

Steven Tierney, Ed.D.
President

Sonia E. Melara, MSW
Vice President

Edward A. Chow, M.D
Commissioner

James M. Illig
Commissioner

Margine A. Sako
Commissioner

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

Catherine M. Waters, R.N., Ph.D.
Commissioner

HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Department of Public Health



Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Executive Secretary

TEL (415) 554-2666
FAX (415) 554-2665

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

MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, June 7, 2011, 4:00 p.m.
101 GROVE STREET, ROOM 300 or ROOM 302
San Francisco, CA 94102

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Sonia E. Melara, Vice President
Commissioner Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner James Illig
Commissioner Margine Sako
Commissioner David J. Sanchez
Commissioner Catherine Waters

Excused: Commissioner Steven Tierney, Ed.D., President

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

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 17, 2011.

Action Taken: The minutes of the May 17, 2011 were unanimously approved.

3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Barbara A. Garcia, Director of Health presented the report which is a current overview of the state of public health in San Francisco. The report can be viewed at:

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

I cannot fully express the extent of my deep appreciation to all of the staff who worked so hard to produce the May 26th DPH Got Talent! Night. I am very grateful to Steven Tierney, Commission president, and the other members of the Health Commission for coming out to support the fine talents and fundraising efforts that helped us raise nearly \$30,000 to send foster kids to summer camp. The highlight of the evening—besides the entertainment—was the announcement by Eileen Cavan, president of the board for Worker's Children's Fund, who, when presented with a preliminary check on the night of the event for \$18,420, announced that, "With this money, we will not have to turn any foster kid away from

summer camp this year!” As Christie James, celebrity MC for the evening reminded us, “Tonight is all for the kids!” I will let the Commissioners know the final tally once we close out our expenses and collect on the remaining accounts. We will be sending every remaining dollar to the Worker’s Children’s Fund.

DOJ Makes Scheduled Visit to LHH

U.S. Department of Justice medical consultant Dr. Katie Ward was at Laguna Honda from June 1 - 3 for a scheduled review of progress under the city's settlement agreement with the federal government. Dr. Ward's visit followed on-site reviews in May by the DOJ consultants for nursing, community integration and discharge, and psychiatric services. The hospital received a positive review for progress in community integration during the DOJ visit to the campus and tours of various housing sites in the community. The settlement agreement expires in June. The agreement committed the city to important advances in two categories, placement of Laguna Honda residents in the most integrated community setting and provision of individualized care.

High-Profile Patient Brings SFGH Traumatic Brain Injury Program National Attention

Bryan Stow, the Giants fan who was severely beaten at Dodger stadium, arrived at San Francisco General Hospital on Monday, May 16 to continue treatment for traumatic brain injury. Mr. Stow’s story has captured the attention of people all across the country who have expressed concern for his health, his children and the progress of the criminal investigation to identify and locate all of his assailants.

In order to respond to the intense interest in the case, SFGH has set up a media hotline, 206-3376, that provides regular updates on Mr. Stow’s condition. We have held three press conferences to date: when the patient arrived, after he had been assessed, and a special one for the family to express their thanks to the Los Angeles Police Department, the Giants, the media and the public.

Ward 86 in Spotlight for 30th Anniversary of AIDS Coverage

We are delighted to report that our team of caregivers, researchers, clinicians and patients at SFGH’s Ward 86 HIV/AIDS outpatient clinic has a chance to shine this month as the world recognizes the 30th anniversary of AIDS. Look for coverage beginning the first week of this month. Hank Plante, a reporter with KPIX Channel 5, who covered the crisis 30 years ago, returned to do a week-long series that will air this week, including a feature on HIV and aging filmed at Ward 86. Follow the links below to see Brad Hare and Diane Jones on *This Week in Northern California* (5/27) and to read the story by international wire service Agence France-Presse.

<http://www.kqed.org/tv/programs/thisweek/watch/archive/241106/b>

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/lifestyle/05/30/11/older-aids-survivors-face-new-challenges>

Direct Access to Housing Adds two New Senior Sites

The Housing and Urban Health section is pleased to announce that two new Senior sites have been added to the Direct Access to Housing (DAH) program, increasing the portfolio to a total of 1,071 permanent supportive housing units for homeless clients with special needs.

