

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

**David B. Singer**  
Vice President

**Cecilia Chung**  
Commissioner

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

**James Loyce, Jr., M.S.**  
Commissioner

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

**David.J. Sanchez, Jr., Ph.D.**  
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, September 6, 2016, 4:00 p.m.**

**330 Ellis Street**

**Glide, Sanctuary**

**San Francisco, CA 94102**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D., President  
Commissioner Cecilia Chung  
Commissioner James Loyce, Jr., M.S.  
Commissioner David Pating, M.D.  
Commissioner David J. Sanchez Jr., Ph.D.  
Commissioner David B. Singer, Vice President

Excused: Commissioner Judith Karshmer, Ph.D, PMHCNS-BC

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

Commissioner Chow thanked Rita Shimmin, Executive Director of GLIDE, and co-founders Reverend Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani for hosting the meeting and providing a space where the community's thoughts and health concerns can be discussed with the Health Commission.

**2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2016**

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Singer stated that during discussion of item 9, "Communication Between Individual Health Commissioners and SFDPH Staff," several Health Commissioners asked why the policy has been created at this time and also asked why the policy is necessary since the City Charter is explicit in its description of the authority of the Health Commission. He asked that responses to these questions be provided to the Health Commission.

**Action Taken:** The minutes were unanimously approved.

### 3) **DIRECTORS REPORT**

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>

#### **Health Commission Holds Meeting in the Tenderloin**

The Department of Public Health sincerely thanks GLIDE for hosting this very special Health Commission meeting in the Tenderloin. Engaging with the community is an essential part of our and the Health Commission's work, and we are delighted to be present at such an important community space. The Department would also like to extend a very special thank you to Rita Shimmin, Executive Director of GLIDE, and co-founders Reverend Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani for welcoming us and providing a space where the community's thoughts and health concerns can be heard. The Department is grateful for Glide's cooperation and assistance in organizing this meeting. For over 50 years, GLIDE has offered safe space where all San Franciscans are treated with love and dignity.

#### **Political Activity by City Officers and Employees**

In advance of the upcoming November election, the City Attorney's Office has provided its most recent outline of basic legal rules restricting political activities by City commissions, departments, officers and employees. This includes restrictions on use of City Resources, Off Duty Political Activity, Mass Mailings using City Funds, Campaign Contributions to Elected Officials from City Contractors, and Campaign Contributions Solicited or Accepted by Appointed Officials. For a complete outline of the rules please see:

<http://www.sfcityattorney.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Political-Activity-2016.pdf>

#### **Surgeon General asks for Pledge to Help Turn Tide against Opioid Crisis**

In a historic first, the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy has sent a letter to 2.3 million American health professionals, asking them to lead a national movement to turn the tide on the nation's prescription opioid epidemic. "I know solving this problem will not be easy," Dr. Murthy writes. "We often struggle to balance reducing our patients' pain with increasing their risk of addiction. But, as clinicians, we have the unique power to help end this epidemic."

This marks the first time that a U.S. Surgeon General has sent a letter directly to the nation's health professionals seeking their support in addressing a public health crisis. Since April, Dr. Murthy has been visiting American communities hardest hit by the opioid epidemic, talking to health professionals, community leaders and people who have recovered from opioid use disorder. And later this year he will release the first-ever Surgeon General's report on alcohol, drugs and health.

This effort builds upon the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Opioid Initiative focused on tackling the nation's opioid epidemic, as well as the National Pain Strategy, the federal government's first coordinated plan to reduce the burden of chronic pain in the U.S. Providers can sign the pledge to "Turn the Tide" at [TurnTheTideRx.org](http://TurnTheTideRx.org).

#### **Electronic Health Record Update**

The DPH-APeX team is currently in the due diligence phase of coming to a contract with UCSF to use their Epic Electronic Health Record. Division leaders from Clinical, Pharmacy, Anesthesia, Revenue Cycle, Technical Infrastructure and Support, Interfaces and Data Conversion, Governance, Legal and Business and Facilities are busy mapping our existing infrastructure and applications to see how they can fit with UCSF's Epic. A go/no-go decision will be made this month, and parallel contingency plans are underway. A presentation to staff highlighting the benefits and clarifying the goals of the project has been given by workgroup leaders and presented at many management and leadership forums throughout the DPH. Overall, staff are excited about the project and are ready to do the very important work it will take to put it into place over the next 2-4 years.

### **Behavioral Health GROWTH Project**

The GROWTH Project (Growing Recovery and Opportunities for Work Through Horticulture) is a new landscaping training and employment program created by Behavioral Health Services, the Citywide Employment Program, and Asian Neighborhood Design, and funded through an Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations grant. This exciting new program provides a three-month classroom training and six-month paid work opportunity to Behavioral Health clients to help them prepare for careers in the fast-growing field of landscaping. Program planning began in January and launched in April of 2016. To date, the GROWTH Project has trained ten clients and hired eight as paid workers. Their first project, completed in August of 2016, is a horticultural makeover of Behavioral Health headquarters at 1380 Howard Street, including a roof terrace garden of California native plants and a colorful container garden in the downstairs lobby, both of which have earned rave reviews from staff and clients. The GROWTH team will soon start work at South of Market Mental Health, installing a newly designed garden in front of the clinic. After that, the GROWTH Project will landscape the back patio area of Sunset Mental Health. The team looks forward to continuing its work to make BHS clinics around the City more welcoming and green, while providing BHS clients with valuable training and current paid experience to support their recovery and re-entry into the workforce.

### **Security Update**

ZSFG Security Director Basil Price has started a running column in Fast Facts, the bi-weekly newsletter that goes out to all department staff on important security precautions. Topics have included safe handling of mail and how to be safe when walking on city streets. There is also a series of security briefings and trainings that will be led at ZSFG Management Forum and Staff Forum meetings. Upcoming topics include Active Shooter Trainings, and the new Mass Notification System, which will alert staff on their mobile devices in the case of an emergency. Basil can be contacted to set up security trainings at sites throughout the DPH, and can be reached at 415-206-2577.

### **SFDPH at Folsom Street Fair**

Folsom Street Fair is a community event that takes place in San Francisco every September. Their mission is to unite alternative lifestyle communities with safe venues, encourage self-expression and exciting entertainment, and raise funds to sustain San Francisco-based and national charities. The Fair takes place on September 25.

SFDPH Population Health Division will be participating again this year by advocating for safe sex practices while providing information and outreach to the community. SFDPH is looking for volunteers to help during the hours of 11 AM - 6 PM. There are also opportunities for RNs, MDs, NPs, and EMS to volunteer throughout the day at the medical tents on-site. For more information, please contact Justin.dauterman@sfdph.org

### **Laguna Honda 150 Years of Service Community Celebration**

Laguna Honda will be holding a community celebration honoring 150 years of service to the people of San Francisco. There will be activities, food trucks, music, and a screening of the film "States of Grace" about SFDPH Physician Grace Dammann and her heroic triumph over a head-on accident on the Golden Gate Bridge. The event will take place Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm, with the screening to follow.

### Public Comment:

Michael Petriellis stated that he appreciates the Health Commission coming to the community in the Tenderloin to hold a meeting but prefers that the meeting be broadcast on television like the regular Health Commission meetings so that members of the public who did not attend can view the meeting.

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

Janell Tryon, API Wellness Center, stated that the agency's transgender program serves 500 clients annually; this includes high-risk HIV negative and HIV positive clients who are chronically homeless. The average HIV

suppression rate for these clients is approximately 40-50% which is lower than the average in San Francisco. She also stated that many clients are also dealing with mental health and substance use issues.

Tri Do, API Wellness Center Medical Officer, stated that the agency recently obtained FQHC status for its medical clinic which serves low-income individuals not receiving services elsewhere. He noted that the organization does what it can to meet the needs of the population but a higher level of city-wide commitment to coordination of services is needed for vulnerable populations in the Tenderloin.

Michael Petrelis stated that he is running for BART Board in District 9 and focused his comments on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street BART station. He reminded the Health Commission that two years ago he worked to reduce the amount of pigeon feces at the BART station due to the detrimental impact it could have on someone with a compromised immune system. He noted that the monitoring of this situation has not been stringent. He requested that Director Garcia consider declaring a public health emergency due to the situation. He also requested that the vendor in charge of monitoring and cleaning the pigeon feces goes out at least twice a week.

#### **5) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Chung, Chair, stated that the committee reviewed and recommended that the full Health Commission approve the September Contracts Report and a new contract request for CIOX Health LLC, which are both on the Consent Calendar. She also stated that the Committee heard a presentation on the SFDPH Corrective Action Plan and Agency Technical Assistance Plan processes. She added that the presentation helped to expand the knowledge of the committee members on the wide range of technical assistance provided to contractors by the SFDPH.

#### **6) CONSENT CALENDAR**

Action Taken: The following were unanimously approved:

- SEPTEMBER 2016 CONTRACTS REPORT
- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH CIOX HEALTH LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$942,800 (INCLUDING CONTINGENCY), TO PROVIDE AS-NEEDED/TEMPORARY OFF-SITE MEDICAL RECORD CODING SERVICES UNTIL VACANCIES ARE FILLED AND TO PROVIDE CODING COVERAGE FOR STAFF TO PARTICIPATE IN BIWEEKLY AND QUARTERLY EDUCATION TO IMPROVE CODING PRACTICES DUE TO THE COMPLEXITY OF ICD-10. THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT WILL BE FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2016 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 (12 MONTHS).

#### **7) SAN FRANCISCO'S TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD: CONDITIONS AND HEALTH STATUS**

Meg Wall Shui, SFDPH Environmental Health Program on Health, Equity, and Sustainability Senior Epidemiologist, and Michelle Kirian, Community Health Assessment Unit Senior Epidemiologist, gave the presentation.

Commissioner Comments for this item were consolidated with item 8 and 9 below.

#### **8) THE MAYOR'S CENTRAL MARKET/TENDERLOIN STRATEGY**

Juan Carlos Cancino, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, gave the presentation.

Commissioner Comments for this item were consolidated with item 7 and 9 below.

#### **9) TENDERLOIN HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP**

Abbie Yant, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital; Kate Robinson, Safe Passage; Mike Anderer, De Marillac Academy; and Pat Zamora, Boys & Girls Clubs, gave the presentation.

### Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Pating thanked the presenters and members of the Tenderloin community for attending the meeting. He added that he is impressed with the wide spectrum of services undertaken by the Saint Frances Foundation and its TL-HIP group. He had the following comments/questions:

1. What is the impact of alcohol on residents of the Tenderloin? He noted that he is very aware of the impact of opiates and methamphetamine in the neighborhood and understands there are many services and interventions already in operation to address these substances. He added that San Francisco has the highest density of alcohol sales venues in California and the Tenderloin has the highest density of alcohol sales permits in the city.
2. He would like to hear more information on how mental health impacts the rate of homelessness and those who are homeless in the neighborhood.
3. He would like to hear more information on veterans services in the Tenderloin.

Paul Harkin, Glide, stated that there are many wonderful programs within the many agencies working with residents of the Tenderloin. He feels that abstinence-based programs are not effective and create a cycle of recovery and relapse. He advocates for harm-reduction programs that are more realistic.

Sharon Vernon, Swords to Plowshares, stated that the organization provides supportive services to veterans and their families. Services include outreach to homeless veterans to encourage them to come in the drop-in center for assessment and referrals. Clients may also be placed in shelters.

Paula Fleisher, UCSF Clinical and Translation Sciences Institute, stated that there is much work being done on issues relate to alcohol by the SFDPH, San Francisco Police Department, and community partners. She added that there is strong research and evaluation efforts being conducted.

Commissioner Loyce thanked the presenters for their good work and noted that he is interested in hearing more information on the impact of pervasive stress of dealing with poverty, racism, violence and other traumas within generations of families, some of which live together in the neighborhood.

Jackie Jenks, Executive Director of Hospitality House, stated that the organization addresses the ongoing stress by consistently contributing to the health of the neighborhood through planning, services and offering a safe haven.

Tyler Breish, ST. Anthony's, stated that often the response to the toxic issues of poverty, homelessness, violence, and substance use contributes to the harm. The organization strives to do the opposite by inviting people suffering in the neighborhood into services that can help them address some of these issues.

Commissioner Chung thanked the presenters for their effective work and noted it is heartening to hear that some progress is being made. She had the following comments/questions:

1. Regarding Safe Passage activities, what is the process of including drug-dealers in community outreach and communication?
2. What is the process to ask homeless people sleeping in front of the organization's doors to move during business hours? It seems the process undertaken is one of compassion instead of punishment.
3. Is there an effort to investigate safe-injection sites in the neighborhood?

Kate Robinson, Safe Passage, stated that they have a daily process of communicating with residents in the neighborhood that always starts with simple conversations. The organization has trained staff on a trauma-informed paradigm so workers can continue to provide compassionate service.

Mike Anderer, De Marillac Academy, stated that what the Academy has found is that the response to ongoing stress can be toxic. The Academy works with children and families to create a safe environment and to encourage healthy coping strategies. In regarding to addressing drug dealers, he stated that he thinks of them as day laborers trying to take care of themselves and possibly families. He often asks them to take a break to lessen the impact on the students' environment. He added that Academy staff encourage homeless neighbors to not lie on the sidewalk from 6am to 6pm to create a healthy environment for the neighborhood.

Lydia Bransten, St. Anthony's stated that she hopes the City can explore and evaluate a safe injection site to encourage safer practices and engagement in services.

Commissioner Singer congratulated the presenters for their effective work. He noted that in the past year there have been incidents in San Francisco of counterfeit Xanax that was actually potent Fentanyl; recently there have been reports of another potent and deadly opiate in Ohio. He asked how confident is the SFPDH in its ability to detect these counterfeit drugs or extra potent drugs in San Francisco. He also asked if outreach efforts are being initiated to educate people who may be consumers of the counterfeit drugs. Tomas Aragon, SFPDH Health Officer and Director of the Population Health Division, stated that the SFPDH is putting together a surveillance team which includes the Medical Examiner's Office and Poison Control to monitor cannabis and opiates, including Fentanyl. He also stated that education of the community is conducted through community partners and SFPDH outreach teams. Dr. Phillip Kaufman, SFPDH Director of Substance Use Research, stated that no Fentanyl-tainted heroin has been detected in San Francisco. He also noted that the consumers for the counterfeit Fentanyl pills were not "street users" and that this group likely does not have access to Naloxone, the effective medicine to prevent opiate overdoses.

Director Garcia thanked all the presenters and added that she is impressed with all the work and applauds the use of the collective impact model. She also stated that mortality issues are important to address and the SFPDH looks forward to continuing to work with the community to improve the health of residents of the Tenderloin. She acknowledged Abbie Yant for her leadership on these issues.

**10) IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF RESIDENTS IN SRO HOTELS; RESOLUTION**

This item was deferred to the September 20, 2016 meeting due to time constraints.

**11) OTHER BUSINESS:**

This item was not discussed.

**12) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

This item was deferred to the September 20, 2016 meeting due to time constraints.

**13) COMMITTEE AGENDA SETTING**

This item was not discussed.

**14) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.