulate policies that support a healing and anti-racist workplace, and support delivery of high-quality care that decreases health disparities. The DPH Office of Health Equity also will have oversight of the Trauma Informed Systems program, and the Community Wellness Program at the HopeSF
public housing sites. Over the next several weeks and months, you will see announcements of DPH policy changes as the Office of Health Equity joins with leaders and staff to meet our equity goals.

Mayor leads groundbreaking for Maxine Hall Health Center
Maxine Hall Health Center will temporarily move for a building remodel on Nov. 5, 2019 to a manufactured clinic at 1181 Golden Gate Ave. In October, Mayor London N. Breed, Supervisor Vallie Brown, Dr. Grant Colfax, and other city leaders broke ground on the remodel project at 1301 Pierce Street, which will improve safety in an earthquake. In addition to seismically retrofitting the building, the project will reconfigure its spaces – enabling all patients for the first time to access the second floor with the addition of an elevator. Reconfiguring the second floor will make room for larger exam rooms, seven additional patient rooms, and a patient group meeting room. The reconfiguration will increase access to health services by co-locating primary care, behavioral health and ancillary services. To prepare for the temporary move on Nov. 5, Maxine Hall Health Center was closed on Nov. 1 and 4. Construction is scheduled to start in November 2019. Westside Community Services (shares building) will serve its patients on Pierce Street in a manufactured clinic and in part of the building during construction. This project is mainly funded through the 2016 Public Health & Safety Bond, which voters approved by nearly 80%. The Mayor’s Office on Disability contributed $1.2 million for the elevator and other accessibility improvements. Learn more about the Maxine Hall remodel: www.sfhealthnetwork.org/maxinehallhc-capitalproject/.

Human Resources Changes
Ron Weigelt, Human Resources Director for the Department of Public Health resigned effective November 1. I join the DPH executive team in thanking Ron for his commitment to the Health Department, where he has served as Human Resources Director since 2013. We are committed to continuing to improve our human resources functions, and are looking forward to bringing on a new leader to take us in that direction. I am happy to announce the new DPH Director of Human Resources, Michael Brown, who started November 4, 2019. We are fortunate to have someone with Michael’s qualifications join the department in this vital role. As the current Executive Officer of the San Francisco Civil Service Commission, and with more than 20 years of human resources experience at the Health Department previously, Michael has the background and commitment to lead the department to accomplish our human resources (HR) goals.

There are big changes coming in HR. Equity and efficiency are among our top priorities, and I have asked Michael to focus on these two key themes. These priorities will be reflected across HR, including reducing hiring times, improving the hiring process, creating more opportunities for promotion and job satisfaction throughout DPH, and developing feedback loops to improve communication between HR and every division of the department.

Heart of the City
The Heart of the City Combined Charities Campaign is in full swing. The City Wide goal is to raise $1.5 million. To date, nearly $811,000 has been raised from employees within various departments under the City of San Francisco umbrella. The deadline for submitting donations is December 6th.
If you have specific questions, please feel free to reach out to one of DPH’s Charity Captains: Max Brand at 415.759.4611 or at maximillian.brand@sfdph.org or Marvin McGregor at 628.206.2635 marvin.mcgregor@sfdph.org. We are also looking for more people who are willing to take the lead within their department to help spread the word since many employees do not have direct access to email or a computer.

DPH in the News (Oct 16, 2019 - Nov 1, 2019)
Supervisors Seeking To Reform City's Mental Health Care System Move Forward With Plan

Tensions flare over mental health measure as talks continue on possible compromise
Civil Services Commission head to lead human resources at Department of Public Health

Director confirms policy changes around housing homeless pregnant women

As wildfires foul California air, residents are wearing face masks. But they really need respirators

Health officials say N95 masks to filter wildfire smoke may do more harm than good

Court to hear lawsuit challenging health care ‘conscience’ rule

New Meth ‘Sobering Centers’ Top San Francisco’s Plans to Address Drug Crisis

Hospital Asks For Public's Help To Identify Male Patient

Patient’s attorney files claim against SF over Laguna Honda abuse: ‘He’s angry. He wants answers’

Downed trees, damaged power lines, delayed public transport all due to high winds on Sunday

SF opens shelter for Kincade Fire evacuees at St. Mary’s Cathedral
https://sfbay.ca/2019/10/28/sf-opens-disaster-shelter-for-kincade-fire-evacuees/

Sonoma County under siege — crews brace for fierce winds to hit Kincade Fire amid mass evacuations

Sonoma County under siege -- crews brace for fierce winds to hit Kincade Fire amid mass evacuations

Bay Area air quality: Kincade Fire smoke could be blown from region
Vision Zero Update
https://www.sfmta.com/blog/vision-zero-update

