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MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 18 2011 2:00 p.m.
101 Grove, Room 302, San Francisco, CA 94102

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Margine Sako, Chair
Commissioner James M. Illig, Member
Commissioner Catherine Waters R.N., Ph.D., Member

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Action Taken: The minutes of the of the September 20, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

3) DPH DENTAL SERVICES

Avantika Nath, DDS, Director of DPH Dental Services, reviewed the presentation which gave a summary of DPH Dental Services and issues related to dental care for San Franciscans receiving services through DPH.

The Following Are Highlights of the Discussion of This Item:

Dr. Nath stated that Denti-Cal has substantially reduced its rates and spectrum of covered services.

Presently, the DPH uses the General Fund to cover a range of dental services for adults with HIV and Children. Dental services are offered to other adult populations for sliding scale.

For the people who need all of their teeth pulled due to a myriad of oral health problems, replacement dentures, which cost between \$2,500 and \$4,000, are not covered under Denti-Cal.

Dr. Nath estimated that it would take about five years for someone with very poor oral hygiene to lose their teeth.

Loss of teeth poses serious problems for patients to get proper nutrition because they need special diets consisting only of soft foods.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Sako suggested that data for Healthy San Francisco participants receiving dental services be closely tracked to determine if dental care coverage needs to be expanded under Healthy San Francisco.

4) TDAP VACCINE UPDATE

Susan Fernyak, M.D., MPH, Director of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Section, gave the presentation which summarized recent vaccine activities. Dr. Fernyak also announced that she will be leaving the DPH to work for the San Francisco Health Plan. She stated that Amy Pine, M.D. will be overseeing the immunization programs and administration; Sandra Huang, M.D. will be the Acting Deputy Health Officer over disease control.

The Following Are Highlights of the Discussion of This Item:

California AB354 requires all students entering the 7-12th grades to submit proof of TDAP vaccination.

The State of California provided the TDAP vaccine to San Francisco for free. Therefore, the DPH offered it to school-aged children for free. The DPH also offered the booster-vaccine to adults at a discounted rate at its 101 Grove clinic.

Recipients of the vaccine were registered in a State database. Medical practitioners checked the database to insure that children did not receive duplicate vaccinations.

Volunteers were recruited from the DPH, nursing schools, medical schools, NERT teams, and emergency volunteer organizations, to provide the vaccines.

Director Garcia stated that the San Francisco Department of Human Resources registers volunteers in a city-wide emergency. There is currently not a mechanism for volunteers to sign up ahead of time for emergencies. Commissioner Sako suggested that the emergency volunteers be kept in a database that the DPH has access to for use in times of disasters or other crises. Commissioner Sako also asked that the issue of volunteers in times of crisis be discussed when the Department of Emergency Management presents to the Committee in 2012.

Dr. Pine stated that next year the focus will be to immunize seventh graders.

5) EMERGING ISSUES

Tangerine Brigham, Deputy Director of Health and Director of Healthy San Francisco, gave an update on the amendments proposed to the San Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance.

The Following Are Highlights of the Discussion of this Topic:

Supervisor Campos proposed a new amendment which would prevent employers from taking back unused funds in Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) at the end of each calendar year. Campos'

amendment requires that contributions to HRAs be irrevocable and remain available for up to eighteen months after the employee terminates employment.

Supervisor Chiu submitted a similar amendment that requires HRA funds to be available up to twelve months after employment terminates but does not specify that the funds are irrevocable.

Mayor Lee proposed an amendment that focuses on the scope of coverage and specifically calls out HRA plans that exclude health insurance premiums. His amendment also makes funds in HRAs available for up to eighteen months after employment is terminated but does not specify that the contributions be irrevocable.

All of the proposed amendments require notification so employees know how they may use the HRAs.

None of the proposed amendments specify the types of services that the HRA funds can be used for.

Ms. Brigham stated that Campos' irrevocable contributions clause is unpopular with the small business communities because under Mayor Lee and Supervisor Chiu's proposed amendments, unused funds in the HRAs can be reclaimed by employers after a specified amount of time.

Ms. Brigham also announced that the Board of Supervisors will likely pass a resolution to recommend a State license for a new DWI offender program for monolingual Russian speaking participants. The National Council of Drug Addictions requires that City legislature approve of its programs as a condition of certification. The new program would require that participants pay for its services.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm.