

**Edward A. Chow, M.D.**  
President

**David B. Singer**  
Vice President

**Cecilia Chung**  
Commissioner

**Judith Karshmer, Ph.D., PMHCNS-BC.**  
Commissioner

**David Pating, M.D.**  
Commissioner

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

**Belle Taylor-McGhee**  
Commissioner

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

**Edwin M. Lee, Mayor**  
**Department of Public Health**



**Barbara A. Garcia, M.P.A.**  
Director of Health

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**MINUTES**

**HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 4:00 p.m.**

**101 Grove Street, Room 300 or Room 302**

**San Francisco, CA 94102**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D., President  
Commissioner Cecilia Chung  
Commissioner David Pating, M.D.  
Commissioner David J. Sanchez Jr., Ph.D.

Excused: Commissioner Judith Karshmer, Ph.D, PMHCNS-BC  
Commissioner David B. Singer, Vice President  
Commissioner Belle Taylor-McGhee

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

**2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 4, 2014 AND DECEMBER 16, 2014.**

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the December 4, 2014 and December 16, 2014 Health Commission meetings.

**3)** Barbara Garcia, Director of Health, gave the report. The full report can be viewed at:

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

**Certificate of Honor**

Dr. Joe Goldenson was presented a Certificate of Honor by the Board of Supervisors, authored by Supervisor David Campos, on December 19, 2014 in acknowledgement of his upcoming retirement. After 28 years of service to Jail Health Services, the certificate recognized Dr. Goldenson for having devoted his professional career to the health care needs of incarcerated people who are among the most marginalized in society.

### **Shigella Increase Sickens Homeless and Non-homeless Populations**

There was a significant increase in the number of Shigella cases in the city last month, with 83 cases confirmed through December 29, 2014. Shigella typically occurs in San Francisco at the rate of five to 10 cases per month. Shigella is a bacteria that usually causes diarrhea that lasts a few days. Rarely, it can cause more serious illness.

Among the cases this December, about 40 percent are in people who are known to be homeless. The Health Department's San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT) is using its new medical model to provide outreach to the homeless population on the streets. The Health Department also is working with the city's shelters and soup kitchens to ensure proper sanitation, hand washing facilities and information is made available to clients.

### **SFHN Announces New Partnership with NEMS**

San Francisco's Medi-Cal beneficiaries have a new option for health care services. The San Francisco Health Network announced on December 30, 2014 a partnership with North East Medical Services (NEMS) that will allow patients to receive primary care at NEMS clinics and specialty and hospital care at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.

Membership in the new NMSS (NEMS with SFHN) network is available to the Medi-Cal Managed Care and Healthy Kids populations enrolled through the San Francisco Health Plan. NEMS patients who join the new network will have access to SFHN hospital services including labor and delivery, emergency and trauma care; specialty services such as cardiology, endocrinology, neurology, oncology, gastroenterology; and diagnostic services including X-ray, cardiology and laboratory services.

### **Administrative Relief for Immigrants**

President Obama signed a series of Executive Actions on November 20, 2014, that could provide temporary protection from deportation and work permits to nearly 5 million immigrants nationwide. The largest groups eligible for this Administrative Relief are people who entered the United States as undocumented children, and undocumented parents of citizen or lawfully-present immigrant children. In California, some of these individuals could also become eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal coverage.

Mayor Lee issued an Executive Directive on November 21, 2014, that requires the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to align and coordinate San Francisco's Immigrant Assistance Programs with the President's Executive Actions. In coordination with city departments, OCEIA is developing a citywide plan for outreach, anti-fraud education and application assistance for immigrants who may be eligible for administrative relief. Full implementation of the plan is slated to begin in the spring of 2015. As a department that serves immigrants across all service lines, SFDPH looks forward to working with OCEIA to facilitate planning and implementation efforts.

### **Warm Line**

Warm Line has been the subject of continued coverage since its soft opening in August of 2014. The City's Mental Health Triage Warm Line has taken more than 1,400 calls with a steady increase in calls as more people learn about the line. It's an especially difficult time of year around the holidays and some people are turning to Warm Line just for someone to talk to. The Chronicle covered Warm Line in a December 9, 2014 article highlighting the aim to provide a reassuring voice for people before they reach a point of crisis.

### **SFHN Doctors Featured in Latest San Francisco Magazine**

Four SFHN doctors are featured in *San Francisco* magazine's Best Doctors 2015 issue. Publisher Paul Reulbach mentions that the inspiration for the "When Doctors Need Doctors" cover story was born at last year's SFGH Foundation Heroes & Hearts Luncheon. Of the six doctors featured in the section, three of them are from The General: Dr. Deborah Cohan, Dr. Andre Campbell and Dr. Alice Huan-Hei Chen and one is from Laguna Honda Hospital: Dr. Grace Dammann. They share their poignant, surprising and joyful survival stories that show us the human side they share with the people they treat.

**Gift from Kaiser Supports Shape Up SF** – Shape Up SF's Bayview HEAL Zone was granted \$1 million for an additional two years by Kaiser Permanente. The funding was announced at a press conference in Mayor Ed Lee's office on December 17, 2014 along with several other Kaiser Permanente investments in San Francisco. With these funds, the Bayview HEAL Zone will continue its work to renovate and activate MLK park; initiate a pilot community van shuttle program, build urban agriculture infrastructure/capacity, decrease sugary drink consumption and transform corner stores. All these programs are designed to create environments and social norms that support healthy eating and active living.

### **Project Homeless Connect celebrates 10 years**

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) was created by Mayor Gavin Newsom and the San Francisco Department of Public Health in 2004 as a way to bring necessary services to people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, PHC was held for the 57<sup>th</sup> time on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. In one day at a PHC event, a person experiencing homelessness can find services that would otherwise take months to secure. These services include dental care, eyeglasses, HIV testing, housing information, food, hygiene products, medical care, mental health services, SSI benefits, legal advice, California identification cards, voice mail accounts, employment counseling/job placement, wheelchair repair, addiction services and more.

### Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Sanchez thanked Director Garcia for an informative report. He asked if DPH has been involved in the planning of the Candlestick Park demolition. Dr. Tomas Aragon, SFDPH Health Officer and Director of the Population Health Division, stated that Environmental Health staff have been working with the Planning Department on the Environmental Impact Report and consulting on the two options of either mechanical deconstruction or total demolition.

Commissioner Chow asked how the Health Commission may assist in the new administration relief for immigrants. Director Garcia stated that San Francisco already has a safety net for undocumented people who seek medical and social services through Healthy San Francisco. She added that some of this population will now be eligible for MediCal. She also commented that some people who are undocumented may be hesitant to access a public benefit for fear of repercussions from the government.

Commissioner Sanchez suggested that the SFDPH assist in redefining "Refugee" status since this impacts access to public health benefits. Director Garcia stated that she and her staff will look into this request.

### **4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Scarce stated that he is a resident of San Francisco; an academic researcher; HIV infected; and served for four years on the San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council. Last month he sent documentation stating there is corruption and mismanagement of the HIV Planning Council, the membership of which has decreased from 40 to 24 members. He added that the current membership lacks some minimum quotas for special populations and violate Congressional law. He noted that the HIV Health Services and HIV Planning Councils are merging and these issues need to be addressed.

**5) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Chung, chair of the Finance and Planning Committee, stated that the Committee recommended that the January 2015 Contracts Report and the relocation request for Larkin Street Youth Services be approved by the full Health Commission. She also stated that the Committee gave feedback on the DPH Annual Report draft and finalized the draft revisions to the Health Commission Contract Review policy which will be brought to the full Health Commission for approval on January 20, 2015.

**6) CONSENT CALENDAR**

Action Taken: The following were unanimously approved by the Health Commission:

- JANUARY 2015 CONTRACTS REPORT
- REQUEST FOR SITE APPROVAL FOR RELOCATION OF TWO OF LARKIN STREET YOUTH SERVICES' PROGRAMS (MEDICAL CLINIC, WHICH IS RUN BY DPH, AND DROP- IN CENTER) TO 134 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE (AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 79 OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, THE CITIZENS' RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1998, ALSO REFERRED TO AS "PROP. I").

**7) ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS RECEIVED IN FY2013-14**

Anne Okubo, Deputy Financial Officer, presented the report to the Health Commission.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Chow noted that it wonderful that the public wishes to support the DPH and its program activities.

Commissioner Sanchez thanked the SFGH Foundation staff who are devoting time and energy to helping DPH provide quality service to the public. He reminded the other Commissioners that the SFGH Foundation will hold a fundraiser on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**8) REVISED MENTAL HEALTH RATES FY 14-15 & FY 15-16.**

Anne Okubo, Deputy Financial Officer, gave the presentation.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Pating asked if the SFDPH is competitive with industry rates. Ms. Okubo stated that the state compares the DPH's published rate to the actual cost and reimburses at the lower rate.

Commissioner Chow asked if the published rates are the rates for all SFDPH patients. Ms. Okubo stated that the published rates are used for all patients; she added that the rates are set based on MediCal reimbursement rates.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the revised Mental Health Rates FY 14-15 and FY 15-16.

**9) DPH 2015 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLANS; RESOLUTION**

Aneeka Chaudhry, Health Program Planner, gave the presentation and introduced the resolution.

Public Comment:

Deena Lahn, San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium (SFCCC), stated SFCCC deems the upcoming Community Health Center funding issue significant because it could reduce the level of federal funding by 60% compared to current levels. She added that the federal government is not clear on how the cuts will be implemented. She urged the Health Commission to take part in campaigns to secure the current level of reimbursement for community health centers.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Chow asked if the DPH legislative plan includes the health center funding issue. Ms. Chaudhry stated that this issue is included in the Federal Plan, and that DPH will monitor related activity around the FY16 federal budget.

Commissioner Pating asked for clarification on whether the DPH will be taking a position on the issues listed under the "2015 Issues to Watch." Ms. Chaudhry stated that the "Issues to Watch" designation was meant to highlight high-profile issues for presentation purposes. The Department expects legislative activity around these issues this year and is monitoring them closely. She explained that DPH develops internal positions based on staff review of legislative proposals throughout the year. Using these internal positions, DPH works closely with the Mayor's office and the State Legislation Committee to develop official City positions and advocacy plans for specific issues.

Commissioner Pating asked how the DPH will track the 1115b Medicaid Waiver process. He added that he is concerned about the impact on the DPH budget of the waiver's possible unfunded mandates. Colleen Chawla, Deputy Director of Health and Director of Policy and Planning, stated that the DPH 1115 Waiver Group meets twice a month to review relevant material and discuss implications; the department is working closely with the California Association of Public Hospitals, which is taking the lead waiver elements that affect public hospital systems. She added that the state expects to at least maintain current levels of funding, but DPH is concerned that the number of stakeholders vying for that funding have increased.

Commissioner Chung asked if California may use AIDS Drug Assistance Program funding to support Affordable Care Act programs. Ms. Chaudhry affirmed that the California Office of AIDS does use Ryan White funding to subsidize the purchase of insurance on Covered California.

Commissioner Sanchez thanked DPH staff for the comprehensive legislative plan and working with the City to work on important legislative issues at the state and federal level.

Commissioner Pating asked how the Proposition 47 funds will be passed through to San Francisco. Ms. Chaudhry stated that funding will be made available through county grants to be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections. She added that the mechanism is not yet clear and funds will not be available until 2017; DPH will monitor how that mechanism is developed over the next year. Director Garcia stated that she will be meeting with the District Attorney to advocate for San Francisco services.

Commissioner Chow suggested that the DPH should have a contingency plan for TB programs if federal funding is not secure. Director Garcia stated that the DPH has identified this as an area to cover in the upcoming DPH budget process.

Commissioner Chow requested that the legislative plan and the resolution be amended to include the following:

1. The DPH will advocate for increases to MediCal reimbursement rates, including the restoration of the 10% cuts under AB 97 and continuation of the enhanced primary care provider payments previously available under the ACA.
2. The DPH will include palliative care issues among those that are monitored and advocated for in the Department's Legislative Plans.

Action Taken: The amended resolution was unanimously approved by the Health Commission. (see Attachment A)

**10) OTHER BUSINESS**

This issue was not discussed.

**11) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

This item was not discussed because no Joint Conference Committee meetings have taken place since the December 16, 2014 full Health Commission meeting.

**12) COMMITTEE AGENDA SETTING**

Commissioner Chow reminded the other Commissioners that the March 17, 2015 Health Commission planning session will be from 2pm-6pm.

**13) CLOSED SESSIONS**

A) Public comment on whether to convene in closed sessions and all matters pertaining to the closed sessions. California Govt. Code Section 54954.3.

There was no public comment on this issue.

**B) CONFERENCE WITH CITY ATTORNEY - Settlement of Lawsuits:  
Estate of Brian O'Hara \$250,000 and Antionette Spears \$200,000**

Motion that the Health Commission convene in closed session with the City Attorney for the purpose of conferring with, or receiving advice from, the City Attorney regarding the following existing litigation in which a proposed settlements are being considered by the Health Commission. Administrative Code Section 67.10(d) and California Government Code Sections 54956.9 and 54956.9(e)(3) permits this closed session. Discussion in open session concerning this matter would likely and unavoidably prejudice the position of the City in the pending lawsuits listed below:

**1. Estate of Brian O'Hara, et al. v. City and County of San Francisco, et al.  
San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-13-529089**

**2. Antionette Spears v. City and County of San Francisco, et al.  
San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-12-527288**

C) Motion that the Health Commission convene in closed session on a report from the activity of a hospital medical committee evaluating and improving the quality of care pursuant to California Evidence Code Sections 1156, 1156.1, 1157, 1157.5 and 1157.6; California Health and Safety Code Section 1461; and California Constitution, Article 1, Section 1.

For Proposed Action: Consideration of Corrective Plans from Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center's Medical Quality Improvement Committee on Management of Urinary Catheter Care and from

San Francisco General Hospital's Performance Improvement and Patient Safety Committee on Operating Room Protocols.

C) Closed sessions.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the settlements associated with the lawsuits listed below and voted not to disclose discussions held in closed session:

1. Estate of Brian O'Hara, et al. v. City and County of San Francisco, et al.  
San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-13-529089
2. Antionette Spears v. City and County of San Francisco, et al.  
San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-12-527288

D. Reconvene in Open Session: Motions and vote on whether to disclose any or all of the closed session discussions, San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a)

Action Taken: The Commission voted not to disclose discussions held in closed session:

**14) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm.

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION NO. 15-1**

**APPROVING THE SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S 2015 STATE AND FEDERAL  
LEGISLATIVE PLANS**

WHEREAS, On October 16, 2012, the Health Commission identified three five-year budget priorities for the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH): 1) development of an integrated delivery system; 2) achievement of public health accreditation; and 3) improved financial and operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS, On February 5, 2013, the Health Commission endorsed the Community Health Improvement Plan, which sets forth three priorities for health improvement citywide: 1) ensuring safe and healthy living environments; 2) increasing physical activity and healthy eating; and 3) improving access to high quality health care and services; and

WHEREAS, A number of important issues that will have a significant impact on achievement of SFDPH's budget priorities and the citywide Community Health Improvement priorities will likely be considered by state and federal legislative bodies in 2015, including Health Reform implementation, Medi-Cal reimbursement, communicable disease control and prevention, behavioral health expansions, and healthy food access; and

WHEREAS, SFDPH participates in a number of statewide associations representing various county health professionals, including health executives, health officers, public hospital executives, mental health directors, and substance abuse directors, to ensure that SFDPH is represented in coalition positions on legislation; and

WHEREAS, SFDPH coordinates engagement in State and federal policymaking and legislative advocacy through the Mayor's Office of Legislative and Government Affairs to ensure that changes in health policy are consistent with SFDPH priorities and aligned with citywide priorities; and

WHEREAS, the City maintains lobbyists in Washington, DC and Sacramento, with whom SFDPH staff works to ensure that health policy positions approved by the Mayor's Office and consistent with SFDPH priorities are represented in federal and State advocacy; and

WHEREAS, At its January 6, 2015 meeting, the Health Commission directed SFDPH to revise the state legislative plan to include advocacy for increased Medi-Cal reimbursement rates, and to support efforts that increase awareness of and access to palliative care; and

WHEREAS, SFDPH's 2015 state and federal legislative plans reflect SFDPH's health policy priorities, and are an important tool for the City to advocate for health policy and legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Health Commission approves SFDPH's 2015 federal and state legislative plans.

I hereby certify that at the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of January 6, 2015 adopted the foregoing resolution.

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Mark Morewitz  
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission