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Commissioner

David Pating, M.D
Commissioner

David J. Sanchez, Jr., Ph.D.
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Belle Taylor-McGhee
Commissioner

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FRANCISCO**

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**MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 17, 2015 2:00 p.m.
101 Grove, Room 300, San Francisco, CA 94102**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Belle Taylor-McGhee, Chair
Commissioner David Pating, MD, Member
Commissioner Edward Chow, MD

Excused: Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Member

The meeting was called to order at 2:16pm.

2) APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2015 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Action Taken: The Committee unanimously approved the January 20, 2015 meeting minutes.

3) MESSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO; CODIFICATION OF STATE LAW AND AMENDMENTS TO THE SF HEALTH CODE

Cyndy Comerford, SFDPH Environmental Health Branch, gave the presentation.

Supervisor Tang thanked the SFDPH for its work on this issue. She stated that SB731 was passed with the intention to have standard requirements across the state. However in San Francisco there was not adequate follow-up by the state to monitor these establishments. After passage of AB1147, many jurisdictions passed moratoriums on new massage practitioners and establishments. San Francisco is not doing this, but City government is interested in a uniform process for all massage establishments. She said that San Francisco is very open to exempting solo practitioners. In addition, San Francisco is looking at ways to internally reduce the time and burden of the permitting process. She also stated that since 2013, massage permits must be displayed; however San Francisco is open to changing this practice so that practitioners can produce the permit when requests are made to view it. This will help protect the practitioners' privacy.

Dr. Emily Murase, Executive Director of the Commission on the status of Women, stated that the Commission on the Status of Women has been working closely with the Supervisor Tang to support the proposed amendments to the Health Code. Since 2013, the Mayor's Taskforce on Human Trafficking has been convened to address local issues; there is a guide that lists local and national resources and her office is developing a data collecting tool that will be available later in 2015. She noted that her office has a good relationship with the SFDPH and that San Francisco has a vital opportunity to prevent human trafficking. She also stated that the intention is not to target the individual practitioner but instead is intended to effectively monitor establishments.

Public Comment:

Damien Souza, owner of the blue Buddha, stated that the proposed amendments will increase red tape and costs for legitimate massage practitioners.

Jennifer Lightstone, massage practitioner, requested that the City government work with the massage community to support legitimate massage establishments in San Francisco. She added that the SFDPH is not appropriately staffed to support and monitor all the local massage establishments.

Adam Gordon, owner of Oxygen Therapy, stated that he began as a sole practitioner in 2006 and now has 27 employees that provide massage therapy to assist clients keeping mobile and functioning. He added that massage practitioners do not make much profit and are not well resourced but stated that the criminals posing as massage establishments are well funded.

Tony Siacodos, California Massage Therapy Council Government Relations Chair, stated that it is unfair that legitimate massage businesses have to prove they are not criminals. He requested creativity in developing criteria that filter out the legitimate massage businesses in regard seeking to find criminal behavior.

Stacey Degooger, massage practitioners, stated that the proposed amendments are geared towards finding human trafficking activities and do not respect the massage profession as a modality; massage is a public health issue and human-trafficking and brothels are public safety issues.

Eugenie Paqual stated that she is a small business owner and a massage therapist who sees the proposed amendments as a barrier to small businesses and sole practitioners to open practices in San Francisco. She added that it costs approximately \$1,100 to open a new massage practice in San Francisco.

Marcia Degelman, UCSF Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, stated that massage is an important part of healing modalities and should be treated with respect by the Health Code and City government.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Chow suggested that the resolution be revised to have a more positive message explaining that the SFDPH offers monitoring to ensure that massage establishments are legitimate and safe for the practitioners and the public. He added that the resolution needs to separate illicit establishments versus legit massage businesses.

Commissioner Taylor-McGhee asked that the SFDPH clarify in the resolution what criteria is used to determine if a massage establishment is a legitimate business. Ms. Comerford stated that the SFDPH hopes to permit establishments and monitor them to ensure they are not brothels or involved in human trafficking.

Commissioner Pating also suggested framing the resolution in a positive manner while still addressing health and safety issues. He requested future updates to the Committee on how the SFDPH is working with

the local massage community on the amendments. He also asked whether there are enough health inspectors to properly monitor all the massage establishments in San Francisco.

4) SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH NETWORK INTEGRATED CARE CONTINUUM: CREATING VALUE THROUGH WHOLE PERSON CARE

Albert Yu, MD, Director of San Francisco Health Network Ambulatory Care, gave the presentation.

Commissioners Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Chow stated that he is impressed with scope of work but is concerned how full integration can occur if the Network is not co-locating patients. He looks forward to continued monitoring of this issue.

Commissioner Pating stated that in future presentations he would like to hear more about how the new model of care is interfacing with the old model within SFDPH.

5) EMERGING ISSUES

This issue was not discussed.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56pm.