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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
Department of Public Health**



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**MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday July 7, 2020 3:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams Live Event**

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm. Commissioner Bernal welcomed Commissioner Christian to the Health Commission. Commissioner Christian stated that she looks forward to joining in the important work of the Health Commission.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2020

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the Health Commission June 23, 2020 meeting minutes.

3) Grant Colfax, Director of Health, gave the report, which can be viewed at:
<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

San Francisco pauses reopening and urges residents across the region to stay home and stay safe for Fourth of July weekend

Today, there are over 3,776 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 50 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

On June 26, Mayor London Breed and Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health, announced that San Francisco is experiencing a concerning increase in local COVID-19 cases, and as a result will be temporarily delaying the reopening of certain businesses and activities scheduled to be allowed to resume on Monday, June 29th. These include: hair salons and barber shops, nail salons, tattoo salons, museums, zoos, outdoor bars, and outdoor swimming. There is no change to businesses and activities currently allowed under prior reopening phases.

With COVID-19 spreading rapidly in many Bay Area neighborhoods, health officials across the region urge residents to protect themselves and the community by celebrating from home this holiday weekend. On July 2, health officers from across the greater Bay Area emphasized that staying home this year is a healthy choice. Gatherings with others from outside your household, such as members of the extended family, are potentially risky.

You can spread COVID-19 even if you do not feel that sick. You can pass the disease to someone else before you have symptoms, and even if you never develop any symptoms at all. When people who have contracted the infection come in contact with high-risk people, there can be deadly consequences. That is why Bay Area health officers recommend people who are not members of the same household remain physically distant. The best ways to protect yourself and slow the spread of COVID-19 include:

- Continuing to stay home as much as possible
- Practicing physical distancing outside the home
- Wearing face coverings or masks when outside your home
- Avoiding gatherings with people outside your immediate household

Variance approved

On June 25, the California Department of Public Health today approved San Francisco's request for a variance from the State's reopening roadmap. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is grateful for the Governor's recognition of our city's steady progress in slowing the spread of coronavirus and preparedness for a possible surge of cases. This variance gives San Francisco the flexibility to move at its own pace in reopening certain sectors of the local economy, including lower-risk workplaces like outdoor museums and zoos, with new safety measures in place.

San Francisco's reopening is a partnership between city leaders, health, business and community. City leaders are unified in the commitment to move forward with reopening and also fully aware that reopening too quickly risks health harms and economic setbacks. The City will continue closely monitoring the key health indicators and be ready to pause or reverse any reopening if we see a harmful impact on our hospital systems, essential workers, and vulnerable populations.

San Francisco cares for Out of County COVID-19 patient as part of mutual aid agreement

On June 18, the City and County of San Francisco accepted its first COVID-19 patient from Southern California in response to a mutual aid request from Imperial County. Currently, the City is providing hospital beds for 23 out of county patients, including patients from San Quentin, Imperial County and Fresno County. These patients are receiving care throughout San Francisco hospitals, including, but not limited to, Zuckerberg San Francisco General. The City is able to provide hospital beds for these patients because of emergency planning to create hospital capacity for a potential surge of COVID-19 patients.

While San Francisco's reopening is currently on pause, we will continue to monitor the level of COVID-19 in the community and the ability of our health care system to meet the needs of residents. For a current status of our hospital system and other indicators, please visit the San Francisco COVID-19 [Data Tracker](#).

City prioritizes serving communities most affected by COVID-19

The DPH Department Operations Center (DOC) is partnering with community members in the Sunnydale and Mission neighborhoods to respond to the increase in cases in these communities. In the Sunnydale neighborhood, DPH DOC conducted two testing events in partnership with HOPE SF, the Urban Services Y, Rafiki Coalition, Mercy Housing, and UCSF. Many members of the community were tested at Family Day and a follow up event in the neighborhood. Community groups and members are providing testing outreach and promotion, pre-test counseling on site, and follow up services from a Community Wellness Team for people with positive results. In the Mission, the DPH DOC is supporting the Latino Task Force (LTF) to implement their plan for regular mobile COVID19 testing, community outreach and education, and similar wraparound care for

people with a positive result from the LTF Community Wellness Team, including food provision, cleaning support, daily check in.

Public Health HIV Team presents at AIDS 2020 Conference

The San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFPDH) HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Section will have a strong presence in the upcoming International AIDS Conference, AIDS 2020, this week. The team has nine presentations on topics including, social determinants of health among people diagnosed with HIV, HIV related stigma, shared HIV related disparities between Alameda and San Francisco counties, homelessness and viral suppression, and Rapid HIV treatment start. HIV surveillance data continues to be widely disseminated and used throughout the Bay Area for programmatic decision making and evaluation. We look forward to sharing the SFPDH experience with an international audience at AIDS 2020. In the meantime, we are also working hard to finalize the HIV Epidemiology Report coming later this summer.

Behavioral Health partners with community to provide wellness services

In the month of June 2020, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) collaborated with community partners to provide two online wellness experiences for staff and community, with positive participant response. On June 26, in collaboration with Dr. Sal Nuñez, LMFT, City College of SF, BHS invited staff to attend Drumming for Staff Wellness, a webinar presenting integration of stories, discussion and medicinal drumming. On June 30, Sugerencias Para Su Bienestar Y Salud, a Latinx Community Wellness online event, hosted in collaboration with BHS, HealSF and the Emergency Operations Center. The event was facilitated in Spanish by Dr. Nuñez and Solymar Solá Negrón, AMFT, Instituto Familiar de la Raza and included COVID-19 tips, breathing exercises, music, song and guided reflections by the two presenters.

Black Infant Health update

Black Infant Health hosted a Pull-Up Baby Shower on Friday, May 15, 2020, an Outdoor Maternity Photo Shoot, and an Outdoor Meet and Greet for participating families on Monday, June 22, 2020. These events were held in support of improving Black/African American infant maternal health and decrease health disparities and social inequities. All events were held outdoors to keep participants actively involved and engaged while practicing safety and social distancing during COVID-19.

Since the beginning of the San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFPDH) response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Black Infant Health levied partnerships and expanded support services for the families we serve. Black Infant Health, in partnership with Churn Urban Creamery under the Farm Bag for Justice, the SFPDH Food Security Task Force, WIC, Human Services Agency, the Feeling Good Project, African American Arts and Cultural Center, SFGH Midwives, and St. Cyprian's Church-The Village Project, distribute organic fruit bags and care packages including food, diapers, baby formula/food, and children's educational resources to 40-60 families weekly.

In addition, Black Infant Health entered a partnership with EatSF to distribute emergency food vouchers. Since January, Black Infant Health has distributed \$77,100 to participants and community members in need. Through continued outreach efforts, Black Infant Health increased participant enrollment and charitable donations during COVID-19.

Laguna Honda champions for racial equity

Racial equity efforts have continued across SFPDH throughout our on-going COVID-19 response. At Laguna Honda, Yaffa Alter, a racial equity champion, led LHH's first Juneteenth celebration, which included education about the origins of the holiday as well as poetry and music. Chauncey Jackson, a racial equity fellow, organized a poster project that celebrated and highlighted male Black/African American employees and their contributions to LHH. LHH also participated in a silent vigil, organized by ZSFG's Equity Council, to acknowledge the murder of George Floyd. Moreover, LHH's new CEO Michael Phillips has been engaging staff through weekly messages focused on equity throughout the month of June. In July, we will be celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride, highlighting the intersections between race and sexual orientation/gender identity.

Proactive outreach to high risk Primary Care patients

Primary Care is actively outreaching to patients with chronic health conditions to ensure they have everything that they need while they are sheltering in place. Since the initial shelter-in-place order, over 7,300 patients received phone calls and 5,600 of these patients had telephone visits with a provider. During these calls, clinic staff discussed COVID-19 safety precautions, ensured patients had a supply of their medications, screened for concerning symptoms, and made referrals to members of the healthcare team to address food access, medical supplies, tobacco cessation, or other concerns of the patient. Since the San Francisco Health Network started to open a limited number of routine in-clinic visits, Primary Care is now prioritizing outreach for pediatric patients due for immunizations and Black/African American patients with hypertension and diabetes.

ZSFG Provider receives Exemplary Service award for 18 years of Primary Care service

Each year at the ZSFG Medical Staff Dinner, a community-based primary care provider who's made a significant contribution to the mission of Primary Care over the course of their career in DPH is presented an Exemplary Service award at the banquet.

