

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

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Department of Public Health



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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

At

4:00 p.m.

101 GROVE STREET, ROOM 300 or ROOM 302

San Francisco, CA 94102

1) CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Illig called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Present: Commissioner James M. Illig, President
Commissioner Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner Margine A. Sako
Commissioner David J. Sanchez, Jr., Ph.D.
Commissioner Steven Tierney, Ed.D.

Absent: Commissioner Sonia E. Melara, MSW, Vice President (excused)
Commissioner Catherine M. Waters, R.N., Ph.D., (excused)

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF JULY 15, 2008

Action Taken: The Commission (Chow, Illig, Sako, Sanchez, Tierney) approved the minutes of the July 15, 2008 Health Commission meeting.

3) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Francisco DaCosta said people have to be sensitive to an archeological survey that is not being done in this area.

- Reverend Christopher Muhammad said the question is what level of exposure is safe, and no safe asbestos exposure level has been established for residential areas.
- Daniel Landry said there needs to be a community meeting regarding this issue. Lennar is a rogue company.
- Archbishop Franzo King said Commissioners should meet with the community so they can ask intelligent questions of staff.

4) **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Tierney presented the items that were discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. The committee approved the contracts for July and August 2008. Ms. Garcia presented the Corrective Action Plan Policy, which is how the Department and the Commission will support agencies that are having difficulties. The Committee endorsed this policy. The Committee then heard a Corrective Action Plan for Iris Center. The Committee discussed budget principles and process for reviewing cuts and revisions to the budget. The Finance Committee will hold a special meeting of the Committee later in August to engage in discussion with key department staff and community members to about budget priorities and principles that support the delivery of health care to all San Franciscans.

5) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Anne Kronenberg, Director, Office of Policy and Planning and Acting Director of Health, presented the Director's Report.

Board of Supervisors Update: July 21 through August 8

On Tuesday, July 22, the Budget & Finance Committee heard an ordinance for \$498,145 in General Fund Reserve funding for the Community Justice Center. At Tuesday's full Board meeting, the Board finally passed an ordinance placing the \$887 million SFGH rebuild bond on the November ballot, an ordinance appropriating \$16,864,000 in supplemental funding for SFGH and LHH, ordinances increasing various Environmental Health and Emergency Medical Services fees and patient rates, and an ordinance amending the Building Code to require dust control during building site preparation. In addition, the Board passed the 2008-09 Annual Appropriation Ordinance (AAO) and Annual Salary Ordinance (ASO) on their first reading.

At a special meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee on July 29, the committee heard a resolution authorizing the lease of space at 555 Polk St. and the release of \$500,000 in reserve funds for the Community Justice Center. At the Full Board on Tuesday, the board adopted accept and expend resolutions for \$47,694.36 from the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture for pest exclusion and for recurring State grants; finally passed the 2008-09 AAO, ASO, and amendments to the menu labeling ordinance; passed on first reading an ordinance prohibiting pharmacies from selling tobacco products; and approved the lease and \$498,145 appropriation for the Community Justice Center. On Wednesday, the Budget & Finance Committee heard resolutions amending the construction management services and design agreements for the LHH Replacement Program.

On Tuesday, August 5, the full Board will have second reading on the ordinances to prohibit pharmacies from selling tobacco products and to amend the menu labeling ordinances, and will hear resolutions on amendments to the construction management services and design agreements for the LHH Replacement Products, and on the disposition of delinquent refuse services and reinspection fee liens. As of noon on August 1, the City Operations & Neighborhood Services Committee had

not posted its agenda for its August 7 meeting. On Thursday, the Rules Committee will conduct a hearing on the exceedances at the community airborne asbestos monitoring station HV-9 on May 30.

Mayor Signs FY 08-09 Budget into Law

On Wednesday, July 30th the Mayor signed the City's \$6.5 billion FY 08-09 budget into law. In signing the document, the Mayor noted however that because of the failure of the Prop J initiative to contract out the Institutional Police function that the City's budget removes 5.5 million dollars from vital City reserves. There will be further cuts to make up for this difference.

Tobacco Ban in Pharmacies

The proposal to ban the sale of tobacco at pharmacies passed 8-3 at the Board of Supervisors hearing on July 29. The ban has received a great deal of local and national attention, predicated on the assumption that many public policy initiatives begun in California eventually find their way into the national conscience. Dr. Katz is hopeful that this legislation is just the beginning of a rapid and expanded ban throughout the country. The *Wall Street Journal* ran articles and Dr. Katz did an on-air Fox Business News interview on Thursday and the AP and other syndicates have covered the story as well.

MRSA Update

As the Commissioners know, MRSA has become a popular public health topic. A recent journal article published by UCSF researchers highlighted the national increase in skin and soft tissue infections, likely due to Community-Associated Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. The research noted that the number of outpatient and emergency department visits for skin infections such as cellulitis and abscesses doubled between 1997 and 2005, and notably the highest increases were among children and urban centers treating a high proportion of patients who receive Medicaid or are uninsured. The press release included a quote from DPH emphasizing the importance of practicing good hygiene measures to prevent this disease. San Francisco has noted this increase over the last several years and provides much of the leading research in this area.

The Department of Public Health has updated its informational materials for the public and clinicians on our website <http://sfcdcp.org/mrsa.cfm>. We have also convened a DPH MRSA Working Group comprised of clinicians and representatives from various sections within the department. The Working Group will be addressing several key areas: outreach, treatment guidelines, surveillance/reporting and legislation, occupational health issues, and primary prevention. A Treatment subgroup has developed San Francisco specific guidelines that will be disseminated to clinicians citywide by this fall.

San Francisco Pediatric MRSA Surveillance Project

In other MRSA-related news, Phase 2 of the San Francisco Pediatric MRSA Surveillance Project began earlier this year with collecting information on pediatric isolates positive for MRSA at SFGH, UCSF and Children's Hospital, Oakland (CHO). The Project is also collecting information on Methicillin-sensitive *S. aureus* isolates and researchers will be assessing risk factors associated with community-associated MRSA infection. Data gathering will continue for one year in partnership with California Emerging Infections Program.

SFGH Honored

San Francisco General Hospital was honored recently by the APA Family Support Services (formerly Asian Perinatal Advocates) at its 21st Anniversary Celebration Dinner. The APA Family Support Services serves high-risk Asian/Pacific Islander families and their children. The focus is to

promote healthy families by preventing child abuse and domestic violence. APA's Executive Director, Mai-Mai Ho, thanked SFGH for its many years of support serving children and families.

Medical Directors Meet

July 17 marked the first meeting between the Medical Directors of the Community Health Network (CHN) Primary Care clinics and the Medical Directors of Community Behavioral Health Services (CBHS). Barbara Garcia, Director of Community Programs and Bob Cabaj, Director of CBHS also attended. This meeting served both as a forum for introductions between these groups of Medical Directors—many of whom have not previously met—and a platform for discussing future expansion of integration efforts between Primary Care and Behavioral Health within Community Programs.

Immunization Training

The Communicable Disease Prevention Unit recently conducted five immunization trainings specifically focusing on vaccine administration techniques for medical assistants. The Unit was able to train 100 Medical Assistants. Staff from Communicable Disease Prevention also conducted an Immunization Update earlier this month covering new vaccines, proper vaccine storage and handling and the immunization schedule for adults and children. Over 100 clinicians (mostly nurses) participated.

Hep Team Outreach

San Francisco is participating in HepTeam again this year—vaccinating for hepatitis A and B at street fairs. Over 150 people were vaccinated during Pride Week. Staff will be working at Dore Alley and a number of the other upcoming street fairs targeting MSM, including Harrison Street Fair, Folsom Street Fair and Castro Street Fair.

California Immunization Registry

Castro Mission Health Center, Silver Avenue Family Health Center and Southeast Health Center are now fully using the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) software to track all administered vaccinations at their respective health centers. The web-based CAIR software is used by 15 other private practices in San Francisco and in hundreds of offices throughout the Bay Area. The MIS Department at SFGH also created an interface such that immunization information entered into the CAIR system is also uploaded into the Lifetime Clinical Record system through CHN on a daily basis. The registry has improved efficiency at the practices that are using it and users are giving it good feedback.

Community Health Programs for Youth Wins Award

Community Health Programs for Youth was recently awarded \$225,000 over three years from the California Wellness Foundation to support a collaborative project with Huckleberry Youth Programs (HYP) to provide clinical placements for high school students interested in the health field. As an extension of HYP's Wellness Academy, which offers intensive education on various aspects of the health field, CHPY will place up to six youth in its various clinics starting this fall.

The Dimensions Clinic was a recipient of \$44,500 from CPMC Community Health Programs. Dimensions Clinic targets LGBTQ youth and young adults and this grant will support outreach efforts as well as training opportunities for CPMC staff at Dimensions.

Pandemic Flu Training Video

The Pandemic Flu Outreach Project completed the production of a pandemic flu preparedness training video for San Francisco city and county employees. The training video features many of

our own DPH staff who both educate and entertain the viewers with messages about healthy habits to prevent the spread of disease and what to expect from a flu pandemic. The Health Commission will receive a presentation on Pan Flu later this year.

Additions to Long Term Care and Targeted Case Management

Two new staff members are working with Liz Gray in the fields of Long Term Care and Targeted Case Management. Kelly Hiramoto has begun her new role as Deputy Director of Long Term Care Services. Luis Calderon, Director of Placement Targeted Case Management, who comes with 11 years at the San Francisco IHSS Public Authority, brings a strong consumer based perspective to Long Term Care, homecare and housing issues.

CDCP Clinicians Edit Portions in New Book

Seven chapters on bioterrorism-related diseases and infection control for the forthcoming book "Emergency Management of Infectious Diseases" were edited by Karen Holbrook, MD and Yeva Johnson, MD. The book will be printed later this year.

Come Out and Play

This is an invitation to the Commissioners to join Mayor Newsom and thousands of other San Franciscans and visitors for the City's first "Sunday Streets" program on August 31 and September 14. Sunday Streets brings 4.5 miles of open space where you are welcome to run, bike, walk, skate and sample different kinds of physical activity along the way. Organized activities include yoga, roller skating and skating lessons, biking and bike repair, dancing, stretching, guided walking tours, Tai Chi, Boot Camp classes and much more. All activities are free of charge, presented by nearly 100 health, fitness, youth and family oriented organizations. Come join in the fun, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. along the Embarcadero.

Commissioners' Comments/Follow Up

- Commissioner Chow asked that the Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committee receive an update on the resolutions the Board of Supervisors approved regarding the LHH replacement project and said that the Commission should continue its oversight about the project.

6) UPDATE ON PARCEL A DEVELOPMENT AND DPH OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY

Secretary's Note – This item was called out of order, as the first item on the agenda.

Rajiv Bhatia, M.D., Director, Environmental Health Services, and Amy Brownell, P.E., EHS, gave an overview of the regulatory oversight and monitoring of dust and naturally occurring asbestos at the Lennar BVHP Parcel A Hunters Point Shipyard Redevelopment Project. They discussed the context of development for Parcel A, regulatory oversight of the development, rules that exist to control dust during development, current efforts and upcoming milestones. Dr. Bhatia said that prior to the transfer of Parcel A to the City the Board of Supervisors legislated new and unprecedented rules to require effective dust control at the Shipyard. Ms. Brownell described DPH's activities in enforcing dust control requirements. She also described the exceedence that occurred on May 30, 2008. Representatives from Lennar, the Health Department, the Redevelopment Agency and Arc Ecology met last week and agreed that going forward all results will be submitted all interested parties who are on the e-mail list as soon as the data is received from the laboratory.

Given extensive environmental review, the regulations in place and the independent reviews of asbestos monitoring data, DPH staff continues to believe that development activities at Parcel A do not endanger human health.

Commissioners' Questions

- Commissioner Tierney asked for more information about the 130,000 level that was identified on May 30th. Dr. Bhatia said the threshold level is intended to trigger work suspension. Work suspension is intended to be health protective. Asbestos is a health concern because it is a carcinogen. It requires long term exposure to high levels of concentrations to have a meaningful health risk. It is not a single dose at a single time that has ever been scientifically shown to cause cancer. Dr. Bhatia said that work operations are not resumed until there is confirmatory data that shows the level has dropped below the level. Vicki Dvorak, Air Quality Program Manager for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, said the regulation is part of the Health and Safety Code and has several requirements that the Air District enforces. The Air District developed its stop work levels based on Office on Environmental Health Hazard assessment protocols.
- Commissioner Chow asked Ms. Brownell how quickly she receives sample data and why the results from the same sample varied so widely. Ms. Brownell said there is a daily sample, the lab analyzes the sample and sends a report to the consultant, who reports to Lennar the Air Board and DPH the next day. Ms. Brownell explained the lab's process to determine levels.
- Commissioner Sanchez said that when we went into this endeavor we know that it was a high risk community. He noted that the protocols were reviewed by an outside entity and DPH instituted recommendations. He asked who is responsible for the four community monitors. