

Dan Bernal
President

Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner

Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner

Cecilia Chung
Commissioner

Suzanne Giraudo ED.D
Commissioner

Laurie Green, M.D.
Commissioner

Tessie M. Guillermo
Commissioner

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

**London N. Breed Mayor
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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday December 1, 2020 3:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Webex Event

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Dan Bernal President
Commissioner Laurie Green, MD, Vice President
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.
Commissioner Cecilia Chung
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

The meeting was called to order at 3:06pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes.

3) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

4) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Chung, Chair, stated that the committee reviewed the contracts on the Consent Calendar and recommended that the full Commission approve all items.

5) CONSENT CALENDAR

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the following items:

- **DECEMBER 2020 CONTRACTS REPORT**
- **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA/SF TO PROVIDE PHYSICIAN STAFFING AS NEEDED TO SUPPORT SURGE PLANNING. WHEN/LF THERE IS A SURGE IN COVID-19 PATIENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO, CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PHYSICIAN TEAMS WITH EXPERTISE IN AREA OF PATIENT NEEDS AT ZSFG. THE TOTAL PROPOSED CONTRACT AMOUNT IS \$9,500,000 WHICH INCLUDES A 12% CONTINGENCY FOR THE TERM OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2021 (1 YEAR).**

6) STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Grant Colfax, MD, Director of Health, introduced the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraud thanked the presenters for the thorough presentation. She suggested that in the future presentations, it would be helpful to provide data to better understand the extent of the work being done in various COVID-19 Command Center (CCC) divisions, such as the Community Branch.

Commissioner Guillermo thanked everyone for their incredible work. She noted that since many people in the Bay Area did not adhere to public health messaging encouraging no travel or holiday gatherings, and asked whether there is evaluation of COVID-19 related messaging at the local or state level. Rita Nguyen, MD, Assistant Health Officer, stated that the CCC develops messages targeting specific groups with higher COVID-19 case numbers. The CCC is attempting to determine the impact of messaging and public health COVID-19 campaigns.

Commissioner Chow asked how the DPH budget is impacted by the DPH staff assigned to CCC. He also asked how these DPH staff working at CCC impact current staff shortages. Troy Williams, MSN, RN, CPHRN, CCC Incident Commander, stated that as new CCC staff are hired to replace DPH and other Department staff, DPH staff who were activated can return to their pre-COVID-19 duties. He noted that the DPH has used Heluna Health, a vendor, to hire temporary contract tracing staff. Finally, he stated that these CCC staffing plans are set to be in place for 12-18 months. Greg Wagner, DPH COO, stated that the DPH added 110 new positions in the budget for COVID-19 activities. He also stated that the DPH is in ongoing budget and staff discussions in an attempt to ensure adequate staffing and keeping in mind budget constraints.

Commissioner Chow asked how DPH COVID operations are included in the department's budget. Mr. Wagner stated that the DPH budget separates the CCC portion of its budget and tracks those expenses. He noted that the Controller's Office assists with tracking the expenses of all city COVID-19 activities.

Commissioner Bernal noted that the DPH has been successful in substantially decreasing hiring times for nurses during the pandemic. He asked if there are lessons learned that can be used to make the DPH hiring process more efficient in a post-COVID world. Mr. Wagner stated that the DPH Human Resources has implemented expedited processes for core clinical positions that will be utilized post-COVID.

Commissioner Christian thanked the presenters for their incredible work and helpful presentation. She asked how an equity lens is used in the DPH COVID-19 response. Mr. Williams stated that there is a CCC equity officer and that CCC includes equity neighborhood groups. A main priority of the CCC is to work with community partners in planning decisions. Dr. Nguyen stated that many CCC leaders from the DPH already were involved in equity-related work at the DPH before being activated. She added that each A3 planning process for impacted groups includes community feedback.

Commissioner Christian stated that her hope is that the DPH and CCC internalize a racial equity lens. Our society has the existing disparities because of the absence of equity in our structure. She added that it is important to have an Equity officer, advisory committees, and assurance that each decision maker internalizes equity so it is not given to one person or group as a problem to solve. Dr. Colfax stated that it is his expectation that all DPH staff work through an equity lens to result in meaningful action throughout the department.

Commissioner Green asked for information regarding the fee collection efforts for COVID-19 testing, and in the future, vaccine insurance copayments to reserve the city's resources for those most in need. Mr. Wagner stated that the city/DPH is working to increase testing revenue and is first looking to ensure that insurers of all city employees who are tested, are billed. He added that there is more work to be done in this area and there

is an increased budget expectation for testing services. He added that a new testing contract should be in place by January and by March there should be an update on billing practices.

Commissioner Chung noted the high cost of protective gear for residents and asked if there are plans to supplement these costs for those most impacted by COVID-19 in the city. Mr. Wagner stated that multiple departments are responsible for various aspects of the city's COVID-19 response, including protective equipment. He noted that the city continues to work with philanthropic organizations to assist with many aspects of economic distress for communities that have been most impacted. He also stated the city is exploring options to allow recipients to use City medical reimbursement accounts for non-medical services. He added that the city is aware of the economic strains of COVID-19 and continue to strive to find solutions.

Commissioner Chung stated that as chair of the Finance and Planning committee, she wants to offer to streamline the contract approval process at the Commission level during the pandemic, if that could be helpful.

Commissioner Chow asked if there are lessons learned in the Emergency Medical Service Agency activities during the pandemic that may be carried forward after COVID-19. Tomas Aragon, MD, Health Officer and Director of Population Health Division, stated that city agencies are working closely together during COVID-19 and he hopes this will improve future work in the coordination of emergency medical services.

Commissioner Guillermo stated that the DPH is fortunate to recruit such incredible public health staff.

Commissioner Bernal noted that the San Francisco Health Network (SFHN) implements extraordinary work and that the Health Commission is grateful for every staff member.

Commissioner Christian voiced her admiration for the astounding work of the SFHN. She acknowledged the significant development of the new Street Crisis Response Teams and how they will hopefully save lives and prevent people from entering the criminal justice system. Commissioner Bernal requested an updated on the implementation of the Street Crisis Response Teams in March.

Commissioner Green acknowledged the incredible work of Jail Health Services during the pandemic.

Dr. Colfax acknowledged the Health Commissioner's gratitude to the hard working DPH team. He noted that despite uncertain times, the DPH has a path forward with its multi-layered COVID response and its regular work.

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

This item was not discussed.

8) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to no Joint Conference Committee meeting taking place since the November 17, 2020 Health Commission meeting, there was no report for this item.

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.