

James Loyce, Jr., M.S.
President

Dan Bernal
Vice President

Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner

Cecilia Chung
Commissioner

Laurie Green, M.D.
Commissioner

Tessie M. Guillermo
Commissioner

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

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



Grant Colfax M.D.
Director of Health

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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday October 1, 2019 4:00 p.m.

101 Grove Street, Room 300

San Francisco, CA 94102

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner James Loyce, Jr., M.S., President
Commissioner Dan Bernal, Vice President
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.
Commissioner Laurie Green, MD
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

Excused: Commissioner Cecilia Chung

The meeting was called to order at 4:08pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING of SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 AND SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the September 3, 2019 minutes.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the September 17, 2019 minutes.

3) DIRECTORS REPORT

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>

Mayor Breed and Health Department launch new program to fight overdoses and deaths

On September 30th, Mayor London N. Breed and the Department of Public Health (DPH) announced a new overdose prevention program for single room occupancy hotels (SROs), to be carried out by DPH in partnership with the Harm Reduction Coalition and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. The innovative program is in response to the rising number of overdose deaths in San Francisco, approximately 30 percent of which occur at SROs.

Based on the successful Tenant Overdose Response Organizers (TORO) program from Vancouver, the SRO project will work closely with SRO operators and tenants to develop on-site overdose prevention programs.

The new program will expand overdose prevention efforts even further and will support the installation of naloxone-rescue boxes throughout the buildings to improve access to this critical life-saving medication. The SRO program will begin later this year and is supported by the California Department of Public Health, the California Department of Health Care Services and the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The Health Department supports the Harm Reduction Coalition's Drug Overdose Prevention (DOPE) Project, which provided over 15,000 doses of naloxone to thousands of people at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose in 2018 alone. DOPE recorded 1,658 overdose reversals in that year and is on track to nearly double that number in 2019. The DOPE Project continues to expand operations, with new sites and mobile activities in San Francisco. In addition, DPH provides low barrier access to buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder and reduce overdose risk. DPH expanded the Street Medicine team, which is comprised of nurses, doctors, and social workers. The Street Medicine team conducts outreach to homeless and marginally housed residents and clinicians provide prescriptions for the opioid treatment medication buprenorphine directly to people on the streets suffering from opioid addiction.

Mayor and Director of Mental Health Reform announce real-time inventory of behavioral health beds

On September 24th, Mayor London Breed and Director of Mental Health Reform Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland announced plans to launch an online inventory of the San Francisco Department of Public Health's substance use and mental health treatment beds. Dr. Nigusse Bland expects that this public web page will improve clients' timely access to treatment when they are ready for it and help providers make the best use of the beds in their programs. The first phase, set to go online in November, will display substance use treatment beds including withdrawal management and 90-day programs. In the second phase, voluntary, short-term residential mental health treatment beds will be added.

In addition to improving transparency for our clients and the providers who serve them, this tool will help the Department to make data-driven decisions about where we need to target new investments and clear bottlenecks in the system of behavioral health care. The web page will outline the steps to receive care; explain that DPH serves low-income, medically eligible San Francisco residents; and, for people who are experiencing more urgent behavioral health crises, provide links and phone numbers to other resources. The information will be presented in Spanish, traditional Chinese, Russian, Vietnamese, and Tagalog. Treatment providers with multilingual capability will be highlighted, along with those emphasizing LGBTQ, pregnancy, HIV-positive and other specialized care.

Department of Public Health Statement on the Behavioral Health Center

The San Francisco Department of Public Health's top priority is patient care. Every day, we make decisions across our system that put patient care and safety first. We strive to provide the most care to the most people at the right level, in a high-quality, safe and healing environment.

We share the urgency to improve the lives of San Franciscans who are experiencing homelessness, mental illness and substance use disorder. These residents are in great need of care and housing, and their health affects our entire community.

We have chosen to pause changes at the Behavioral Health Center while the Mayor and Board of Supervisors have a conversation about how to proceed in a way that accomplishes our shared goals of patient safety, stability and expanded access to services.

We restate our commitment to ensure the long-term stability of board and care services, including the Adult Residential Facility (ARF). It is not correct to say we have "closed" or planned to close the ARF. No one is or will be "evicted" at the ARF. All the residents there have a choice, and if any of them would prefer to move to an equivalent facility in the community or elsewhere at the Behavioral Health Center, we will work with them to

do so. Further, no DPH staff are losing their jobs at the Behavioral Health Center. These have been our principles all along, and they have not changed.

We look forward to finding a path that also accomplishes the expansion of Hummingbird Place, an innovative, low-barrier psychiatric respite program that has been very successful. It fills a gap in our services, providing a safe and healing environment for clients who have had behavioral health crises and need a break from the streets to get the help and support that they need and to consider their next move toward wellness and recovery. The Hummingbird Place program is at the Behavioral Health Center (BHC) on the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital campus, along with two board and care programs -- the ARF and the Residential Care Facility for the Elderly -- and the Mental Health Rehabilitation Center that provides locked, sub-acute care.

San Francisco is a passionate, compassionate community made up of people who care. At the Health Department, we are proud to be part of that work, and to lend our clinical expertise, evidence-based approach and deep experience addressing population health issues to solving today's problems. Patient care and safety are core to our mission. We look forward to working with city leaders on a resolution that brings the best outcome for everyone served by the Behavioral Health Center.

To read more about reforms to our system underway, click here:

https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/files/DPH_statement_on_Behavioral_Health_Center_9_20_19.pdf

California Department of Public Health urges everyone to refrain from vaping until current investigations are complete

On September 24th, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released a public Health Advisory urging "everyone to refrain from vaping, no matter the substance or source, until current investigations are complete." Since June 2019, CDPH has received reports that 90 people in California who have a history of vaping were hospitalized for severe breathing problems and lung damage. As of September 26th, San Francisco does not have any suspect cases. San Francisco was a national leader in banning the sales of flavored smoking/vaping products.

Nationally, the epidemic of vaping-associated pulmonary injury (VAPI) is growing rapidly. As of September 27th, compared to the prior week, the number of lung injury cases grew 52 percent to 805 cases reported from 46 states and 1 U.S. territory. Twelve deaths have been confirmed in 10 states. CDC has received sex and age data on 771 patients. All reported patients have a history of e-cigarette product use or vaping. The latest findings from the investigation into lung injuries associated with e-cigarette use, or vaping, suggest products containing THC play a role in the outbreak.

On the regulatory front, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) partnered with the San Francisco Police Department to send out decoys, aged 16-19 years old, to confirm that San Francisco stores do not sell tobacco products, including vaping devices and/or products, to anyone under the age of 21 years old. Furthermore, SFDPH staff are currently inspecting 715 established and permitted tobacco retailers to verify that flavored tobacco products are no longer sold within the City and County of San Francisco. SFDPH also printed 1000's of non-smoking stickers with the image of a cigarette and vaping pen to educate the public that vaping and smoking are the same and both are dangerous to public health. Moreover, to strengthen the health departments educational outreach efforts, SFDPH activated existing partnerships as we work closely with youth-serving community groups through our Community Action Model grants. In the past year, two of these grants partnered with SFUSD to conduct projects within schools including a flavored tobacco product buyback program and bilingual educational outreach.

City agencies coordinate messages and services to Beat the Heat

On September 24th and 25th, the National Weather Service issued a heat advisory for San Francisco, predicting the highest temperatures to be in the upper 80s on Tuesday and low 90s on Wednesday. In response, the

Department of Public Health (DPH) worked together with the Department of Emergency Management and established a Joint Information Center for City agencies to coordinate efforts and share key messaging. These messages included encouraging people to stay cool, hydrated and connected. In addition to sharing heat safety tips, City officials reminded the public about the equal importance of window, water and pet safety.

In addition, DPH activated its Department Operations Center (DOC) starting early Tuesday monitoring until late Wednesday evening with an understanding that increased temperatures in San Francisco impact the City's emergency response system. DPH's Emergency Medical Services Agency closely monitored ambulance staffing and emergency call volumes and brought in corporate ambulance resources when necessary. DPH's Public Health Emergency and Preparedness Response (PHEPR) team consistently tracked medical surge of hospitals, skill-nursing facilities, and clinics throughout the City.

PHEPR also contacted their growing Healthcare Coalition members to make sure groups like dialysis clinics and skilled nursing facilities were informed about heat risks and preventative steps to take. PHEPR's Community Branch reached out specifically to partner agencies that serve some of the city's most vulnerable, such as Meals on Wheels, to coordinate wellness checks. In addition, PHEPR's Community Branch directly contacted partner agencies in urban heat areas of our City such as the Bayview and Chinatown, to communicate and coordinate more effectively around heat impacts, needs and responses.

DPH's Occupational Safety and Health Division monitored temperature issues at DPH facilities including ZSFG and other clinic buildings known to have heated up in the past. The team also issued a heat advisory e-mail for DPH groups with outdoor workers on both days of the active heat advisory and made sure DPH facilities managers received messaging regarding overnight cooling of buildings.

Other City agencies, including Recreations and Park Department, San Francisco Public Library, Human Services Agency, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, San Francisco Fire Department and San Francisco Police Department, coordinated together and provided outreach services to all San Franciscans. The services included free swimming pool access, water bottle distribution, educational outreach, and increased wellness checks to vulnerable clients and populations.

Mayor will celebrate groundbreaking for Maxine Hall Health Center remodel

On October 2nd, Mayor London Breed will lead a Groundbreaking Ceremony at Maxine Hall Health Center to celebrate the clinic's upcoming building remodel. The capital project will improve safety during an earthquake at the clinic; and increase access to health services by co-locating primary care, behavioral health and ancillary services. For the construction, Maxine Hall Health Center will move on **November 5th to a temporary clinic at 1181 Golden Gate Ave.** The clinic will be closed on November 1st and 4th for the move.

The remodel will add seven patient rooms, an elevator, curb ramps, larger exam rooms for families, and more. Construction is scheduled to start in late 2019. Westside Community Services (shares building) will serve its patients on Pierce Street in a temporary clinic and in part of the building during construction. Earlier this year, Castro-Mission Health Center temporarily moved to 995 Potrero Ave., Building 80, 1st floor, on the Zuckerberg San Francisco General campus for a similar building remodel, which will start in 2020. Southeast Health Center also will be under construction in early 2020 for an expansion project. These projects are funded through the 2016 Public Health & Safety Bond, which voters approved by 80%. Learn more about the Maxine Hall project: www.sfhealthnetwork.org/maxinehallhc-capitalproject/.

Health department reminds the public to make smart choices around food safety in time for Fleet Week

In preparation for Fleet Week (Oct. 6-14), the Department of Public Health Food Safety Program is working with the SF Port to conduct unpermitted mobile food facilities outreach efforts. DPH staff and Port staff have distributed pamphlets materials to unpermitted food cart vendors on SF Port property and will continue to do so until the weekend preceding Fleet Week. By providing the education materials, the goal is to advise any

unpermitted vendor that they need to obtain a permit in order to sell food. No food or equipment will be confiscated during these outreach efforts unless an immediate health hazard exists.

The health department works hard to protect the public from the unseen dangers associated with improper food handling and wants to remind the public to be aware of the dangers of purchasing and consuming food from unpermitted vendors. Commonly associated health concerns associated with unpermitted vendors include no handwashing, no refrigeration, no restroom, no dish sinks, as well as buildup of garbage and good debris on the ground. As a result, we hope the public will make sure the food they are buying is from a safe, permitted source that is routinely inspected. Key components to look for include a handwashing station, refrigeration unit, food identification signs, and, most importantly, a permit decal which indicates that the vendor is officially a permitted mobile food facility.

San Francisco Health Department represents at International Hep C Conference

On September 11-13th, the International Conference of Hepatitis C (HCV) Care in Substance Users took place in Montreal, Canada. Katie Burk, Viral Hepatitis Coordinator in the Community and Health Equity branch of the Department of Public Health, presented a poster on a qualitative offshoot of the Bye-C Study on behalf of co-authors Emily Behar, Amanda Bierkamp, Elizabeth Kinnard, and Dr. Phillip Coffin. Dr. Coffin of the Substance Use Research Unit was the Principle Investigator of the Bye-C Study, which was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and compared the effectiveness of weekly take homes versus modified directly-observed therapy for HCV treatment in people who inject drugs. Approximately 750 people attended this event, representing an array international expertise in the field of viral hepatitis and the health of people who use drugs.

6th Annual Reentry Conference and Resource Fair

On September 6th, the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Vocational Outreach Team attended the 6th Annual Restorative Justice Reentry Conference and Resource Fair, organized by the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The event was held at Saint Mary's Cathedral was attended by 95 Bay Area organizations offering services in housing, education, health services, job readiness, and employment training. Each year the Reentry Conference and Resource Fair brings hundreds of individuals and organizations to explore the latest concerns, opportunities, and advancements of justice-involved and crime-affected individuals and families. Staff from University of California San Francisco Citywide and the Occupational Therapy Training Program joined the Vocational Outreach Team network with participants and community-based organizations interested in learning more about BHS Vocational Co-op Services.

