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### MINUTES HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE Tuesday, May 17, 2011 2:00 p.m. 101 Grove, Room 302, San Francisco, CA 94102

#### 1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner James M. Illig, Member  
Commissioner Catherine Waters R.N., Ph.D., Member  
Commissioner Sonia Melara

Excused: Commissioner Margine Sako, Chair

Commissioner Illig chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:07pm.

#### 2) APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 19, 2011 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Action Taken: The minutes of the April 19, 2011 Community and Public Health Committee were unanimously approved.

#### 3) HOME BASED EDUCATION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES

Karen Cohn, Program Manager, Children's Environmental Health Promotion, and David Lo, Health Educator, made the presentation.

#### Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Illig asked for the source of information regarding lead data. Ms. Cohn stated that the well-baby clinics check lead exposure through blood tests. Data shows that a high percentage of the San Francisco housing market for this population has potential for lead exposure to tenants. The project highlights the fact that there are not enough housing units for this population that meet safety code.

Commissioner Illig asked whether participants had contact with other DPH departments or City departments prior to the home assessment services. Ms. Cohn stated that staff on this project

assessed use of other services as part of intake but were not explicitly aware of history of other home visits. Ms. Cohn also said that outreach was done through WIC because the client population is not generally educated about their tenants' rights.

Commissioner Illig asked whether bed bugs were an issue for this group. Ms. Cohn also stated that bed bugs were not a reported problem in the client group.

Commissioners Illig and Melara recommended that the DPH utilize existing services such as DPH home health care, Department of Children Youth and Their Families, and/or The First Five San Francisco program to link this population to helpful resources.

Commissioner Waters asked for the outcomes of the project. Ms. Cohn stated that every client household received a carbon monoxide detector and education regarding tenants' rights.

DPH Health Officer Tomas Aragon stated that the project may be appropriate for DPH to use in an upcoming community transformation grant application. He will follow-up with Ms. Cohn and will update the Committee if this issue is moved forward through the grant.

#### **4) DPH PARTICIPATION IN SAN FRANCISCO DIVERSION COURTS**

Jo Robinson, Director of Community Behavioral Health Services, gave the presentation.

##### Commissioner Comment/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Illig asked how cost savings are realized through the court programs. Ms. Robinson stated that the cost of the Diversion Courts is substantially less than the cost of incarceration.

Commissioner Waters asked for clarification on the roles of the DPH employees in the Diversion Court programs. Ms. Robinson stated that there is a separate site close to the court where outpatient drug treatment services are offered. DPH staff conduct assessments; assist in creating a pre-court proposal; appear in court on behalf of clients; and conduct groups and case management.

Commissioner Illig asked the consequences if a client wishes to end his/her participation. Ms. Robinson stated that if a client decides to stop participation in the Diversion Court, the case is sent back to criminal court.

Commissioner Melera asked for information on the average length of follow-up for participants. Ms. Robinson stated that length of follow-up depends on the specific case. Most clients must participate in services for at least a year.

Commissioner Waters asked for information on income levels of the participants in the youth treatment education treatment center. Ms. Robinson stated that she will send this information to Mr. Morewitz to pass along to the Committee members.

#### **5) EMERGING ISSUES**

There was no discussion of this item.

#### **6) PUBLIC COMMENT**

A member of the public who wishes to remain anonymous stated that the DPH mandated that the Black Coalition on AIDS shortened the length of stay for residents at Brandy Moore House from two years to six months. Because of this change, he will be asked to leave the program. He also stated that HRSA, the funding

source for these services, rescinded this requirement. He stated that he does not understand why the DPH will not reverse its policy on this issue when HRSA has already done so.

**7) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.