- **Armstrong Place Senior Housing**, a brand-new, beautifully-designed building located at 5600 Third Street (between Bancroft and Armstrong) in Bayview Hunters Point, is part of Armstrong Place, a larger, mixed-use development that includes units for first time home buyers as well as 116 units of affordable housing for low-income seniors 62 years old and above.
- **The Coronet** is a newly-developed community with 150 units of affordable housing for seniors (55 years and older) in San Francisco’s Richmond district. This beautiful property includes studio, 1BR and 2BR apartments. Twenty five of the 150 apartments are designated for referrals from the Department of Public Health’s Direct Access to Housing (DAH) program in collaboration with the

Institute on Aging's PACE (Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) program. The **Grand Opening for the Coronet** is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 22, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Alemanys Farmers' Market Bonus Bucks

San Franciscans on tight budgets this summer will be able to stretch their CalFresh (Food Stamps) benefits further through the new *Farmers' Market Bonus Bucks* program at Alemanys Farmers' Market. While the healthy produce the markets' farmers sell is already valued-priced, this summer CalFresh customers will receive an additional \$5 in purchasing power when they spend \$10 of their CalFresh/EBT benefits at the market.

Mayor Ed Lee will launch the program on **Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.** at the **Alemanys Farmers' Market**.

The **Alemanys Farmers' Market Bonus Bucks** program is coordinated by Campaign for Better Nutrition, in partnership with the Department of Public Health, Department of Real Estate, San Francisco Human Service Agency, San Francisco Food Systems, Community Initiatives, and private donors. SFDPH has been working with the San Francisco Human Service Agency to improve access to farmers markets for federal food assistance beneficiaries since 2004. In its May 2011 issue, the *American Journal of Public Health* published a field action report by Paula Jones and Rajiv Bhatia, MD, documenting significant and sustained increases of farmers market utilization by food stamp recipients. For more information, contact paula.jones@sfdph.org.

Health & Safety Standards Assessed for Domestic Workers

The Program on Health, Equity, and Sustainability (PHES) recently completed a Health Impact Assessment of two new health and safety standards for domestic workers being proposed under AB 889: The California Domestic Work Employee, Equality, and Fairness Act, sponsored by Assemblyman Ammiano. Building on previous research and collaboration with San Francisco domestic workers and their support organizations, and assisted by research funding from the CDC, PHES staff analyzed the size, working conditions and vulnerabilities of the California domestic worker population and examined the health benefits of a minimum standard for sleep and enhanced rights to workers' compensation benefits.

On May 25th, PHES staff presented the HIA to the SF Human Rights Commission. We anticipate the research will be used by many individuals and organizations that work on improving health and welfare for domestic workers in California. For more information and to download the report, go to http://www.sfpbes.org/Work_DWHIA.htm. This issue will be presented to the full Health Commission on July 19th.

June is Refugee Awareness Month

Community Health Promotion and Prevention's Newcomers Health Program and Family Health Center's Refugee Medical Clinic are celebrating "Refugee Awareness Month," as an opportunity to recognize the contributions refugees have made to the City and the challenges they have overcome.

Since the mid 1970's, San Francisco has become home to over 50,000 refugees from countries throughout the world, and, in more recent years, thousands of others with asylum status. The Family Health Center's Refugee Medical Clinic and Newcomers Health Program began the month of recognition by celebrating 32 years of collaboration responding to refugee health issues in San Francisco with a Refugee Awareness Month breakfast on Thursday May 26. In the past year over 360 refugees and asylees from more than 40 different countries of origin, speaking over 20 languages, have received comprehensive health assessment services and been linked into a primary care medical home through our collaborative services.

Move About Theater Entertains LHH Residents and Public

When the new Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center opened, one of the many new collaborative ideas that emerged was an effort between the Activities and Communications Departments to bring a wider variety of entertainment to Laguna Honda that would enrich the lives of our residents and further our goal of integrating them into the larger San Francisco community.

This spring, the Move About Theater—a group comprised of mostly Lowell HS students who write, develop and produce plays in public venues around the city—brought their series of one-act plays to Laguna Honda over two weekends in April. The plays were free and were attended by both Laguna Honda residents and the general public. We are grateful to the Move About Theater for their efforts and look forward to hosting them again.

Laguna Honda Launches Staff Development Initiative

Laguna Honda launched a new staff development initiative in May, convening an interdisciplinary steering committee under the guidance of the Quality Management Department to promote the transition from institutionalized care to individualized care. The initiative is designed to help lay the groundwork for the hospital's long term goal of becoming a center of excellence in skilled nursing and rehabilitation. Members of the hospital executive committee and quality improvement committee developed a nine-point strategy to engage staff members in a collaborative process to exceed regulatory standards.

Bay Area Mass Prophylaxis Working Group Testing On-Line Tool

The Bay area Mass Prophylaxis working Group is looking for intrepid volunteers to help test an online tool that would be used to help screen the entire public in the event of an infectious disease emergency. There are a number of reasons why this effort has a broad geographical focus. An event in the Bay Area requiring massive antibiotics—such as an anthrax attack—would be extremely rare, but, because of our mobile population, would require enormous response efforts throughout the entire Bay Area. It is, therefore, important that all Bay Area health departments follow essentially the same practices when it comes to dispensing antibiotics to prevent any anthrax disease. These were some of the driving factors that brought Bay Area health officers together to create a screening tool with standardized questions that should be asked of everyone to prevent the most serious side effects or reactions from taking the wrong antibiotic. The work to design an online questionnaire also produced a regional website, <http://BayAreaDisasterMeds.org>, to serve as a site for information before or during an event.