DPH in the News (Sep 13 – Sep 26 2019)

SF Chronicle, Sep 26 2019, Mentally ill man moved from jail to treatment so health department 'wouldn't have to appear' in court

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Mentally-ill-man-moved-from-jail-to-treatment-so-14471643.php?psid=oNyHy>

KRON, Sep 25 2019, SF City officials host Narcan training

<https://www.kron4.com/news/san-francisco-city-officials-host-narcan-training/>

KPIX, Sep 25 2019, SF Supervisor Haney pushes for emergency plan to cope with opioid crisis

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/09/25/sf-supervisor-matt-haney-pushes-for-emergency-plan-to-cope-with-opioid-crisis/>

NBC, Sep 25 2019, SF City workers get Narcan training

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/San-Francisco-City-Workers-Get-Narcan-Training-561378241.html>

KGO, Sep 25 2019, Would you administer Narcan? How San Francisco supervisors hope you can help someone having a drug overdose

<https://abc7news.com/society/how-sf-supervisors-hope-you-can-help-someone-having-a-drug-overdose/5568866/>

SF Examiner, Sep 25 2019, Narcan training designed to help reduce overdose deaths
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/the-city/narcan-training-designed-to-help-reduce-overdose-deaths/>

KTVU, Sep 25 2019, San Francisco supervisor calls drug overdoses a public health crisis
<http://www.ktvu.com/news/ktvu-local-news/san-francisco-supervisor-calls-drug-overdoses-a-public-health-crisis>

KTVU, Sep 24 2019, Fall heatwave sends Bay Area temperature soaring, experts warn of dangers
<http://www.ktvu.com/news/fall-heatwave-sends-bay-area-temperatures-soaring-experts-warn-of-dangers>

BCN, Sep 24 2019, SF Mayor announces new tool to track available treatment beds
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/09/24/san-francisco-mayor-announces-new-tool-to-track-available-treatment-beds/>

SF Examiner, Sep 20 2019, City puts closure of long-term mental health beds on hold
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/city-puts-closure-of-long-term-mental-health-beds-on-hold/>

KRON, Sep 19 2019, Concerns over dangers of vaping continue nationwide
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/concerns-over-dangers-of-vaping-continue-nationwide/>

Gal-dem, Sep 18 2019, Black women are neglected by HIV-prevention services, but we need access to PrEP
<http://gal-dem.com/black-women-are-neglected-by-hiv-prevention-services-but-we-need-access-to-prep/>

SF Chronicle, Sep 17 2019, Protesters shut down commission meeting as fight over SF mental health policies intensifies
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Protesters-shut-down-commission-meeting-as-fight-14447920.php>

SF Examiner, Sep 17 2019, SF supervisors call on health department to ‘pause’ planned relocation of mental health patients
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/supervisors-move-to-halt-closure-of-long-term-mental-health-beds/>

BCN, Sep 16 2019, Mayor Breed announces expansion of Division Circle Navigation Center
<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Mayor-Breed-Announces-Expansion-Of-Division-14445039.php>

SF Chronicle, Sep 16 2019, Surge of critical injuries on SF’s streets mirrors spike in fatalities
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Surge-of-critical-injuries-on-SF-s-streets-14444554.php>

SF Indybay, Sep 13 2019, Mid City Market graduates from SF’s Healthy Retail Program
<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2019/09/13/18826209.php>

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding DPH outreach in Chinatown during the heat wave on September 24th and 25th. Naveen Bobba MD, DPH Deputy Director of Health, stated that the DPH worked with NICOS Chinese Health Coalition and the greater Chinatown community during the heat advisory. She noted that the local library was used as a cooling center since it is air conditioned.

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Hill, ZSFG Emergency Department nurse, stated that he is concerned about staffing issues and ZSFG administration lack of transparency regarding commitments it made to the Joint Commission regarding changes in the Emergency Department. He also stated that CareStart is a program that ZSFG administrators implemented without input from nurses and that he considers unsafe.

Krystal Tigno, ZSFG nurse, read a letter of a colleague who was uncomfortable speaking out. The letter stated that the ZSFG Emergency Department is “a disaster” daily. ZSFG is a safety net hospital with a complex patient population. Most staff are drawn to this important work but the ongoing stress is taking its toll on staff. She noted that the working environment is hostile and the hospital is overcommitting to the number of patients it can safely serve.