Lessons from San Francisco’s pre-Obamacare system to provide universal health coverage
https://www.centerforhealthjournalism.org/2019/10/22/lessons-san-francisco-s-pre-obamacare-system-provide-universal-health-coverage

’Sobering center’ recommended for San Francisco meth ‘epidemic’
https://sfbay.ca/2019/10/22/sobering-center-recommended-for-san-francisco-meth-epidemic/

SF’s meth epidemic: City releases plan for tackling skyrocketing problem
Yet another SF home for mentally ill set to close amid treatment bed crisis

San Francisco Department of Public Health urging everyone to get vaccinated

Health department human resources director stepping down

Two visions for fixing SF’s devastating mental illness crisis: Here’s how they differ
SF Mayor Breed Announces Backing for Mental Health Plan to be on 2020 Ballot

Breed Announces Backing For Mental Health Care Plan To Be Placed On March 2020 Ballot

Gov. Newsom kicks off Project Homeless Connect event in SF

San Francisco eyes new office to manage emerging tech

SF’s dueling plans for mental health fix: ‘Can’t these people talk to each other?’

California will allow pharmacists to give HIV prevention medication without prescription

32 Mental Health Facility Residents Saved From Eviction Thanks To Agreement Reached Friday
Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding whether the fires and power outages impacted DPH provision of services. Dr. Colfax stated that the DPH was able to provide all of its services without interruption. He thanked the many dedicated DPH staff who worked during this time.

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment:
Krista Duran, ZSFG Emergency Department (ED) nurse, requested that Dr. Colfax respond to the union’s email regarding bilingual services and racial equity. She also stated there are an average of 13-22 open beds in the ED at any given time due to staffing issues. She added that the lack of appropriate staffing levels in the ED impacts rates of violence.

Julie, ED Nurse, stated that the ED is supposed to have 58 open beds. Many ED patients must wait a long time because other patients, who should have been discharged, continue to take up acute beds throughout the hospital. She reported that a survey of ED staff showed 92% have anxiety related to work; 82% show PTSD symptoms, and 50% consider the ED a hostile work environment which led to their retirement, resignation or request for time off.

Brian Goc, UCSF Pharmacy student, stated that City ordinance 190894 addresses the opioid crisis. He recommended that the DPH create a plan, using evidence-based models, to create street level crisis intervention.

Elizabeth, UCSF Pharmacy student, stated that SB78 expands HIV services which would positively impact the success of the Getting to Zero initiative.

Ron Weigelt stated that he is 62 years old, a disabled veteran, and a former SFDPH employee. He is concerned that the manner in which the DPH handled his resignation may impact potential employment opportunities.

Carissa and Vivien, UCSF Pharmacy students, stated that they support opioid drug safety. These sites provide homeless drug users with safety and sterile supplies. These sites also give a supportive message to drug users that they can engage in care in San Francisco.

Andy Wong, UCSF Pharmacy student, stated that safe injection sites imbedded in health care sites could help destigmatize opioid addiction so people would feel more comfortable accessing services.

Allison Yee, UCSF Pharmacy student, stated her support for AB3262, a safe injection site bill. She emphasized the strong evidence from such sites in other countries which have proven to reduce blood-borne pathogens.

Christine, UCSF Pharmacy student, stated that safe injection sites are in San Francisco’s best interest. The Canada sites have shown effectiveness with reducing accidental deaths and transmission of disease.

Hannah, UCSF Pharmacy student, stated that there has been a 14% increase in pharmaceutical drug prices in San Francisco; this is higher than other cities in the Bay Area. She asked for transparency regarding this issue.

5) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
Commissioner Chow chaired the meeting and noted that the Committee recommended for approval the Contracts Report and new contract request with the San Francisco Community Health Authority. He noted that the Committee also heard a presentation on the upcoming Health Care Services Master Plan and noted the revised draft for this document will be presented to the full Health Commission on December 3, 2019.
6) CONSENT CALENDAR

**Action Taken:** The following were unanimously approved by the Health Commission:
- NOVEMBER 2019 CONTRACTS REPORT

7) SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH NETWORK UPDATE; BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE
Roland Pickens, MHA, FACHE, Director, San Francisco Health Network, and Irene Sung, MD, Acting Director, Behavioral Health Services, presented the item.

**Commissioner Comments:**
Commissioner Chow asked if FY19-20 EPIC data will be used for measuring the SFHN True North goals. Mr. Pickens stated that SFHN will continue to study EPIC validation of data to determine if the True North goals need to shift in any way. He noted that it is important that the EPIC and data from legacy system can be compared.

Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding SFHN workforce True North initiatives. Mr. Pickens stated that SFHN is communicating the results of the DPH-wide workforce survey and working in areas that were identified in the survey as needing improvement.

Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding the SFHN Equity initiatives. Mr. Pickens stated that equity is still a SFHN pillar, with a current focus on African American health.

Commissioner Green asked if Mr. Pickens has any prediction regarding which True North measures will work and those that may be problematic due to the transition to EPIC. Mr. Pickens stated that he defers to the data analysts and expects to be able to give the Health Commission more of an update in early 2020. Susan Ehrlich, CEO, stated that the ZSFG team is working on revenue generating True North goals and those required by regulations.

Commissioner Green noted that only a Jail Health Services True North Goal mentions decreasing workforce stress, and suggested that all SFHN areas include this as a goal.

Commissioner Guillermo asked whether Mr. Pickens expects the SFHN baseline data and timelines to change due to the change to EPIC. Mr. Pickens stated that timelines will not change; the goals is to establish metrics and begin data collection for new True North metrics by July 1, 2020. In January, he will be able to report on those True North measures identified so the system can be built to validate and collocate relevant data.

Commissioner Guillermo encouraged the SFHN to include quality and care experience outcomes in addition to revenue and regulatory True North goals.

Dr. Colfax acknowledged the important work of Mr. Pickens and the SFHH team. He agreed that it is important for the SFHN to measure its outcomes as well as process. He added that the Population Health Division is working with the Network on data initiatives in an effort to strengthen the entire SFDPH.
8) **SFDPH MENTAL HEALTH REFORM: HOMELESSNESS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Anton Nigusse Bland, MD, Director of Mental Health Reform, presented the item.

Dr. Colfax noted that he has asked Michael Brown, the new SFDPH Human Resources Director, to develop a plan for recruiting behavioral health workers, including loan repayment programs and other incentives. He added that the SFDPH strives to create a culture of learning and excitement for this important work. Data and other resources will be used to make these important cultural changes. These structural changes are a roadmap to the Department’s future.

**Public Comment:**
Jessica, UCSF Pharmacy student, stated that if AB512 passes, it will require cultural competency training and urged the SFDPH to develop its own training for staff to reflect the diversity of San Francisco.

Jennifer Esteen stated that the SFDPH changed how it compensates bilingual staff and the result is that many staff are not utilizing their bilingual skills with patients because they are no longer being compensated for that service. Regarding intensive case management, she thanked Dr. Sung for consulting directly with staff and urged the SFDPH to seek the voices of those directly providing services when making policy decisions. She noted that ARF is an important program to help stabilize the population of high utilizers of multiple public services. She also stated that the RCFE, which houses older adults in the same building as the ARF, currently has 23 vacancies. In addition, she stated that 54 clients of private board and care facilities will be losing their permanent homes.

Teresa Palmer MD, stated that her understanding is that intensive case management (ICM) is vital to help the 4,000 high utilizers of multiple public services. However, Dr. Sung stated that the SFDPH has not increased capacity for ICM but instead has only decreased the wait time. She noted that Dr. Nigusse Bland stated that 90% of the highest utilizers of services do not have ICM. She voiced her frustration for lack of a coherent plan to provide necessary ICM services to this population which would include a plan for hiring additional ICM staff.

Deena Lahn, San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium (SFCCC) Vice President, Policy and External Affairs, stated that she is happy to hear the emphasis on the behavioral health workforce. SFCCC pays a lower salary to its behavioral staff and it is difficult to recruit staff with bilingual skills.

Donna K, UCSF Pharmacy student, stated that AB1611 will protect homeless patients with mental health issues.

**Commissioner Comments:**
Commissioner Chow thanked Dr. Sung for her role as Acting Behavioral Health Director and Dr. Nigusse Bland for his role in identifying some new solutions. He noted that Dr. Sung gave warning that the federal and state changes in behavioral health requirements may shift the infrastructure of the SFDPH behavioral health system in the next few years.

*Commissioner Guillermo left the meeting at 6:25pm; at that time a quorum of the Health Commission ceased and the meeting transitioned to an informational session in which no action could be taken.*

Commissioner Loyce noted that he has many decades’ experience working for and with the SFPDH. In the last years, he has seen a cultural shift within Behavioral Health to strive towards better reflecting the client population.

Commissioner Green asked for more information regarding how Behavioral Health Services leadership and the Mental Health Reform team will be working together and asked if there are any metrics developed on these goals. This includes how best to utilize the 800 Behavioral Health staff currently working in the system. Dr.
Nigusse Bland stated that he was given a two-year assignment and within that timeframe, it may not be possible to see systemic outcome measures deployed. He noted that there is a target of lowering the staff ratio of intensive case managers to 1:10. Dr. Sung stated that a preliminary goal is to fill the many vacant SFDPH behavioral health positions.

9) **SFDPH FY18-19 FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**
This item was deferred due to lack of time.

10) **SFDPH OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY AFFAIRS ANNUAL UPDATE**
This item was deferred due to lack of time.

11) **OTHER BUSINESS:**
This item was not discussed.

12) **JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**
This item was not discussed.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.