Future of Youth and Healthy Living Forum at Chinatown YMCA

The Department of Public Health will be well represented at the YMCA of San Francisco's Community Forum on **Wednesday June 8, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the **Chinatown YMCA**. The meeting intent is to provide a forum for a meaningful discussion about the future of youth and healthy living in our communities. Tomas Aragon, MD, Health Officer; Christina Goette, Shape Up San Francisco; and Sai-Ling Chan Sew, Director, Child, Youth & Family System of Care, are among the panelists and speakers.

Lead Hazard Guide for Urban Gardens and Farms

The Children's Environmental Health Promotion Program (within Environmental Health) has prepared a "Lead Hazard Risk Assessment and Management Guidance for Urban Gardens and Farms" for use by San Francisco residents, community groups and City agencies, to be posted on the Environmental Health home page "What's New?" section, www.sfenvironmentalhealth.org. The purpose of the Guidance is to assist anyone who works with local food production to do so safely without being exposed to lead hazards and in the process, reduce the potential for lead uptake by edible plants and fruit-bearing trees. Partnerships are in progress via the citywide Food Systems Program managed by DPH Environmental Health and the Urban Nature community gardens program, managed by the Department of the

Environment. Educational workshops for the public will be planned with non-profit partner Garden for the Environment. For further information, contact karen.cohn@sfdph.org, 252-3898.

American Medical News Highlights HealthySF

Healthy San Francisco was the spotlight story for the May 30th issue of *American Medical News* out of Washington, D.C. Reporter Doug Trapp, who was one of the first national reporters to write about HealthySF in 2007, returned to San Francisco for several days of interviews and updates. The link to his story can be found at

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/05/30/gvsa0530.htm>.

Ms. Garcia acknowledged the loss of Anthony Valerio and Vincent Perez, two San Francisco Firefighters, who died fighting a fire on June 4.

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Erik Levy asked the Health Commission to help change the definition of a cannabis collective from the current standard of nine members to one hundred members. He asked for this change because many dispensaries cannot afford the permit fees.

Cynthia Citizen asked for the permit fees to be waved for the Axis of Love cannabis dispensary.

Denise Dorey stated that she believes the Axis of Love is what a cannabis club/collective should be about. It is not about making money but about supporting community.

Shona Gochera, CEO of the Axis of Love Community Center, stated that she is requesting that the Health Commission support the change of definition of a medical cannabis dispensary to include more than nine patients. She stated that a change of definition to allow up to 100 patients would be a true community benefit.

Gregory, Activities Director of Axis of Love, stated that the definition of a community center is different than a dispensary because a community center provides support beyond dispensing medicine.

Penny Graham, Axis of Love member and community advocate, stated that Axis of Love members can no longer afford marijuana. The Axis of Love helps to distribute marijuana as well as provide other support.

Elise Cleveland, Axis of Love patient and HIV group leader, stated that marijuana has helped her improve her quality of life.

Steven Crane, member of Axis of Love, stated that prior to becoming involved with Axis of Love, he was in a lot of pain. The cannabis has assisted him with pain relief.

Floyd stated that nine members is a very low number of a definition of a medical cannabis dispensary. Axis of Love helps with food distribution as well as cannabis distribution.

Aaron Brown stated that the fortieth anniversary of the war on drugs is approaching and so much opportunity to help communities in need has been wasted. The definition of a medical cannabis dispensary needs to be changed to increase the number of members.

Marguies Ausby, member of Axis of Love, stated that the center gives compassion in many ways in addition to the distribution of marijuana.

Roosevelt Hemphill stated that he is an ex offender and that Axis of Love has helped him stabilize his life.

Oscar Islaf, disabled Veteran, stated that the Director of Axis of Love has helped so many people and that the center is a safe place that provides food and health education.

Kim Stolz stated that Axis of Love is not just a dispensary. The Director of the center has helped her with housing and services that have improved her quality of life.

Jae Sohn stated that Axis of Love does not sell cannabis; no funds are exchanged. He asked that the definition of a medical cannabis dispensary be changed to 100 members.

Theresa Cooper stated that she is high functioning individual who needed healing and has found it at Axis of Love.

5) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Jim Illig, Chair, gave the report. He stated that the Committee has a number of concerns about the current format of the Contracts Report and will be working with the DPH staff to revise it. He stated that for the current report, the amounts listed for the Shanti and HillRom contracts are the total contract amounts. In addition, the Committee requested that the Shanti contract, currently listed as having a ten year term, be limited to a five year term.

Commissioner Illig also stated that the Committee gave input on the outline for the 2010 Charity Care Report and heard an update on the Healthcare Service Master Plan.

Action Taken: The Contracts Report was unanimously approved.

6) BUDGET UPDATE

Gregg Sass, Chief Financial Officer, gave the update.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Illig asked how the State Plan Amendment to the Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal Program will be approved. Mr. Sass stated that the Center for MediCare and Medicaid Services must approve the amendment after the state legislation is passed. He also stated that currently California counties only receive the federal portion, approximately 50%, of the state allowance for MediCare and MediCal.

Commissioner Illig asked if mid-year cuts will occur. Mr. Sass stated that a mid-year cut process may be necessary.

Commissioner Illig stated that he hopes that the DPH will be empowered to decide how any "addback" money will be spent. Ms. Garcia stated that the DPH already has already prioritized various groups in preparation for potential "addbacks."

Commissioner Illig commended the DPH staff, specifically Ms. Garcia, Mr. Sass, Jen Louie, James Alexander and Michelle Ruggels, for the work on this year's budget.

7) FINAL LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL TRANSITION UPDATE

Mivic Hirose, Executive Administrator, gave the presentation.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Sako requested a status update on the original objectives of the project and how they have changed as the project has progressed. She also requested a detailed cost analysis of the projected versus actual costs of the work completed. Ms. Hirose stated that she will present this information at the next Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) JCC.

Commissioner Waters asked whether LHH will attempt to be classified as a Center of Excellence. Ms. Hirose stated that LHH is using the Long Term Care standards for their quality benchmarks. Ms. Hirose also noted that the patient satisfaction data included in the current report is somewhat biased because LHH staff administered the surveys. LHH will utilize more objective methods for future patient and family surveys.

Commissioner Waters commended LHH for inclusion of five clinical nurse specialists as part of their staff.

Commissioner Waters asked the cost of the new voicemail. Ms. Hirose stated that there is no added cost because voicemail is included in the cost of the current phone system that LHH utilizes.

Commissioner Illig stated that he appreciates that the focus of LHH is on the patient experience.

Commissioner Sanchez commended Ms. Hirose on an excellent report. He also suggested that LHH should disseminate information on the LHH model of care to other long term care facilities.

Commissioner Chow stated that he would like the LHH JCC to be presented with information on how LHH fits into the integrated service delivery system and the long-term strategy for the effective use of LHH. He also requested a detailed report of the financial cost of both completed objectives of the Rebuild Project and work yet to be done. In addition, he requested that Mr. Morewitz be consistent in distributing the JCC minutes to the Commissioners.

8) SFGH REBUILD UPDATE

Sue Currin, Executive Administrator, announced that the project is on schedule and remains within the projected budget. She introduced the Rebuild Staff: Terry Saltz, SFGH Rebuild Program Director, Ron Alameida, DPW, and Mark Primeau, DPH Capital Projects Consultant. Mr. Saltz stated that the SFGH Rebuild Team has been working with the LHH Rebuild Team to review the lessons learned from the LHH project.

Commissioner Illig asked for clarification of the \$1M art enrichment budget line item. Mr. Alameida stated that the Art Commission, in conjunction with SFGH staff, have commissioned art for the new building.

Commissioner Illig asked whether the SFGH Rebuild staff have checked with PG & E regarding the testing of gas lines before the construction begins. Mr. Alameda stated that this has not been done and that SFGH Rebuild staff will check into this.

Commissioner Sako asked if there are plans for fundraising opportunities to name new buildings. Ms. Currin stated that the Commission will be notified of fund raising events as they are planned. Ms. Currin stated that funds raised at these types of events will likely be used to assist in paying for the furniture, fixtures and other items not covered by the Rebuild budget.

Commissioner Illig commended Mr. Saltz and the Rebuild Team for their effective efforts to create a positive relationship with the community.

Commissioner Melara asked for clarification on the reason for the low number of people hired for the project who live in zip codes 94110 and 94107. Mr. Alameida stated that the low number of people hired in these zip codes indicates the lack of available general labor and specialty trade labor in these areas.

9) OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Garcia announced the appointment of Colleen Chawla as Deputy Director and Director of Policy and Planning.

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

There was no discussion of this issue.

COMMITTEE AGENDA SETTING

Commissioner Melara asked the other Commissioners if they would like to schedule the cannabis dispensary issue that was the subject of public comment as an item on a future agenda. Commissioner Sako suggested that the Commission receive a summary of the issue from the DPH prior to making a scheduling decision.

10) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.