Christa Duran, ZSFG Emergency Department nurse, stated that the nurses’ collective bargaining process is complete so these comments are coming from a place of genuine concern. She stated that the ZSFG administration has created a fearful working environment that prevents staff from feeling safe to bring up

issues. She noted that many nursing leaders are leaving and there is chronic short-staffing. She noted that if the Health Commission does not listen to these comments then it becomes part of the problem.

Heather Bollinger, ZSFG Emergency Department nurse, stated that ZSFG is now about data, not compassion. She added that 25-30% of patients housed in the Emergency room are admitted but without rooms. No additional nurses are sent to assist with patient care of these boarded patients, even while the Emergency Department staff must tend to emergency patients and the admitted patients. She also stated that the Emergency Department also has large numbers of patients with complex psychiatric needs and that the Emergency Department was not designed for this volume. She noted that the Emergency Department discharges 700 patients from the waiting room where they receive all their care.

5) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Commissioner Chow, who served as meeting Chair, stated that the Committee reviewed the Contracts Report and new contract requests listed on the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Morewitz noted that the correct amount of the San Francisco Community Health Authority contract is \$4,431,259; this change is due to a correction in the contingency amount.

6) CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow requested that the "Resolution to Honor Alice Chen" be extracted for a separate vote. He noted that he presented a draft of the resolution to Dr. Chen at her retirement party several weeks ago.

Actions Taken: The following were unanimously approved:

- OCTOBER 2019 CONTRACTS REPORT
- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RETROACTIVE CONTRACT WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATIVE (TPA) SERVICES BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH PLAN FOR THE SF COVERED MRA PROGRAM. THE TOTAL PROPOSED CONTRACT AMOUNT IS ~~\$4,751,859~~ \$4,431,259 WHICH INCLUDES A 12% CONTINGENCY FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019.
- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH DENVER SOLUTIONS, LLC, D.B.A, LEITERS HEALTH OR LEITERS TO PROVIDE OUTSOURCED STERILE COMPOUNDING SERVICES AND PRODUCTS NOT OTHERWISE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE FOR USE BY ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES. THE TOTAL PROPOSED CONTRACT AMOUNT IS \$5,296,200 WHICH INCLUDES A 12% CONTINGENCY FOR THE INITIAL TERM OF OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022. THE CONTRACT HAS THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE INITIAL TERM FOR A MAXIMUM OF 24 ADDITIONAL MONTHS. THE FULL TERM OF THE CONTRACT INCLUDING OPTIONS IS FROM OCTOBER 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2024.

Actions Taken: The following was unanimously approved:

- RESOLUTION HONORING ALICE CHEN.

7) **SAN FRANCISCO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADULT RESIDENTIAL FACILITY**

Roland Pickens, MHA, FACHE, Director, San Francisco Health Network presented the item.

Public Comment:

Patricia Allen, ARF resident, asked that the facility not be closed.

Sharifa Rahman, ARF Mental Health worker, thanked Dr. Colfax and Commissioner Loyce for visiting the facility recently. She noted agreement with Supervisor Ronan's statements and added that the ARF residents have not been able to manage on their own so the ARF enables them to receive support; some will move on to independent lives and some may not be able to do so. She also stated that instead of building on an effective program, beds are now left empty. She asked that the SFPD consider the patient population before making changes to the program.

Marcus Huisean, ARF resident since 2009, stated that this closure is discrimination against gay people.

Teresa Palmer, Gerontologist, stated that she hopes the DPH can improve its handling of this situation; the current lack of will to fill empty mental health beds is unacceptable. She added that there is no easy solution to strategies for managing short and long term mental health beds. She encouraged the DPH to work with other CCSF departments to coordinate these beds.

Vivian Imperiale, mental health worker, stated that decades ago, the community fought to have the Behavioral Health Center built. The current proposal puts different groups of people with mental health in a fight over bed space. She added that the DPH sent formal eviction notices which were very frightening to the residents. She thinks this is a very scary political strategy: people in need went months without services while mental health beds were empty. She asked the DPH to consider the wellbeing of the current ARF and RCFE residents.

Amy Wong, Mental Health Treatment Specialist on the Behavioral Health Center (BHC) third floor, stated that over her 20 years of employment, she has witnessed a lack of transparency and non-compliance with state regulations. Staff and residents are not told about important changes that need to be made. She is concerned that residents will suffer trauma due to the suspension of these beds.

Jennifer Esteen stated that she appreciates everyone coming out. She noted that the system is broken and the ARF closure is a symptom. There are many other board-and-care facilities in San Francisco that are closing; 54 beds will be lost to these closings before December 31st. She also stated that there are 46 beds at the ARF that could be used to help this situation. She added that the Deputy of Transitions told her that the residents of board-and-care facilities that close will have to be sent to the ZSFG Emergency Department.

Michael Giardina, social worker and conservator, that that closing the ARF is obviously not a good idea. He added that some of his clients on the locked third floor of the BHS have nowhere to move; each month they have a meeting with the client, who is clinically cleared to move out, telling the person that there is no open space. The fact that beds were available in the same building is infuriating. He also stated that this situation makes it very difficult to develop a trusting clinical relationship with clients.

Sarah Larson stated that it took almost closing the ARF for the system to acknowledge the issues that staff have had to deal with for years. She noted that before the meeting, DPH administrators were very rude during a meeting with the union. She added that the ARF could be a great facility if it is run well. She also stated that the closure of this unit was an administrative decision not a clinical one.

Jennifer Zacroff, social worker on the BHS, stated that her clients on the third floor locked unit have nowhere to move when they are ready for discharge. She refuted the data presented by Mr. Pickens on safety. She

added that the RCFE has more serious citations but the DPH is still planning to move ARF residents to that floor.

Judith Klain, past long-term DPH employee, stated that she understands how difficult change can be. She is a mother of a schizophrenic resident of the ARF. She feels the facility is not unsafe and that it provides an effective barrier to the world. Hummingbird does not provide long-term care and is no substitute for the ARF. She added that her son is currently suffering due to the dysfunction of the system.

Roma Guy, Taxpayers for Public Safety, thanked the Commission for scheduling this item to hear the many relevant issues. She noted that the ARF is an example of the DPH plugging holes in a leaky barrel. She noted that we must change the healthcare system's approach if we want to meet the challenges of this new era. San Francisco was successful with HIV, Hepatitis C, Healthy San Francisco, and working with pedestrian safety. She added that San Francisco is not problem-solving; instead we are fighting over resources and this is not helpful to the people most in need. She urged the DPH and the Commission to be visible, transparent, and accountable in this modern era.

Vivian Araullo, Local 21, stated that Roland Pickens was incorrect in stating that some BHS staff have been terminated for performance-related issues. She added that the state determination of non-compliance relates to a death of a RCFE resident. She urged the DPH administration to make positive comments about ARF staff.

Jennifer Connelly, worked at the ARF for 15 years, stated that ARF beds remain empty while there are many ZSFG patients with lower-level-of-care needs that could have used those beds. She added that BHS is doing a great job of caring for its residents.

Kim Tavaglione, San Francisco Labor Council, stated that she has contacted the state to verify that the ARF does not have enough citations to close. She added that the DPH is playing politics with people's lives. She also stated that it is time to start caring for people who are in need.

Eddy Steele stated that he has firsthand experience with mental illness. He was able to move from a psychiatric ward to a lower-level-of-care within hours but others around him waited for days. He compared holding needed beds empty to withholding food during a famine.

Javier Jarmond, Community Housing Partnership and a former co-chair of the Mental Health Board, stated that Barbara Garcia deprioritized the BHS because she saw these beds as an obstacle to the client's healing. He added that many ARF residents have experienced multiple types of traumas; there will always be a number of beds needed to serve this population. He called for an increase in these types of beds in San Francisco.

Dr. Colfax thanked everyone for attending the meeting and making public comment. He apologized on behalf of the DPH for not getting input prior to making the decisions regarding plans for the ARF. He is committed to seeking input in the future from relevant stakeholders. He thanked the ARF staff for their impactful and important work. He noted that the problems at the ARF are a shared responsibility across DPH leadership and frontline staff.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked all those in attendance and those who made public comment. He asked for more information regarding barriers to filling ARF staff positions. Mr. Pickens stated that there are approximately 9 staff vacancies and noted the only barrier to hiring is the current plan to transition beds to the Hummingbird program.

Commissioner Guillermo thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that the Health Commission wants to support the DPH in addressing the concerns brought up during public comment. She asked if it would

be possible for the DPH to find another location for the Hummingbird program. Mr. Pickens stated that the SFDPH is actively pursuing locations for several Hummingbird programs throughout the city.

Commissioner Chow asked how many ARF residents are currently in the facility. Kelly Hiramoto, SFPDH Director of Special Projects, stated that the ARF census is currently 32 residents and the facility is licensed for up to 55 beds.

Commissioner Chow asked for the census on the RCFE. Ms. Hiramoto stated that the facility currently has a census of 36 residents and capacity for 59 beds. She noted that the third floor locked facility has a census of 36 and has capacity for 47 beds.

Commissioner Chow asked for a review of the plan to move ARF residents to the RCFE. Ms. Hiramoto stated that the current plan is to move 18 ARF residents to the RCFE and leaving 14 residents at the ARF. The number of Hummingbird beds would increase by 27 beds in this plan.

Commissioner Chow asked for staff hiring update for the third floor, noting that Ms. Hiramoto mentioned that several staff had retired or left the DPH. Ms. Hiramoto stated that the hiring process for these staff is moving forward; background checks are being conducted for several of the clinical positions.

Commissioner Chow noted that there was great improvement in the timeline of hiring nurses at ZSFG several years ago and asked if this improvement impacts the hiring process for the third floor staff vacancies. Ms. Hiramoto stated that it is often difficult to recruit for psychiatric nursing positions for the locked subacute unit.

Commissioner Chow noted that he looks forward to the Commission hearing a resolution of the situation and plans for usage of the BHC. He added that a factor in the current situation is how the DPH handled the communication regarding its plan.

Commissioner Green thanked Mr. Pickens and all those who made public comment. She asked how the SFPDH is analyzing systems needs especially in light of the many board-and-care closures in the area. She also asked if the SFDPH could consider hiring some of the staff from those board-and-care facilities that are closing since they already have the expertise with the client population. Mr. Pickens noted that Dr. Anton Bland, SFDPH Director of Mental Health Reform, has conducted extensive analysis of the behavior health population. He has identified 4,000 individuals who are experiencing mental health issues, substance use disorders, and homelessness; a special focus will be placed on the 237 individuals within the cohort that are the highest utilizers of public services in San Francisco. He noted that the needs of this population will vary depending on the issues they are experiencing. He added that the Mayor recently announced a partnership with Tipping Point to fund an effort to save some of the board-and-care facilities in San Francisco. He added that Dr. Colfax has directed Mr. Pickens and other relevant staff to develop a Performance Improvement Plan for the Behavioral Health Center.

Commissioner Loyce commended the BHC staff for the impactful work they do each day and noted that all staff that work within DPH services, including the ZSFG Emergency Department nursing staff that made public comment on item 4, may be impacted by the trauma of the patient population. He added that in order to take care of its patient population, the system needs to consider the impact of this trauma on staff. Mr. Pickens stated that the SFDPH is concerned about vicarious trauma experienced by its staff and noted that the SFDPH Trauma Informed System trainings are intended to assist with this issue.

8) 2016 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY BOND UPDATE

Terry Saltz, Associate ZSFG Hospital Administrator, and Joe Chin, Department of Public Works, and Michael Bade, UCSF Vice Chancellor for Capital Projects, presented items 8 and 9.

Note: Items 8 and 9 were presented together. Comments for both items are listed in item 8.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green asked how often the team reconciles expenditures with an updated project timeline. Mr. Saltz stated that the team is constantly reviewing its budget and deliverables.

Commissioner Chow noted that the Psychiatric Emergency Services project looks like it will be delayed. Mr. Saltz stated that the team has found a new space for the project and is restarting its timeline as the project outcome is reconsidered.

9) UCSF RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC BUILDING AT ZSFG UPDATE

Items 8 and 9 were presented together. Comments for both items are listed in item 8.

10) SFDPH OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY AFFAIRS ANNUAL UPDATE

This item was deferred due to lack of time.

11) OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Morewitz noted that the Health Commission will meet with the Planning Commission on October 3, 2019 at 10am in room 400 at City Hall to discuss the Annual CPMC Development Agreement Compliance Statement.

12) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Chow, ZSFG JCC Chair, stated that at its September 24, 2019 meeting, the committee reviewed standard reports including: Regulatory report, CEO Report, Human Resources Report, and the Medical Staff report. During closed session, the committee approved the Credentials Report.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm.