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**MINUTES  
HEALTH COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:00 p.m.  
101 Grove, Room 300, San Francisco, CA 94102**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Commissioner Belle Taylor-McGhee, Chair  
Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Member  
Commissioner Judith Karshmer, Member

**2) ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2014 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Action Taken: The Committee approved the April 18, 2014 meeting minutes.

**3) REQUEST FOR SITE APPROVAL FOR RELOCATION OF HYDE STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. TO 815 HYDE STREET (AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 79 OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, THE CITIZENS' RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1998, (ALSO REFERRED TO AS "PROP. 1").**

Sean Nguyen, Program Manager, gave the presentation, stating that -presents-took over contract in July 2003; rent is doubling at current location.

Cindy Gyori, Executive of Hyde Street Community Services, noted that the agency took over the contract in July 2003, and provided an overview of the services offered. She stated that the current landlord intends to double the rent, and the agency decided to actively pursue the 815 Hyde Street site in March. She added that the site has the advantages of being a medical use building with a reasonable rent. She also stated that the current location has been in service since the 1970s and provides excellent care and is the third busiest clinic; if the clinic is not allowed to relocate, those clients will not have anywhere to go for care in that area.

**Public Comment:**

Tom Lyle requested a continuance due to a lack of proper notice of the meeting, and stated that other people would have liked to appear for comment.

Robert Garcia with Save Our Streets, stated that he lives a block from the proposed location, and did not see the sign. It was not properly posted and meetings were not held to make neighbors aware of the change. He relayed bad experiences in the past with similar situations. He stated that problems of the Tenderloin moving up the hill and causing problems. He requested a continuance so that neighbors would have an opportunity to learn about the issue.

Ken Bridgeman, who lives half a block from the proposed site, noted that it is a historical site. He stated that the community did not hear about this in time. The neighborhood already has Grenada Hotel and Larkin Street and a Homeless center.

Michael Hall, representing the Nob Hill Hotel, next door to proposed location, submitted written comments to oppose the move. He also joined in the request to have a continuance of the hearing so that the community can get more information. He suggested the Commission consider environmental impact of another NGO in a neighborhood that is already overserved.

**Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:**

Commissioner Chung asked how clients would access the new site?

Ms. Gyori noted that transportation routes are attached to the proposal, and bus 27 would be the most direct. There are two bus routes within the same block and some people can walk.

Commissioner Taylor-McGee asked when the notice was actually put up.

Ms. Gyori replied that the notice went up on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and was put on as many doorways they could get access to on that particular Friday.

Commissioner Chung asked whether the agency had considered an outreach plan to communicate with the neighbors?

Ms. Gyori stated that the agency plans to hold community meetings and work collaboratively with neighbors to ensure that clients are accepted.

Commissioner Chung asked if the clients are coming from all neighborhoods or just the Tenderloin?

Ms. Gyori said yes, the clients are coming from all over, including the Bayview. But the majority of clients do live nearby. She added that overall, transportation is not expected to be an issue, as the new location is only 15 minutes away from the current location.

Mark Davy, Board of Hyde Street Community Services, stated that the agency complied with notice requirements, and some people did come to June 5 meeting. He said that comments like “sea of shopping carts” are abrasive and misunderstand the clients. He suggested that the clinic is a good move because it would actually use the building for its intended purpose and the serves an important function for the health of the community.

Director Garcia stated that this hearing is just one piece of the entire process. She noted that the agency is aware that this is an established, ongoing process and the clinic is required to have an open door to neighbors for as long as it’s in the community.

Commissioner Chung noted that the proposed site was used previously as API and Transgender drop-in center. She said she understood why it might be an attractive site for the relocation, given its history over the past 15 years.

Robert Garcia requested public comment and noted that the building owners had been problematic in the past. The flyers went out on Friday on Father's Day weekend, so the community didn't have time to organize a response. He reiterated his request for a continuance.

Commissioner Chung requested clarification on the implications of delaying the process at the Commission.

Director Garcia replied that the process works and is very important, even if agencies have been in the same location for decades. She asked Ms. Gyori if she would be willing to engage with the neighbors during the time until the next Commission meeting.

Director Garcia reiterated that the process is very important and the agency needs to engage the neighbors in a meaningful way, and in an ongoing way.

Ms. Gyori committed to having two meetings over the next weeks to engage with the neighbors at a location of their choosing.

Director Garcia addressed the community and stated that DPH believes in the in the community process, and the importance of engagement on an ongoing basis.

Commissioner Chung reiterated that there must be an open dialogue before it comes to the Commission.

Director Garcia directed DPH staff to help with the arrangement of the meetings, and make sure there is an opportunity for neighbors to engage. She stressed to the neighbors that this program provides excellent services and is important in its current neighborhood. She added that it has good supervision of staff and clients.

Commissioner Taylor-McGee asked if delaying a decision until July 15, would still allow the move to happen in September. Ms. Gyori replied that yes, they would have to make it happen .

Commissioner Taylor-McGee noted that there are two competing issues: one is to ensure that health services are provided to those who need them, and the other is that the neighbors need to have full information. She suggested increased cooperation from both sides and recommended delaying the vote until next the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Action Taken:** The Commissioners voted to continue the item until the next meeting on July 15.

#### 4) **STD UPDATE**

Susan Philip, MD MPH, Director, Disease Prevention and Control, gave the presentation.

##### **Commissioner Comments/ Follow-Up:**

Commissioner Chung asked if the Epi data captures data on Homelessness and HIV? She requested information on homeless women in particular.

Dr. Philip replied that yes, attempts at data collection are made at all clinics. The homeless population is one that has less viral suppression. She noted that sometimes the focus is on MSM or MSM of color because data are examined for where people are disproportionately impacted to put resources there.

Commissioner Karshmer asked if there is a divergence of strategies for HIV and STDs?

Dr. Philip replied that the divergence seems to have developed organically. She noted that condom use is lower in some sexual practice as HIV treatment and HIV prevention treatment is growing. The

message needs to be that condoms are beneficial and the community needs to be engaged in developing this message.

Commissioner Taylor-McGee commended Dr. Philip on the city's HIV prevention efforts. She asked how stigma might impact STD rates, and whether the lessons from HIV prevention are transferable to STD prevention, especially among MSM and African American youth.

Dr. Philip replied that we don't yet have analogous bio-medical strategies against STDs that we have for HIV treatment and prevention. STDs strategies are different-need frequent screening because they can spread rapidly. The STD trends locally are reflective of what's happening nationally.

Commissioner Taylor-McGee stated that the messaging around STDs may need to change to include benefits and risks. She asked what the next steps are for addressing high STD rates.

Dr. Philip replied that priorities are to maintain availability of clinical services; while focusing on increased engagement.

Commissioner Chung questioned if there are any similarities between groups are who are vulnerable to both STDs and HIV?

Dr. Philip replied that there a lot of other factors, including social determinants of health and incarceration.

The Commissioners requested another update on this topic when data become available.

## 5) SRO HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Cyndy Comerford, Project Director, Environmental Health Division, gave the presentation.

### Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Karshmer asked if the data is for all SROs or only private SROs.

Ms. Comerford replied that most of the issues and recommendations centered around private SROs.

Commissioner Karshmer enquired about the relationship between private and public SROs.

Ms. Comerford answered that direct access SROs run by non-profits have supportive services onsite and case management and contract with the city. Private SROs do not have these resources. She added that public SROs do coordinated assessments, which better address health.

Commissioner Karshmer asked if there is a difference in quality of buildings used for private or public SROs.

Ms. Comerford answered that yes, non-profits tend to have more renovations and newer buildings.

Commissioner Chung noted that about the number of alcohol outlets near SROs (67%) stands out as high, but the recommendations don't seem to address this. Ms. Comerford replied that issue of substance abuse in the analysis captures the issues related to the number of alcohol outlets.

Commissioner Taylor-McGee asked what the timeline is on the health impact assessment.

Ms. Comerford replied that the team is finalizing assessment, and they hope to finalize recommendations by late fall.

Commissioner Taylor-McGee asked what the key health issues are for SRO residents.

Ms. Comerford answered that there is a wide range of issues, ranging from food insecurity to lack of physical activity, to small room size and isolation.

Commissioner Taylor-McGee asked about the \$2M is being spent on ER services for SRO residents.

Ms. Comerford stated that that was a 2009 number, so costs are likely much higher.

Commissioner Chung wanted to know more about violence in SROs.

Ms. Comerford answered that violence against women was mentioned, and 70% of reported crimes in SF is in this neighborhood.

Commissioners recommended that the SRO update return to the Community and Public Health Committee before going onto the full Commission.

**6) SFDPH BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH INITIATIVE**

(Tomas Aragon, Health Officer and Director of PHD)

This item was postponed to a later date.

**7) EMERGING ISSUES**

This item was not discussed.

**8) PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no general public comment.

**9) ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3:51 PM.