

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

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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, February 7 2012, 4:00 p.m.

101 GROVE STREET, ROOM 300 or ROOM 302
San Francisco, CA 94102

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2012.

Action Taken: The minutes of the January 17, 2012 Health Commission meeting 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 full report can be viewed at:

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

Remembering Susan Poff and Dr. Robert Kamin

As the Commission may have heard in the news over the weekend of January 28, two valued members of San Francisco's public health team – Susan Poff, a physician assistant with the Housing and Urban Health Clinic, and Dr. Robert Kamin, a psychologist with Haight Ashbury Free Clinics-Walden House working with Jail Health – were killed in Oakland. Susan and Bob were respected and experienced health care professionals with a deep commitment to serving San Francisco's most vulnerable populations.

Norovirus Outbreak at St. Ignatius College Preparatory High School

The Department's Communicable Disease Control & Prevention (CDCP) Section is investigating a large outbreak of viral gastroenteritis at St. Ignatius College Preparatory High School. Illness onsets began on

Monday, January 30, and by Friday, February 3, St. Ignatius reported more than 400 ill students and more than 30 ill teachers. Approximately five students visited local Emergency Departments, but no admissions and no deaths have been reported. SFPDH Public Health Laboratory performed testing on stool specimens and confirmed Norovirus as the cause. CDCP has recommended exclusion of ill students and staff, intensive and environmental cleaning of school facilities and vehicles used to transport students. The Environmental Health Section has inspected and reviewed cleaning instructions with facility personnel in person and over the phone. To facilitate the exclusion recommendations and to implement thorough cleaning, late Tuesday, St. Ignatius decided to close the school for the week. That evening a letter was sent to families and staff, which included links to the CDCP website page containing information regarding viral gastroenteritis. A press conference with the St. Ignatius principal and the County Health Officer, Dr. Tomás Aragón, was held at St. Ignatius on Wednesday. Both the SFPDH home webpage and the CDCP home webpage include short descriptions about viral gastroenteritis with links to more detailed information about viral gastroenteritis and Norovirus in addition to helpful information on how to protect one's household from illness.

Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Week

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 is our nation's 12th **National Black HIV Awareness Day**. In San Francisco, the San Francisco Department of Public Health AIDS Office and various community-based organizations will kick off National Black HIV Awareness Day at 4:30 p.m. at Black Coalition AIDS (2800 Third Street), followed by a candlelight march to the Bayview Opera House. Free HIV and STI testing will be available. The Health Commission and members of the public are encouraged to attend. For more information about the week's activities and events, contact Vincent Fuqua, AIDS Office, 554-9073, Vincent.Fuqua@sfdph.org.

Ambulatory Electronic Medical Record Implemented at Chinatown Health Center

The DPH CareLinkSF project, which is the implementation of the eClinicalWorks Ambulatory Electronic Medical Record system, reached a key milestone with Chinatown Health Center going live on January 23rd. Under the leadership of Dr. Albert Yu, the clinic staff began seeing patients utilizing the new system with a minimum of problems or disruptions. The system will continue to be deployed at both Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) and hospital-based clinics with Castro Mission Health Center scheduled for implantation in early May, and 6M Pediatrics at San Francisco General Hospital in late June. Dr. Yu and his team are to be congratulated for the vision and hard work required to bring this process to such a successful conclusion.

No Deaths from Pertussis in California in 2011

For the first year since 1991, California did not suffer a single death in 2011 from the highly contagious illness, whooping cough in 2011. California experienced a whooping cough epidemic in 2010 when over 9,000 were infected. Most vulnerable to the disease are infants too young to be fully immunized. Ten babies in the state died in 2010 after exposure from adults or older children.

Tobacco Control Report Card

On January 19, 2012 the American Lung Association released the *State of Tobacco Control 2012*, an annual report that provides grades to the federal government and all 50 states and the District of Columbia on four key tobacco control areas. In conjunction with this national report, the American Lung Association in California released the *State of Tobacco Control 2012 – California Local Grades*, which issues grades to all cities and counties in California on local tobacco control policies including those for smoke-free outdoor environments, smoke-free housing, and reducing sales of tobacco products.

San Francisco, along with Oakland, was one of the two larger cities in the Bay Area to receive an overall B grade. While San Francisco scored high on outdoor smoke-free policies, due to its comprehensive second hand smoke ordinance being adopted in 2010, it scored a D on smoke-free housing. Currently, smoking is only prohibited in enclosed common areas of multi-unit housing complexes in San Francisco. The new CDC Communities Transformation grant will begin to address smoke-free housing policies in subsidized low-income housing. San Francisco received an A on reducing sales of tobacco products due to its innovative ban on tobacco sales in pharmacies and strong tobacco permit ordinance.

Black Infant Health Program Hosts Afrocentric Parenting Conference on February 24th

On February 24, the San Francisco Black Infant Health Program will host the 17th annual Afrocentric Parenting Conference, "Still I Rise: The Healing Journey," from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the West Bay Community Center, 1290 Fillmore St. Dr. Joy Angela Degruy, author of "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing," who will describe how repeated historical traumas on African Americans impact their lives today. She will offer a pathway for healing to ensure well being and the sustained health of future generations. The registration fee is \$40, and the deadline to register is Thursday, February 16. Continuing education credit is available for nurses, social workers, and health educators. More information is available at 776-4457 or by e-mail at sfbihevents@yahoo.com.

Dietitian Honored for Excellence in Community Nutrition

Congratulations to Laguna Honda Registered Dietitian Tiffany Kearney, who was honored in January by the **California Dietetics Association** for *Excellence in Community Nutrition*. Tiffany work serves a diverse population of people who have many nutritional risks such as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, mental health issues, diabetes and cardiovascular, renal and liver disease, to name a few. She is the also the dietitian for the Bayview Hunters Point Adult Day Health Center where she co-authored a grant to allow the center to cook meals in-house and cater to the clientele's cultural preferences. Another grant provides minimally-processed foods in a childcare center to low income children ages 0 - 6. These children now get a wide variety of fruits and vegetables that they may not otherwise be exposed to.

DPH Policies and Procedures Now Available On-Line

DPH policies and procedures can now be found online in the new DPH Policy and Procedures Library. The Library hosts policies and procedures that are meant for use throughout DPH (as opposed to those specific to SFGH, LHH, or other facilities or units). Each policy and procedure is listed in two different sections, by category and by unit, to aid in searching. The library is on the Internet, and available to the public at: <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/knowlcol/policies/default.asp>

Laguna Honda Available to Community Organizations to Hold Meetings

Laguna Honda hosted a day-long retreat for the executive leadership team of Episcopal Senior Services of the Bay Area in January. As part of its community integration program, the hospital welcomes other healthcare service organizations to hold meetings on its new campus, for a nominal fee. Members of the Episcopal Senior Services President's Forum, its leadership body, spent the day reviewing organizational goals and accomplishments. The group toured the new hospital and met with hospital staff.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Chow thanked all the DPH staff who worked to contain the Norovirus outbreak. He asked whether the school had reopened. Director Garcia stated that the school has reopened and that the DPH continues to monitor the situation and work with school staff.

Commissioner Illig stated that Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) has a beautiful facility and encouraged non-profits to consider using it for retreats and community meetings.

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

5) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Commissioner James Illig, Chair, stated that the Committee reviewed and recommended that the full Health Commission approve the monthly Contracts Report and site relocation requests from: Mission Council on Alcohol Abuse for the Spanish Speaking, Larkin Street Youth Services, and Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinics Inc-Walden House. The Committee also heard an update from the DPH Human Resources Department.

6) CONSENT CALENDAR

Action Taken: The February 2012 Contracts Report was unanimously approved.

Action Taken: The following site relocation requests were unanimously approved:

- MISSION COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL ABUSE FOR THE SPANISH SPEAKING
- LARKIN STREET YOUTH SERVICES
- HAIGHT ASHBURY FREE MEDICAL CLINICS, INC – WALDEN HOUSE

7) BUDGET UPDATE

Greg Wagner, DPH Chief Financial Officer, stated in discussions with the Mayor's Office, it was agreed that the Department of Public Health would submit its budget meeting the 5% reduction target without meeting the contingency reductions. If the DPH is asked to consider further reductions, contingency proposals will be brought before the Health Commission for approval.

Public Comment:

Sherilyn Adams, Executive Director of Larkin Street, stated that housing is directly related to health care. Cuts at the federal level in addition to the local cuts will decimate housing services for people with HIV.

Michael Siever, SF AIDS Foundation Director of Behavior Health Services, stated that over the past few years of budget cuts, the service system, especially services for substance users, has been severely weakened. Cutting substance abuse programs will impact the health of San Francisco's safety net population.

Jack Maclean, DISH general manager, stated that most homeless folks have suffered enormous trauma. Cutting secure housing will re-traumatize this population.

Amy Rasen, SAGE Executive Director, stated that cutting the budget by 25% of the only agency serving the most traumatized population in San Francisco will result in many of them ending up on the streets, in jail, and using costly emergency services at SFGH.

Doug Gary, DISH Co-Director, stated that the DPH has already made investments to make their buildings safe; divesting at this time seems like a waste. He stated that the Camelot Hotel is ADA compliant and invited the Commissioners to take a tour.

Lauren Hall, DISH Co Director, stated that 450 units are provided by DISH; the Star and Camelot programs are strong and deserve to be saved. In addition, the proposed budget cuts go against the City's 10 year plan to end homelessness. There are currently 800 people on the waitlist for their programs.

Gerardo Ramos, SFAF Client Service Director, stated that the proposed cuts would reduce housing subsidies for people with HIV by 44%. The client population does not have the funds to take care of their basic needs.

Jennifer Gunn, RN at the SFGH Renal Center, stated that the SFGH outpatient dialysis unit is the only program that provides care to the safety net population and that no private company will provide quality services to the very complex clientele. She requested that the RFP to bid out these services be delayed.

Fernando Ysais, patient at the SFGH outpatient Renal Center, asked for the outpatient program to remain open to save the patients lives. The program is currently run by staff that have important expertise with the patient population.

Louella Lee, SFGH Renal Center employee, stated that the outpatient dialysis is a model program. She stated that the City will have to bear exponentially more expensive inpatient treatment for many of the safety net population who will not access care outside of SFGH.

Rubin Rodriguez, SFGH Renal Center employee, stated that the outpatient dialysis program has been at SFGH since 1967. He requested that the RFP release be delayed until more community discussion can take place.

Bobby Fisher, SFAF Housing and Benefits Manager, stated that housing is tied to health status and should be considered a health service.

Don Lewis, DISH hotel manager, stated that DISH staff have developed a sense of community and trusting relationships with very disenfranchised client population.

Jennifer Friedenbach, Coalition on Homelessness Executive Director, urged the Commission to look at historical cuts and its impact on public health system. She stated that requests for families and individuals at shelters have tripled and that now is not the time to take away services.

Ed Warshauer, SEIU, stated that the DPH always has to shoulder a "lion's share" of the City's budget cuts. He encouraged the Commission to explore every avenue that would prevent service cuts.

Jackie Jenks, Central City Hospitality House Executive Director, stated that proposed budget cuts will impact services to the most vulnerable population who have fallen through cracks of other programs. She stated that Project Homeless Connect did not receive a cut; Central City Hospitality House programs connect daily at a deeper service level with the same population.

Jenny Collins stated that she appreciated the collaborative nature of the budget process this year and gave credit to both Director Garcia and Mayor Lee. She asked the Health Commission to protest the cuts if the budget must be moved forward as is.

Vitka Eisen, CEO HAFCI-Walden House, stated that she would like to hear more detail on the Adult Probation budget issue to make sure cuts do not impact the service system.

Debbie Lerman, SF Human Services Network, stated that the current budget proposal only looks at the budget principle relating to unmatched General Funds; she encourages the DPH and the Health Commission to pay attention to the other principles and to reconsider CBO cuts in light of budget items like salary increases for the UCSF physicians.

Commissioner Comments/ Follow-Up:

Commissioner Sanchez thanked everyone for their comments and stated that the SFGH outpatient dialysis proposal will be discussed at the February 14, 2012 SFGH JCC meeting.

Commissioner Chow stated that he is concerned about the impact of cuts taken “across the board” on smaller agencies who are more dependent on the General Fund. He requested considering reducing the cuts to this group so that they can continue to use their expertise to serve vulnerable populations. He also stated that he hopes the 5 year Budget Subcommittee’s triple aims (Integrated Delivery Service System, Public Health Accreditation Activities, and Budget Efficiencies) will lead to effective budget decisions in the future. He also stated that the Health Commission should articulate to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors the impact of the current proposed budget cuts on the service system.

Commissioner Illig thanked the DPH staff for being creative in finding revenues to offset the budget. He stated that he is concerned about how the proposed budget cuts may change the housing system and impact vulnerable homeless populations. He also stated that the DPH receives the largest proportional cuts during each budget process and as the DPH is preparing for health care reform, it needs the large array of community based services to be a part of the larger service system. Additionally, he stated that he is most concerned about cuts of services to vulnerable populations that could cost the DPH and the City more money in the long-term.

Commissioner Melara stated that it is important to recognize that the DPH budget process is part of a larger City budget problem; it is especially important to look at set-asides when the Mayor and Board of Supervisors consider the final budget.

Director Garcia thanked the Commissioners for their thoughtful suggestions. She stated that the DPH has attempted to stay away from cutting revenue-earning General Fund programs.

Commissioner Tierney thanked the members of the community for their comments. He stated that it is his belief that housing is healthcare and that housing especially impacts the health of people with HIV. He encouraged the members of the community to continue working with the DPH and the Health Commission throughout this budget process.

8) OTHER BUSINESS

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Melara, LHH JCC Chair, gave an update from the 1/31/12 meeting:

- LHH staff have continued to work with the DPH Environment Health Section in efforts to mitigate the sound created by equipment in the new building. As part of this process, LHH staff discovered that some of the sound was coming from the nearby Muni building. Several neighbors of Laguna Honda attended the meeting and gave public comment regarding their experience of the sound issues. The Committee has asked for continued updates on this issue.
- An Update on the Gift Report was heard. No new requests to expend funds were made.

- A presentation on the LHH Resident Satisfaction Survey Data was discussed. The Survey data shows that residents are still transitioning to new technology and to the paradigms of care teams versus previous reliance on ward nurses

Commissioner Chow, SFGH JCC Chair, stated that the outpatient renal dialysis proposal will be discussed at the February 14, 2012 SFGH JCC meeting.

COMMITTEE AGENDA SETTING

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm with a moment of silence in honor of Susan Poff and Dr. Robert Kamin.