MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Tuesday February 19, 2019 2:00 p.m.
101 Grove, Room 300, San Francisco, CA  94102

1)  CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner James Loyce Jr., Chair
Commissioner Dan Bernal, Member
Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Member

The meeting was called to order at 2:07pm.

2)  APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2019 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Action Taken: The Committee unanimously approved the January 15, 2019 meeting minutes.

3)  SFPDH EQUITY UPDATE
Ayanna Bennett MD, Director of Interdivisional Activities, and Ron Weigelt, SFPDH Human Resources Director, gave the update.

Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Bernal stated that he is pleased that the SFPDH is committing resources to equity issues, specifically the Black African American Health Initiative. He asked for more information on possible results from the report. Dr. Bennett stated that the report helped progress a normalizing process and that the SFPDH now has a critical mass of staff who are ready to move these topics forward.
4) **RESOLUTION: “INCARCERATION IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE”**
Naveena Bobba MD, SFPDH Deputy Director of Health, and Lisa Pratt MD, Jail Health Services Director, presented the item.

Public Comment:
David Mauroff stated that mass incarceration is one the largest health issues in the United States. It is the drivers of health disparities impacting the health of many communities.

Kate Monoco Klein, former Director of the Forensic AIDS Project (FAP) and member of Tax Payers for Public Safety, stated that FAP programs were an intersection of health and incarceration issues. The San Francisco Jail was one of the first to offer condoms, Hepatitis C treatment, and distribution of Narcan.

Roma Guy, former Health Commissioner and member of Tax Payers for Public Safety, urged the Committee to support the resolution but requested that the “Further Resolved” statement be changed to take public health into incarceration issues. She reminded the Committee that the San Francisco County Jail was under federal court order in 1996. She urged the Commission to provide a robust response to the public health issues related to incarceration.

Laura Thomas, Drug Policy Alliance, stated that people with mental health and substance use issues do better in community treatment programs instead of being incarcerated. Jails are not healthy places and public health has better tools to deal with health-related issues. Public Health entities should be leading the way to provide other options for treatment rather than incarceration.

Dr. Colfax, stated that, given the data and evidence, the resolution should include a statement that for people with severe mental health and substance use disorders, treatment should be the first option.

**Commissioner Comments:**
Commissioner Chung asked whether other City Departments should be included in the resolution. Dr. Bobba stated that this effort will focus on DPH programs to better coordinate existing efforts and identify gaps. She noted that the City, through the District Attorney’s Office, has received a Macarthur grant to coordinate efforts city-wide.

Commissioner Chung requested that the resolution make a statement that every instance of incarceration is traumatic.

Chung-make stronger the statement that every instance of incarceration is traumatizing and retraumatizing

Commissioner Loyce stated that he participated in the Group to Re-Envision the Jail Replacement Project and understands the complexity of these issues. He thanked Ms. Guy for her initiating this endeavor and supports the resolution.

**Action Taken:** The Committee unanimously recommended that the full Health Commission review and approve the resolution.

5) **SFDPH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UPDATE**
Kavoos Ghane Bassiri, Director, SFDPH Behavioral Health Services, presented the item.

**Commissioner Comments:**
Commissioner Chung asked for more information on how ZSFG Psychiatric Emergency (PES) patients are connected to services upon their discharge. Mr. Ghane Bassiri stated that intensive case management is very
helpful in post discharge from PES. He added that these individuals are also added to a high-priority case database to the DPH service system can work in coordination to better assist these individuals.

Commissioner Bernal asked if the performance improvement project is ongoing or funded as a one-time initiative. Mr. Ghane Bassiri stated that there is no additional funding for this initiative; this is part of performance improvement efforts.

Commissioner Loyce noted that Mr. Ghane Bassiri is retiring and thanked him for this service to the SFDPH and San Francisco public health community.

6) **EMERGING ISSUES**
   This item was not discussed.

7) **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   There was no general public comment.

8) **ADJOURNMENT**
   The meeting was adjourned at 3:44pm.