

**James M. Illig**  
President

**Sonia E. Melara**  
Vice President

**Edward A. Chow, M.D.**  
Commissioner

**Margine A. Sako**  
Commissioner

**David J. Sanchez, Jr., Ph.D.**  
Commissioner

**Steven Tierney, Ed.D.**  
Commissioner

**Catherine M. Waters, R.N., Ph.D.**  
Commissioner

## HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
**Gavin C. Newsom, Mayor**

**Department of Public Health**



**Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.**  
Director of Health

**Michele M. Seaton**  
Executive Secretary

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## MINUTES

### HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

**Tuesday, April 1, 2008**

**At**

**3:00 p.m.**

**101 GROVE STREET, ROOM 300  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

#### 1) CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Illig called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioner James M. Illig, President  
Commissioner Sonia E. Melara, MSW, Vice President  
Commissioner Edward A. Chow, M.D.  
Commissioner Margine A. Sako  
Commissioner David J. Sanchez, Jr., Ph.D.  
Commissioner Steven Tierney, Ed.D.  
Commissioner Catherine M. Waters, R.N., Ph.D.

#### 2a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2008

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes of the March 18, 2008 Health Commission meeting with a change on Page 5 to note the reason that Commissioner Waters abstained from voting on Item 6, which was due to a potential conflict of interest. Commissioner Illig noted that, in the future, the Commission will vote on abstentions.

**2b) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2008**

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes of the March 25, 2008 Health Commission meeting with a change on Page 3. The name of one of the proposed new committees has not been determined, so “Visioning/Planning Committee” is in quotations.

**3) APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Tierney chaired and Commissioner Chow and Commissioner Melara attended the Budget Committee meeting.

For Approval

**(3.1) CHN-SFGH** – Request for approval of a contract modification with the Regents of the University of California, San Francisco, to extend the contract for three months through June 30, 2008, to provide Tertiary Care Services targeting medically indigent adults, In-Home Supportive Service workers and San Francisco County jail patients, in the amount of \$425,000, for the period of April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008, for a total contract value of \$3,400,000, for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008 (24 mos.).

**(3.2) PHP-Housing and Urban Health** – Request for approval of a retroactive new contract with Walden House, in the amount of \$190,669, which includes a 12% contingency, to provide supportive services in a permanent housing environment at the Planetree Program targeting very low income adults who have disabling AIDS/HIV and substance abuse concerns for the period of March 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010. (2 yrs, 4 mos.)

**(3.3) HIV Epidemiology** – To request approval to accept and expend retroactively a new four-year grant to the Department of Public Health (DPH) from the University California of San Francisco (UCSF) in the annual amount of \$119,181 (total \$476,724) for the period of September 30, 2007 through August 31, 2011, and to request the approval of a retroactive contract with Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc. (PHFE) in the amount of \$267,033 which includes \$28,611 for a 12% contingency for the period of March 1, 2008 through August 31, 2011 (3.5 years).

**(3.4) PHP – Community Health Promotion and Prevention** – Approval to accept and expend a grant from the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) in the amount of \$500,000 for the support of a two-year project to increase walking and biking to and from school in San Francisco, for the period of September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010, as well as one consultant contract for educational services to be determined in the total amount of \$135,541 for the same time period.

**(3.5) BHS** – Request for approval of a retroactive new contract with Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC) in the amount of \$70,295 per year, for a total contract amount of \$196,826 including a 12% contingency to provide leadership and job readiness skills in school and transitional age youth to age 24 for the period of September 30, 2007 through March 31, 2010 (2.50 yrs.).

For Discussion and Approval

**(3.6) BHS** – Request for approval of retroactive new contract with Fort Help, LLC in the amount of \$186,667, which includes a 12% contingency, to provide mental health/substance abuse services for the period of October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008 (15 mos.).

Action Taken: The Commission approved the Budget Committee Consent Calendar.

**4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**5) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D., Health Director, took questions on the Director's Report, which was sent to Commissioners the day prior to the meeting. Commissioner had no questions.

Board of Supervisors Update

At this week's Land Use & Economic Development Committee meeting Monday, two Zoning ordinances are calendared that would: 1) impose a temporary moratorium on the sale of tobacco paraphernalia; and 2) create an alcohol restricted use district in the Excelsior. At Tuesday's full Board meeting, the Department is requesting the adoption of three Accept and Expend Resolutions for grants for HIV surveillance and vaccine trials. The Board is also hearing the first reading on ordinances authorizing the settlement of the Mark Chambers case and amending the Healthy Products, Healthy Children Ordinance, and a resolution opposing the closure of St. Luke's Hospital. Finally, at Thursday's City & School District Select Committee, there will be a hearing on the status and implementation of the Asthma Task Force recommendations. At the March 25<sup>th</sup> full Board meeting, a resolution accepting the implementation plan of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 was adopted and two ordinances amending the Standards of Care for City Shelters and the Shelter Monitoring Committee were passed. There were no items affecting the Department at any of the week's committee meetings.

National Public Health Week, April 7-11, 2008

Public Health Week is observed annually during the first full week of April. We use the event as an opportunity to bring attention to the significance of public health and to connect with our policy makers, employees and the broader community about public health and what it means in an ever changing world. This year's theme is "Climate Change, Our Health in the Balance." Because of today's full agenda, the Commission will be getting a presentation and a resolution on Public Health Week during its next meeting.

SFGH Power Failure

At approximately 1:30 pm on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> SFGH experienced a partial power outage within the Main Hospital due to an electrical distribution failure. As a result, power was lost to areas in the Emergency Department, Radiology, Cafeteria and Food Services, Surgery/ Operating Rooms and the East side elevators. Approximately 50 minutes after the power failure, the Hospital's Fire Alarm sounded indicating smoke in the Operating Room area. Smoke was visible in the OR Suite corridor, Radiology and the Emergency Department. The Fire Department arrived to assess the situation and determined that there was no active fire. Patients, visitors and staff were never in danger and there was no need to evacuate. Due to the limited capabilities in the ED, Radiology and the OR, the Incident Management Team determined that SFGH would divert all ambulances, including those with Trauma patients, to other facilities in the interest of patient safety.

One patient was diverted from the field to CPMC during the time SFGH was on diversion. SFGH was on Trauma Bypass for a total of 2 hours and 32 minutes. Full power was restored using a temporary electrical bypass at approximately 3:30am the next morning (total power outage approximately 14 hours).

#### World TB Day, March 24

Dr. Masae Kawamura, Director of TB Control, hosted a successful World TB Day press conference at San Francisco International Airport last week. The event included three TB patients and TB Control Officers from all of the neighboring Bay Area counties who, like San Francisco, are seeing increases in TB cases and rates. With the ongoing 25% federal funding cut and this year's 10% state reductions for TB, speakers called for increased resources to prevent the continued rise in TB, especially multidrug resistant TB which is difficult to treat and presents a growing challenge worldwide.

#### Mayoral Directive Regarding Discretionary Spending & Overtime

The City's projected deficit for FY 2008-09 exceeds \$338 million. In order to address this shortfall, on March 26<sup>th</sup> the Mayor issued an Executive Directive regarding reduction of discretionary spending. Specifically departments are directed to:

- Manage overtime by limiting it to extraordinary circumstances which cannot be anticipated or where staffing requirements can not be met through normal scheduling and assignment of personnel,
- Freeze any and all payouts of discretionary lump sum payments,
- Implement a voluntary work furlough program during the holiday periods of 11/24-11/28/08 and 12/29/08-1/2/09,
- Restrict out of town travel,
- Limit use of standby pay,
- Limit legal holiday work hours,
- Target departments for additional 10% reduction in energy use for FY 2008-09, and
- Implement an additional 5% reduction in the City's non-emergency, general purpose fleet.

Although the department will take action on all the points described above, overtime is the largest expenditure of those that are listed. As you know, the hospitals and jail health are 24x7 operations and a certain level of overtime is required to meet staffing levels. In fact, SFGH and LHH combined overtime usage represents 95% of the total department's overtime. When DPH's use of overtime as a percentage of salaries is analyzed, we have ranged from 2.9% in FY 2000-01 to 2.8% in the current year. The citywide average for the same time was 6.8% and 6.4% respectively. We will continue to closely monitor our discretionary spending through out the year and into next year to ensure we meet our budget.

#### SF DPH Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) Safe Device Committee

The Safe Device Committee is a joint-labor management activity in compliance with the Cal-OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, charged with involving first-line staff in researching, evaluating, recommending and implementing safety sharps (i.e., needles, syringes, scalpels, etc. with a needle-protection feature) and safe work practices to reduce exposures to bloodborne pathogens. As a result of the work of this Committee, DPH has experienced a reduction in BBP exposures associated with needlesticks and splashes. Reported exposures for DPH employees totaled 200 in 2003 and were down to 135 in 2007. The Committee remains vigilant in monitoring exposures and compliance with use of safety sharps and work practices. The Committee maintains its own website on DPHNet. All DPH staff can access the list of safe sharps currently available, best practices in high risk situations, summaries of the Sharps Injury Log and news briefs (What's the

Point!) emphasizing important recommendations and reminders. The website also has an interactive feature where staff can apprise the Committee of their concerns and suggestions at any time.

### HIV Testing Update

The Department of Public Health continues to expand HIV testing opportunities. Here are some updates on what staff is working on and what they are finding.

- In 2007, 16,847 tests were conducted with AIDS Office support, with 307 new cases of HIV diagnosed. With our increased focus on testing in medical setting, SFGH has doubled the number of monthly HIV tests in just the past 12 months, resulting in the monthly average of newly-identified HIV positive tests increasing from 8.9 to 14.9 individuals.
- Efforts are also underway to offer more HIV testing in the Health Department's substance use treatment centers and community clinics. As of March 24<sup>th</sup>, all methadone clinics funded by the Health Department are offering routine, opt-out HIV testing. Tom Waddell clinic will start offering routine opt-out testing to all urgent care patients in April.
- A current barrier to HIV prevention and linking persons to care is the delay in getting confirmatory positive HIV test results. In August 2007, the HIV Prevention Section implemented a CDC-funded study using multiple HIV rapid tests to provide immediate confirmatory results. To date, 2887 persons were tested using this new testing algorithm and 50 people tested HIV positive, all of whom received their results immediately and were referred to medical care.

### Chronicle Magazine Features Transitions Clinic

Sunday's *San Francisco Chronicle Magazine* featured a moving article on Ron Sanders, the community health worker for the Transitions Clinic that operates out of Southeast Health Center. Mr. Sanders is referred to in the headline as, "The Hope Peddler." As explained in the article, the Transitions clinic was designed for recent parolees for reasons both practical and ethical. Studies show that 90% of parolees—who tend to have higher rates of HIV, hepatitis B and C, TB and mental illnesses than the general population—rely on emergency rooms for medical care. Congratulations to Mr. Sanders for his tireless work on behalf of our clients.

### Community Health Promotion and Prevention

*Pomoshniks, Promotores*, and Community Health Workers were highlighted in a *San Francisco Chronicle* on March 24. The article describes the use of community health workers in health promotion and health access programs for the diverse communities of California. Lay health workers from the Newcomers Health Program - "Let's Be Healthy!" project were interviewed about their chronic disease prevention work with Russian-speaking newcomers.

### San Francisco Health Plan Wins (SFHP) Gold Quality Award

The San Francisco Health Plan won the *Gold Quality Award* for outstanding performance in the Health Plan Employer Data & Information Set (HEDIS) measures for MediCal Managed Care for this past year. The award was given by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) at its Annual Quality Conference. A special thanks to Dori Lange and Jean Levinson, their outstanding HEDIS teams, along with the quality work of our great provider network.

### Shape Up SF Receives Funding

Kaiser Permanente has provided \$30,000 in partnership funds for Shape Up SF. These funds will support a range of Shape Up activities including Soda Free Summer, Southeast Food Access

Working Group, 2009 Walking Challenge, November Shape Up Summit, Worksite Wellness and other Shape Up efforts.

#### Dignity/SF Awards SFGH Emergency Room Nursing Staff

Dignity/SF has chosen the San Francisco General Hospital & Trauma Center's Emergency Department Nursing Staff as one of this year's recipients of their *Pax et Bonum* (Peace and All Good) award for service to the LGBT community. In making the announcement, Dignity/SF noted, "...SFGH emergency Room Nursing Staff has been treating patients with advanced HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic. Their patient care is marked by professionalism, respect for cultural diversity and genuine compassion. These medical professionals go above and beyond their job descriptions on a daily basis..." We applaud the nursing staff and thank Dignity/SF for this special award. The ceremony will be held on April 26 at the Parc55 Hotel. Dignity/SF is a local chapter of DignityUSA, a national organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics, their families, friends and supporters.

#### **6) SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL REBUILD/ INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN/BOND UPDATE**

Gene O'Connell, SFGH Executive Administrator, Kathy Jung, SFGH Associate Administrator and Gregg Sass, CFO, presented the report. Mayor Newsom addressed the Commission supporting the rebuild of San Francisco General Hospital, saying it is an anchor of San Francisco's health care delivery system. He is confident the bond will be successful in November. The city allocated \$25 million to do advance planning for the project, which was an unprecedented approach.

Key changes to the March 2008 Institutional Master Plan Update include new emergency generators; helipad will be built on the existing hospital roof; and greater detail on the new acute care hospital. The IMP was published on March 10<sup>th</sup> and will be presented to the Planning Commission on April 10<sup>th</sup> to receive public comment.

The proposal is to build a new, seismically safe San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center on the West Lawn of the Potrero Campus. There will be a total of nine stories, with seven above ground. The gross square footage of the building will be approximately 442,350 square feet, with a total capacity for 284 acute care beds. To ensure that the bond is ready to place before the voters, the city has spent \$25 million and two years completing programming, initial design, environmental, geotechnical and other planning studies. As a result there is a solid understanding of the space needs, design goals and, most important, the cost of the new building, which is anticipated to be \$887.4 million. A General Obligation bond to fund the project will be submitted to the voters for the November 2008 election.

#### Commissioners' Comments

- The Commission thanked the Mayor for allocating funds to do advance planning for this bond issuance. This was a courageous move, and the correct way to plan. In the past planning has not been able to be done until after the bond was approved.

#### Public Comment

Dick Hodgson, San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, said the SFCCC passed a resolution endorsing the rebuild of San Francisco General Hospital.

7) **FY 2008-2009 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF 2008-2009 BUDGET**

Gregg Sass, CFO, presented the sixth budget update to the Health Commission. Various changes were made to the budget initiatives that have been presented to meet the initial \$28 million reduction target, the largest and most significant of which is \$3.5 million in additional revenue for San Francisco General Hospital. With the work done to date, the Department has exceeded the initial General Fund reduction target. However, two proposed cuts are still pending Health Commission approval: the 4.4% overall reduction to Community Programs contractors and Civil Service Clinics and the reduction in HIV Health Services.

The Mayor's Budget Office has given the Department an additional \$18 million reduction target. Staff has identified initiatives that partially meet this goal. Staff proposes revisions to the sliding scale discount program to limit eligibility to patients with income up to 300% of the federal poverty level, which is a reduction from 500% of the federal poverty level. Staff also proposes eliminating the CBO cost of doing business, including UCSF. If these proposals are accepted, the additional reduction needed to meet the \$18 million target is \$12.8 million.

**Public Comment**

Larry Nelson, Walden House, said it is not a good idea to cut substance abuse services and he hopes the Commission conveys this to the Board.

Richard Jimenez, Walden House, said substance abuse provides a safety net for the city so please do not cut these services.

Vitka Eisen, Walden House, urged the Commission not to cut substance abuse services. They already have a two-month wait for people wanting to get into treatment.

Toby Eastman, Larkin Street Youth Services, highlighted the fact that they serve some of the city's most vulnerable youth.

Brett Andrews, Positive Resource Center and HIV/AIDS Provider Network, encouraged the Commission to examine different ways to balance the budget.

Steven Fields, organizational speaker for the Human Services Network, and on behalf of Debbi Lerman and Merrill Buice, said HSN concurs with the strategy to take back the cost of doing business this year. But in return they ask for a commitment from the Health Commission and the Health Department to have contractors' true cost of being able to stay open included in the Department's structural/regulatory/inflationary budget projections next year. They also ask that next year the Department sits down with contractors to develop budget reduction proposals, as well as a long term planning process.

Jonathan Vernick, Baker Places, said the cuts should not cost more than existing programs, the Commission must look a few years out and licensed residential treatment programs might be lost irrevocably.

Richard Heasley, Conard House, said he is honoring a 5% labor agreement this year, in addition to other cost increases, at the same time they are taking a budget cut. Conard will have to reduce services to fund this cost of doing business.

Eve Meyer, San Francisco Suicide Prevention, said there is nothing left to cut. They are a 24 hour/7 day a week operation.

Kate Kalstein, Edgewood Center for Children and Families, said the Health Department has agreed to pay the supplemental fee for children it refers to the program, however other agencies have not.

They will be closing their residential treatment facility to San Francisco youth July 2008 unless the fee issue is resolved. The Health Department plays a key role in the solution to this problem.

Kelly Tyne, SAGE Project, said an outcomes-driven approach to funding cuts would be better than an across-the-board cut. The SAGE program keeps people out of higher levels of care and allows them to be more productive.

Ana Gutierrez spoke in support of the SAGE Project and asked the Commission to fund the program.

Hunter Hargraves, Stop AIDS Project, asked that HIV prevention be spared in these budget cuts. (He submitted a written copy of his testimony.)

Jennifer Hecht, Stop AIDS Project, spoke in support of HIV prevention services. (She submitted a written copy of his testimony.)

Jason Riggs, Stop AIDS Project, spoke in support of HIV prevention funding. (He submitted a written copy of his testimony.)

Chad Campbell, Stop AIDS Project, spoke in support of HIV prevention funding. (He submitted a written copy of his testimony.)

George Simmons, Catholic Charities CYO, urged the Commission maintain housing in San Francisco. Housing is health care.

Laura Thomas, co-chair, HIV Health Services Planning Council, said the \$900,000 in additional money from Speaker Pelosi must be shared by three counties. The Planning Council moved as many programs as possible onto CARE, and many of the services that remain funded by general fund are not able to be funded by CARE.

Lara Tannenbaum, Larkin Street Youth Services, urged the Commission that HIV services take the same level of cuts as other services.

Alexandra Kutik is dismayed that the cost of doing business is being removed from the budget.

Michael Lyon, People's Budget, said the Commission should oppose the cuts.

Larry Littlejohn said something is wrong when a jail nurse gets so much overtime.

Gayle Burns, co-chair for HIV Prevention Planning Council, said San Francisco can do prevention like no place else because of general fund.

#### Written Public Testimony (on file in the Health Commission Office)

Janet Goy, Community Awareness and Treatment Services – opposed to 18% cut to CBHS programs and HIV cuts of \$4.2 million.

Judith Auerbach, Ph.D., San Francisco AIDS Foundation – opposed to HIV Prevention and Housing budget cuts. We need to find a way to keep this money.

#### Commission Comments/Follow Up Action

- Commissioner Tierney announced that the Budget Committee will be restructured and will be working with Department staff and community partners to take a look at ongoing budget planning from the policy level.
- Commissioner Chow would like to accept the Department's recommended process for the Community Program's cuts, which is to target unmatched general fund to preserve as many

dollars as possible, give each agency a dollar target and work with each agency to determine how to the agency is going to achieve that cut.

- Commissioner Illig wants to see the details of the reduction—what agencies are going to get what cut and what the impacts will be. Hold harmless housing and prevention across the board, and give direction to staff that anything on the Community Programs list that is housing or prevention be removed.
- Commissioner Tierney asked for more details about the impact of the cuts on the clients and a plan that would help the Commission make these difficult decisions.
- Commissioners stated that that if the Commission wants to change the adopted budget principles, which currently hold harmless prevention and housing services, then this must be publicly noticed and voted on by the Commission.
- The Commission directed staff to bring the whole budget, including the full list of budget reductions to the Commission at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Tierney said staff should use the established budget principles, reasonably interpreted by Dr. Katz, to develop the proposed Community Program and HIV Services reductions, with more detail about impacts and possible mitigation. The Commission directed staff two meetings ago to treat HIV Health Services the same as the rest of Community Programs.
- Staff will recommend how to implement the HIV reductions, following the principles. The reductions will not include housing.

Action Taken: The Commission (Chow, Illig, Melara, Sako, Tierney, Waters voting aye, Sanchez voting no) to apply the \$14.6 million reduction to all of Community Programs, including HIV Health Services.

## 8) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Daniel Michaels, RAMS, spoke against budget cuts.

## 9) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Illig announced that the new committee structure will begin in May.

## 10) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Michele M. Seaton  
Health Commission Executive Secretary