This year ZSFG recognized Dr. Bill Tarran, our lead Primary Care podiatrist. Dr. Bill Tarran's career in podiatry spans over 30 years. Dr. Tarran joined the San Francisco Health Network Primary Care team 18 years ago, and has put his whole heart, soul, and mind into providing podiatric care to our patients. He has cared for patients at several SFHN primary care clinics, including our homeless clinics, and at the county jails. He is a strong advocate for social justice for underserved communities and shows this through his commitment to giving excellent podiatric care to patients in the Network.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we scaled back all Ambulatory Care services, moved to telehealth.. Dr. Tarran volunteered to be our anchor provider at the Castro Mission COVID 19 Alternative Testing Site. We greatly appreciate Dr. Tarran's contributions to the Primary Care team, doing whatever he can to benefit patients.

City potting regulations revised for safer and more efficient monitoring and reporting

The Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Branch has published the June 2020 revision to the Rules and Regulations for Alternate Water Source Systems. These rules implement San Francisco Health Code Article 12C and were first issued in 2012 to govern the treatment of rainwater, stormwater, graywater and blackwater for non-potable reuses such as toilet flushing and irrigation. These revisions removed a lot of redundancies and ambiguities in the language and provide new parameters by which we can safely reduce the burden of frequent monitoring and reporting for permitted systems. The revisions were a collaborative effort among SFDPH, SFPUC and many stakeholders, and incorporates thoughtful comments to the review draft released in January.

DPH in the News

Bay Area News, Jul 3 2020, California at a 'make-or-break moment' as it heads into the July 4 weekend
<https://www.orovillemr.com/2020/07/03/coronavirus-california-at-a-make-or-break-moment-as-it-heads-into-the-july-4-weekend/>

SF Gate, Jul 3 2020, What San Francisco contact tracers have learned on the job
<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/what-san-francisco-contact-tracers-have-learned-on-the-job/>

SF Gate, Jul 3 2020, Sex and coronavirus
<https://www.seattlepi.com/offbeat/article/Sex-and-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know-15383386.php>

KTVU, Jul 2 2020, SF leaders urge residents to stay home Fourth of July weekend as COVID-19 crisis deepens
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/sf-leaders-urge-residents-to-stay-home-fourth-of-july-weekend-as-covid-19-crisis-deepens>

CBS, Jul 2 2020, San Francisco Health Department Warns Of Potential Coronavirus Surge
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/07/02/san-francisco-health-department-warns-of-potential-coronavirus-surge/>

SF Chronicle, Jul 2 2020, Bay Area hospitalizations on the rise: 'The surge plan is simmering'
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Bay-Area-hospitalizations-on-the-rise-The-15383267.php>

LA Time, Jul 2 2020, San Francisco cracks down on archdiocese for violating coronavirus rules
<https://triblive.com/news/world/san-francisco-cracks-down-on-archdiocese-for-violating-coronavirus-rules/>

SF Chronicle, Jun 30 2020, SF's 49% surge in hospitalizations puts city on high alert
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Surge-in-cases-hospitalizations-put-Bay-Area-on-15378072.php>

BCN, Jun 30 2020, It's Too Early to Tell When Scaled-Back Reopening Can Resume: SF Health Officials
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/sf-city-health-officials-say-its-too-early-to-tell-when-scaled-back-reopening-can-resume/2318495/>

PBS, Jun 29 2020, Tracking coronavirus cases proves difficult amid new surge
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/tracking-coronavirus-cases-proves-difficult-amid-new-surge>

LA Times, Jun 29 2020, California's slide from coronavirus success to danger zone began Memorial Day
<https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/California-s-slide-from-coronavirus-success-to-15374144.php>

LA Times, Jun 27 2020, California Latino, Black residents hit even harder by coronavirus as white people see less danger
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/california-latino-black-residents-hit-even-harder-by-coronavirus-as-white-people-see-less-danger/ar-BB162mRC>

KTVU, Jun 27 2020, San Francisco Zoo postpones reopening due resurgent virus
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/san-francisco-zoo-postpones-reopening-due-resurgent-virus>

Tribune, Jun 27 2020, California cracks down on scofflaw businesses, delays reopenings as coronavirus surges
<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/wires/state-nation-world/california-cracks-down-on-scofflaw-businesses-delays-reopenings-as-coronavirus-surges/>

AP, Jun 26 2020, California counties backtrack on reopening as virus surges
<https://fox40.com/news/california-connection/california-counties-backtrack-on-reopening-as-virus-surges/>

CA Political Review, Jun 25 2020, San Francisco's Plan To Put Homeless In Hotels Not Going Well
<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/top-stories/san-franciscos-plan-to-put-homeless-in-hotels-not-going-well/>

BAR, Jun 24 2020, Protest safety tips during the pandemic
https://www.ebar.com/news/news/293984/protest_safety_tips_during_the_pandemic

KTVU, Jun 24 2020, San Francisco hopes to reopen nail salons, barbershops, outdoor bars next week
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/san-francisco-hopes-to-reopen-nail-salons-barbershops-outdoor-bars-next-week>

SF Chronicle, Jun 22 2020, SF looks to speed up reopening salons and bars, citing encouraging health stats
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-looks-to-speed-up-reopening-salons-and-bars-15357585.php>

SF Chronicle, Jun 22 2020, Coronavirus tests are easy to get now, but not always where people need them most
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Coronavirus-tests-are-easy-to-get-now-but-not-15355976.php#photo-19576305>

Hoodline, Jun 22 2020, SF speeds up reopening timeline for hair & nail salons, outdoor bars, more <https://hoodline.com/2020/06/sf-speeds-up-reopening-timeline-for-hair-nail-salons-outdoor-bars-more>

Mercury News, Jun 22 2020, San Francisco pushes to open outdoor bars, salons at a faster clip <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/06/22/san-francisco-pushes-to-open-outdoor-bars-salons-at-a-faster-clip/>

SF Eater, Jun 22 2020, San Francisco Bars Reopen for Outdoor Drinking <https://sf.eater.com/2020/6/22/21299487/san-francisco-bars-reopening-outdoor-drinking>

Wired, Jun 19 2020, Sheltering in Place Works—If You Can Afford to Stay Home <https://www.wired.com/story/shelter-in-place-works-if-you-can-afford-to-stay-home/>

SF Chronicle, Jun 18 2020, UCSF tested thousands of Mission District residents for coronavirus antibodies <https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/UCSF-tested-thousands-of-Mission-District-15350691.php>

4) COVID-19 UPDATE

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, and Susan Philip, MD, MPH, Deputy Health Officer and Director of Population Health Division, Disease Prevention & Control Branch, presented the item.

Public Comment

Roma Guy, Taxpayers for Public Safety, recognized the DPH leadership during this important time. She urged the Health Commission to look at the nomenclature regarding who is at risk for COVID-19. She encouraged use of a health equity lens. She stated that she is in her late 70's with underlining health issues but is able to use prevention guidelines to stay safe because of her socio-economic status. She noted that people who must work right now due to economic need are at greater risk; she added that it may be very difficult to maintain masking and social distancing at work if employers, coworkers, or customers do not adhere to prevention protocols. She stated that without acknowledging the intersectionality of relevant issues, prevention efforts may not be effective.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraud asked if the community based organizations participating in the contact tracing program will share a centralized database with CCSF staff doing the same work. Dr. Philip stated that both groups will be using the same data system that is deployed remotely.

Commissioner Chow asked if there is data showing whether those individuals found through contact tracing follow-through on appropriate quarantine. Dr. Philip stated that the CCSF contact tracing program is still refining its process to match contacts found with testing and confirmation of quarantine.

Commissioner Green noted that delays in getting COVID-19 testing results impacts the timeliness and effectiveness of testing. She asked if individuals found through contact tracing are prioritized for testing. Dr. Philip stated that patients who identify contacts who may have been exposed are encouraged to reach out to these contacts themselves to encourage testing and quarantine; sometimes this is the quickest way to get messaging to these individuals, especially for those living in the same household. The contact tracing program will also reach out to these same individuals to encourage testing and quarantine.

Commissioner Guillermo noted that many of the most vulnerable populations to COVID-19 may be essential workers who must work to help support their household, which may be comprised of large households due to economic need. She asked how the City effort is gathering data to better understand and assist this group. Dr. Philip noted the importance of better understanding essential workers' needs, especially those in a lower socio-economic status living in large households. She noted it is often difficult for people living in these situations to always wear masks and maintain social distance in a large household. Commissioner Guillermo

stated that it is important for the DPH continue to work with community providers to find the pathways to effective preventative solutions for this vulnerable population.

Commissioner Bernal asked if San Francisco has met its target for hiring contact tracers. Dr. Philip stated that early federal guidelines recommended hiring 30 contact tracers per 100,000 residents. She noted that no county in California has been able to meet this target. The SFDPH has used estimates for the length of time it takes to find and interview each contact in determining the appropriate number of tracers to train. The City is using both CCSF employees in addition to community based organization employees to meet the needs of San Francisco. She noted if there is a large surge, the numbers may overwhelm the team and there would be need to prioritize the most vulnerable cases.

Commissioner Chung asked if the cost of face masks and other PPE could be an issue preventing individuals from adhering to COVID-19 prevention efforts. Dr. Colfax stated that the DPH is distributing face masks in communities in which cost may be an obstacle. He added that at testing sites, there is food and other wrap-around services are available in an effort to provide a holistic care model.

Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding the strategy to deal with possible capacity issues as COVID-19 cases continue to surge and flu season approaches. Dr. Colfax stated that CCSF is working with the Hospital Council to prepare for a surge in COVID-19 cases and flu season by considering discontinuation of elective surgeries to increase hospital capacity. He noted that earlier COVID-19 surge preparations enabled appropriate COVID-19 surge plans including hospital capacity, ICU beds, and ventilators.

5) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

6) HEALTH CARE ACCOUNTABILITY ORDINANCE REVISIONS TO THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR 2021 AND 2022

Patrick Chang, MPH, Senior Health Planner, presented the item.

Public Comment

Debbie Lerman, San Francisco Human Services Network and member of the Health Care Accountability Ordinance Workgroup, stated that she encourages the Commission to approve the revisions. She noted that health insurance plan options are limited by the insurance industry, which impacts the choices non-profits have. She added that there is currently a City budget crisis which will eliminate cost of living increases while insurance premiums continue to rise. Employee out-of-pocket costs should not be raised in this economic environment. The Workgroup has requested information from DPH on additional plans to ensure the proposed revisions will still be effective.

Karl Kramer, Co-Director of the San Francisco Living Wage Coalition, stated that monthly costs for insurance premiums will likely not increase in the near future. The Workgroup was not pleased with the increases in prescription drug deductible and the copays for office visits. He noted that the DPH Office of Policy and Planning gathered data showing that these increases come at a time when pay rates have stagnated. The Workgroup felt the increase in these costs were acceptable in comparison to increases in monthly premiums.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow thanked the Workgroup for their effective work in expanding the number of plans available. He requested that the Health Commission be notified if COVID-19 or other issues dramatically change availability of health insurance plans in San Francisco.

Commissioner Giraud asked for more information regarding minimal standards for mental health and

substance use treatment. Mr. Chang stated that he did not have that information available but would forward it to the Commission through Mr. Morewitz.

Commissioner Green congratulated the Workgroup and DPH staff involved in these revisions. She asked if there is any way to help individual employers, especially non-profits, bundle together for more negotiation power with health insurance companies. Mr. Chang stated that California has prohibited this type of coalition building around purchase of health insurance policies.

Commissioner Bernal asked how individual employers or employees are educated regarding the varying levels of coverage and cost for different plans. Mr. Chang noted that health insurance is a complex and difficult topic to understand. The Workgroup has considered how to develop materials and processes to educate individual users but no decisions have yet been made on how best to move forward.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the Health Care Accountability Ordinance revisions to the minimum standards.

7) CONTINGENCY REPORT: ANNUAL DPH CONTINGENCY REPORT, PER BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION 563-10 SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BY JULY OF EACH YEAR.

Michelle Ruggels, Director of the SDFPH Business Office, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal noted that contingencies prevent the DPH from having to bring back contracts for increases up to 12%; he asked for information regarding the rate by which contracts exceed contingencies and must be brought back to the Commission for approval of a higher amount. Ms. Ruggels stated that this data is not available at this time.

Commissioner Chow thanked Ms. Ruggels for the report, which clarifies important data.

8) RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARLO SIMMONS, MPH AS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

Claire Horton, MD, Chief Medical Officer of the San Francisco Health Network, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Ms. Simmons for her leadership and welcomed Dr. Horton to her new position at the DPH.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (see attachment)

9) BEHAVIORAL HEATH SERVICES UPDATE

Marlo Simmons, MPH, Acting Director and Anton Nigusse-Bland, MD, Director of Mental Health Reform, presented the item.

Public Comment

Fran Romano stated that streets are not a great place for unhoused neighbors. She questioned why the DPH has not taken advantage of its power to house these people in hotels.

Nel Monahan noted that unhoused people are at greater risk for contracting COVID-19. She urged Dr. Aragon to use his power as Health Officer to use hotels to house people.

Molly Brown stated that she is concerned that the DPH is looking into how to sustain the board and care homes in San Francisco open. She noted concern for Edgewood’s sustainability and is concerned that moving the organization’s contract with the DPH to a fee for service model may not be sustainable.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chung asked for clarification regarding the “Other” categories in gender and race on the behavioral health bed optimization project. Dr. Nigusse Bland stated that an effort has been made to improve the sexual orientation and gender data; he expects the next round of data gathered will reflect these improvements. He noted that individuals who are in the category of “Other” in gender did not give information regarding their gender. Regarding the race category, he noted that several data systems were being used and have since been combined, which should correct this issue.

Commissioner Giraudo voiced concern that the budget for youth behavioral health and substance use services is one third of adult services. She noted that access to services for the youth population is necessary to ensure this group does not enter into the adult criminal justice system.

Commissioner Giraudo asked for information regarding the timeline for implementation of the behavioral health bed optimization project if funds were available. She also asked if organizations have identified where beds could be purchased. Dr. Nigusse Bland stated that the DPH is still in the planning stages for a bond measure on the November ballot to ensure appropriate bed resources are available.

Commissioner Bernal noted the high amount of vacancy rates in behavioral health workers and in leadership positions and asked for more information regarding the impact of these vacancies. Ms. Simmons stated that the DPH Human Resources Department has been working diligently to remove obstacles to hiring. She added that with fewer staff, the existing staff have to work harder and the rate of billing is not as high as it could be with full staffing.

Commissioner Guillermo asked for more information regarding revenue optimization initiatives. Ms. Simmons stated that the Department could be accessing funds through the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities in addition to funds related to quality assurance activities. Maximizing billing is also a priority.

Commissioner Green asked what proportion of the overall beds would the projected number of optimization project beds bring to San Francisco. Dr. Nigusse Bland stated that the beds proposed would comprise 12% of the existing number of behavioral health beds in San Francisco.

Commissioner Green asked how EPIC can be used in tracking and billing for services. She also asked for additional information regarding barriers to achieving the behavioral health optimization goals. Dr. Nigusse Bland stated that he will forward responses to these questions through Mr. Morewitz.

Commissioner Chow noted that the bed optimization project highlights the need for lower level care beds versus acute level behavioral health beds. Dr. Nigusse Bland stated that the analysis resulted in showing a need for additional lower level of beds. He noted that the analysis indicated that a portion of individuals in acute psychiatric beds would be best served at a lower level of care.

10) OTHER BUSINESS:

this item was not discussed.

11) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 20-8**

**APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARLO SIMMONS, MPH
AS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MENTAL HEALTH PLAN**

WHEREAS, California Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code, Section 14712 directs the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to implement and administer Managed Mental Health Care for Medi-Cal eligible residents through agreements with Mental Health Plans (MHP) in California counties; and

WHEREAS, MHPs are required to provide or arrange for the provision of Specialty Mental Health Services to beneficiaries in their counties that meet medical necessity criteria, consistent with the beneficiaries' mental health treatment needs and goals; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health, Community Behavioral Health Services (DPH-CBHS) operates the Mental Health Plan for the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Director of Behavioral Health Services oversees and directs all client services for the San Francisco Mental Health Plan; and

WHEREAS, Marlo Simmons has held leadership positions within DPH-CBHS, including Director of the Mental Health Services Act; and

WHEREAS, DHCS requires approval by the governing body of the appointment of the local Mental Health Plan Director; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission serves as the governing body of the Department of Public Health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Health Commission hereby authorizes the appointment of Marlo Simmons, MPH as the Interim Director of the Mental Health Plan for the City and County of San Francisco.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of July 7, 2020 adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission