MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday March 17, 2020 4:00 p.m.
101 Grove Street, Room 300
San Francisco, CA 94102

1) **CALL TO ORDER**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm.

2) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2020**

**Action Taken:** The Health Commission unanimously, through a rollcall vote, approved the March 3, 2020 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

**Stay Home Order**

On March 16th, Mayor London Breed announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a Public Health Order requiring that residents remain in place, with the only exception being for essentials needs. This measure is necessary to slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Order is effective as of midnight on Tuesday, March 17th and is effective until April 7th, 2020, or until it is extended.

The Order directs all residents to remain at their place of residence, except to conduct Essential Activities, Essential Businesses, and Essential Government Functions. When conducting an allowed activity, people must maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing from everyone other than household members.

All travel, including but not limited to walking, biking, driving, or taking public transit is prohibited, except to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or to maintain Essential Government Functions. Individuals may go on a walk, get exercise, or take a pet outside to go to the bathroom, as long as at least six
feet of social distancing is maintained. People riding on public transit must maintain at least six feet of social distancing from other passengers.

Homeless individuals are not subject to the shelter in place order but are encouraged to seek shelter, and the City will be working with the State, following up on the Governor’s announcement yesterday, to maximize available resources for the homeless population.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) urges people not to rush to urgent care or emergency rooms for COVID-19 testing or non-emergency needs. Do not overwhelm the health system or the emergency response system at this time. We need it to care for those who are seriously ill. If you are otherwise sick or concerned you may have coronavirus, contact your health care provider.

In an effort to reduce spread of the virus in the community, the City took swift action upon the confirmation of the first COVID-19 cases among San Francisco residents on March 5th. These cases provided proof of what we already anticipated, that the virus is here in community.

Available now on DPH’s website is a COVID-19 case tracker that will be updated daily. Given the patterns in our state, region and our own city, we expect to see an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in San Francisco. The addition of more testing at our own public health lab and at commercial labs in the city will undoubtedly produce more positive results in the days to come.

The situation continues to change rapidly. Below is a list of comprehensive efforts the Department of Public Health and the City took to prevent infection in the most vulnerable populations, protect healthcare workers from infection, and mitigate community transmission.

- On March 6th, Mayor London Breed announced aggressive recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The recommendations for social distancing have a goal of reducing the occasions when large numbers of people come together and potentially are exposed to the virus that is circulating in our community. The recommendations protect the health of vulnerable populations, and ensure that essential public services, such as schools and transportation, are taking steps to protect the public. These are systemic as well as individual changes that will make a difference in people’s lives. Although the recommendations will cause inconvenience, they are necessary and worthwhile to reduce the spread of the virus and interrupt its transmission from person to person. DPH will continuously assess the recommendations’ impact to determine if they need to be adjusted.

- On March 7th, the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco issued a Public Health Order gatherings at City-owned.

- On March 9th, Mayor Breed, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, DPH announced $5 million in new investments, as well as a Public Health Order to protect vulnerable populations who are at risk of becoming ill or dying if they contract COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus. This emergency fund and Order will focus on reducing risk of exposure to the virus for the many marginally housed seniors, people with underlying health conditions, and individuals experiencing homelessness, living in shelters, single-room occupancy hotels (SROs), and Permanent Supportive Housing.

- On March 10th, Mayor Breed and DPH announced to strengthen the City’s response to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by providing quarantine locations for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and do not need to be hospitalized, as well as individuals who have been exposed to the virus and do not have access to adequate shelter due to homelessness or shared living arrangements. Shared-living situations include SROs, shelters, and Permanent Supportive Housing. Temporary isolation housing will include recreational vehicles (RVs), which have been leased and will be staged in the Presidio. The RVs will be placed in various secure locations throughout the city as needed. The City is also in the process of identifying additional locations for auxiliary quarantine housing, including unoccupied residential property. As the City continues to work to secure additional locations, City
leaders are asking local hotels to join in identifying vacant hotel rooms for this purpose so that San Francisco can be better prepared to care for all of its residents.

- On March 11th, Mayor Breed announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco will issue a Public Health Order prohibiting all large group events of 1,000 or more persons. This measure is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community and builds on the City’s March 6th public health recommendations. The Health Order was effective March 11th.

- On March 12th, Mayor Breed today announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a Public Health Order prohibiting non-essential visitors from entering long-term care facilities within San Francisco city limits. This measure is necessary to slow the spread of novel coronavirus in the community. It builds on the City’s public health recommendations and a prior Public Health Order issued on March 7th regarding City-owned and operated long-term care facilities at Laguna Honda and Zuckerberg San Francisco General hospitals.

- On March 13th, Mayor Breed announced that beginning Monday, March 16 the Recreation and Park Department and the San Francisco Public Library will begin to operate libraries and indoor recreation facilities as emergency care facilities for children of parents on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak and low-income families. Both agencies will suspend regular indoor programming effective Friday, March 13 at 6 p.m. The decision comes in the wake of public school closures and other safety measures the City is undertaking to respond to the spread of COVID-19. Parents on the front line include San Francisco-based hospital staff, Department of Public Health employees, and activated Disaster Service Workers.

- On March 13th, Mayor Breed announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a Public Health Order prohibiting all non-essential events of 100 or more persons. The Order applies to events with 100 people or more but does not apply to: essential government services, transit, office space, hotels, residential buildings, grocery stores, shopping malls, retail establishments, hospitals, medical facilities, community serving organizations like food banks, and other facilities as detailed in the Order. To allow for appropriate social distancing, restaurants that have a capacity of between 100 and 500 people are allowed to continue operating as long as they reduce their occupancy in half up to a maximum of 100 patrons. For example, a restaurant that has an occupancy of 150 is allowed to operate if it reduces its occupancy in half to 75.

  - On March 12th, the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health announced that large gatherings of 250 people or more should be postponed or cancelled, and that gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people.

- On March 14th, Mayor Breed announced San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will no longer shut off water or power for delinquent payments, and that both the SFPUC and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will no longer add penalties on to delinquent payments during the City’s Local Emergency response to COVID-19.

- On March 16th, Mayor Breed announced the “Workers and Families First Program,” which will provide paid sick leave for private sector workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The measures above are necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community support public health. This is a very fluid situation and recommendations and guidance may change as the situation changes. Public Health Orders and recommendations from DPH can be found at sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus.asp. Mayoral Declarations regarding COVID-19 can be found at sfmayor.org/mayoral-declarations-regarding-covid-19. You can also call 311 and sign up for the City’s alert service for official updates: text COVID19SF to 888-777. Remember, these are the best ways for all San Franciscans to reduce their risk of getting sick, and preventing COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
• Try alternatives to shaking hands, like a wave.
• If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials.
• There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak:
• Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
• Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
• Prepare a child care plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
• Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure.
• Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
• Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
• Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.

Search for First Drug Sobering Center Location Continues
Community outreach work continues in the Tenderloin, where DPH and HealthRIGHT 360 are proposing to locate San Francisco’s first drug sobering center. We believe this pilot program, primarily serving people experiencing homelessness and methamphetamine intoxication, represents a step toward improving the health and safety of Tenderloin residents. We also recognize that the model will be improved through community input. The methods for gathering that input are being re-evaluated in light of COVID-19 and our concern for vulnerable populations. A second large community meeting had to be canceled, but community leaders and the project team are engaged in ongoing dialogue.

Mental Health Services Act Update
The San Francisco’s Mental Health Services Act (SF-MHSA) team participated in a thorough State Review conducted by the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) in February, their first triennial audit. SF-MHSA submitted over 500 documents and toured nine different MHSA sites, allowing the State to interview staff and participants about best practices and areas of opportunity. DHCS representatives were most impressed with our Community Planning Process, including 23 community engagement meetings in FY18/19, and with the successful integration of 352 MHSA-funded peer specialists in the behavioral health system. They noted that “San Francisco MHSA is a model County Program.” Under the leadership of MHSA Director Jessica Brown, we will correct the 10 administrative issues DHCS identified in this first State Review. We thank all those who contributed to such a successful audit.

DPH in the News
AP, Holed up in the US: Coronavirus shutdown threatens jobs
AP, San Francisco Bay Area counties issue shelter-in-place order
LA Times, As coronavirus spreads, 6 San Francisco Bay Area counties ordered to shelter in place
WA Examiner, ‘History will not forgive us for waiting’: San Francisco Bay Area issues shelter-in-place order over coronavirus
KLAW, How Coronavirus Is Affecting The Bay Area
https://www.klaw.org/post/how-coronavirus-affecting-bay-area#stream/0

SF Chronicle, ‘I’m scared’: Homeless people and health workers brace for coronavirus to hit encampments

CBS, San Francisco Puts $5M Toward Coronavirus Fund For Homeless, Other Vulnerable Groups

SF Chronicle, Coronavirus order in SF: All large gatherings banned in city-owned buildings

Kron, San Francisco city leader take drastic steps to fight spread of coronavirus

BAR, 2 coronavirus cases reported in SF; state declares emergency
https://www.ebar.com/news/latest_news/289065/online_extra:_2_coronavirus_cases_reported_in_sf_;_state_declares_emergency

LA Times, Coronavirus spreads across California as officials fight to contain disease and fears

KGO, 1st cases of COVID-19 confirmed in 2 San Francisco patients, officials say
https://news.yahoo.com/1st-cases-covid-19-confirmed-201428730.html

KQED, First Two San Francisco Cases of Coronavirus Detected

SF Chronicle, SF General nurses, doctors argue hospital’s understaffing will hurt efforts to handle coronavirus outbreak

ABC, Coronavirus Outbreak: Everything to know about the Grand Princess cruise ship docking in Oakland

Comissioner Comments:
Commissioner Bernal thanked Dr. Colfax for the report.

4) **CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS UPDATE**
Tomas Aragon, MD, DPH Health Officer, Susan Ehrlich, MD, ZSFG CEO, and Grant Colfax, MD, Director of Health, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Chow stated that the SFDPH has handled the situation very well. He added that having the full backing and cooperation of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors is wonderful.

Commissioner Guillermo thanked Dr. Colfax, Dr. Aragon, Dr. Ehrlich, and all the SFDPH staff working on the COVID19 response. She asked whether the hospitals are able to coordinate supplies and workforce proactively. Dr. Ehrlich stated that each hospital is providing maximum effort within its own campus. The hospitals are communicating with one another well on the response. She noted that ZSFG, UCSF, and St. Francis hospitals are working in conjunction on joint operation plans including shared use of staff registries, resource allocation, and a common surge plan.

Commissioner Chow noted that UCSF has constructed tents to expand capacity and asked if there are SFDPH plans for a possible surge in COVID19 patients. Dr. Ehrlich stated that the DPH/ZSFG is using all available data to develop the best model to handle this crisis. She added that the intent of the shelter-in-place order is to flatten the curve which would lessen the burden on the health care systems. She also stated that ZSFG is
working closely with UCSF to understand how many hospital beds will be needed at any given time. The City will be relying on the state and federal governments to assist with additional space if needed.

Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding the hospitals working together. Dr. Ehrlich stated that each hospital is currently managing its own incoming demand. ZSFG has expanded the hours of its urgent care clinic and is utilizing a two-tier triage system. An additional COVID19 testing site is being added in Building 80. She added that ZSFG is meeting with UCSF and St. Francis hospital twice a week on the combined planning efforts. Dr. Ehrlich also stated that ZSFG has not seen an increase in patient numbers.

Commissioner Green thanked Dr. Ehrlich for the incredibly and important work she is doing. She asked for more information regarding plans to deal with hospital staff eventually testing positive. Dr. Ehrlich stated that ZSFG has not had any issues yet with staff testing positive or calling sick; she expressed gratitude the staff have pulled together during this crisis. She said in preparation of possible staff infection, ZSFG is working to hire more nurses and other staff in addition to use of registries.

Commissioner Bernal asked for the total number of COVID19 cases who are hospitalized, including the number of ICU cases. Dr. Aragon said that he did not have the information at the moment and would send it to the Commission.

Commissioner Bernal asked how many SFPDH staff have tested positive for COVID19. Dr. Aragon stated that two SFPDH staff have tested positive.

Commissioner Chow noted that physicians in private practice are in need to personal protective gear. Dr. Colfax stated that there is a national shortage of these supplies.

Commissioner Guillermo asked what criteria will be used to determine if the shelter-in-place order will be extended. Dr. Aragon stated that San Francisco will have to reassess the growth of the local epidemic with the other counties to determine next steps.

Commissioner Green noted that San Francisco has two empty buildings that were former hospitals and suggested that they may be useful as more hospital beds may be needed.

Commissioner Bernal asked for information regarding San Francisco’s testing capacity. Dr. Colfax stated that Dr. Susan Phillip has been doing an effective job implementing the DPH COVID19 testing effort by prioritizing those most at risk; this includes those who have been exposed and health care workers. Unfortunately, the Center for Disease Control is only sending enough tests for a week’s supply. The SFDPH is working with private labels to increase testing capacity. UCSF is developing its own test but there is a global shortage of agents needed for the test. He added that he has brought in a UCSF consultant to help coordinate a citywide testing effort.

Commissioner Guillermo asked if the coordinated testing effort would include private hospitals. Dr. Colfax stated that the City is looking into a coordinated effort, including using philanthropic resources.

Commissioner Green asked if drive-through clinics are being considered, noting that some of her patients are requesting testing, but have difficulty finding resources because CPMC is not considered a primary care provider; some patients end up at the emergency room. Dr. Colfax stated that individuals should consult with their primary care providers to get assessed for testing and noted that the information is available on SFPDH.org.

Commissioner Giraudo asked if any local COVID19 cases are in children/youth. Dr. Colfax stated that he is unaware of any patients from this demographic.
Commissioner Chow noted that the information on the SFDPH website is very helpful.

Commissioner Guillermo asked for information regarding prevention efforts in homeless individuals. Dr. Colfax stated that the SFDPH is working closely with the Human Services Agency and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing on prevention and care for the homeless population.

5) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

6) HEALTH COMMISSION OFFICER ELECTIONS

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously elected Dan Bernal President.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously elected Laurie Green Vice President.

Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Bernal thanked the Commissioners for the faith they have put in he and Commissioner Green. He noted that these are extraordinary times and that he values the expertise and dedication each of the Commissioners brings. He added thanks to Mayor Breed and Dr. Colfax, who are leading the City through the COVID19 crisis.

Commissioner Green stated that it is an honor to be elected Vice President. She thanked all the SFDPH leadership for their incredible work and noted that many SFDPH employees are being redeployed in the COVID19 response and expressed gratitude for all the dedicated staff.

7) OTHER BUSINESS:
This item was not discussed.

8) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS
Commissioner Guillermo, LHH JCC Chair, stated that at the March 17, 2020, 2:30pm, meeting, the Committee heard an overview of the hospital’s COVID19 preparation efforts, which are robust. She added that LHH has requested flex-status for some of its acute ward beds during the COVID19 crisis. The Committee approved policies and procedures necessary for plans of correction implementation. In closed session, the Committee approved the credentials report.

9) CLOSED SESSIONS
A) Public comment on whether to convene in closed session and all matters pertaining to the closed session.

B) Vote on whether to hold a Closed Session (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.11)

C) Closed Session Pursuant to Evidence Code Sections 1156, 1156.1, 1157, 1157.5 and 1157.6; Health and Safety Code Section 1461; and California Constitution, Article I, Section 1.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:
1) ZSFG Credentialing Matters

2) LHH Credentialing Matters
RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:
1. Possible report on action taken in closed session (Government Code Section 54957.1(a)2 and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(b)(2).)
2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a).)

Action Taken: The Committee unanimously voted not to disclose information discussed in closed session.

10) ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 6:19pm.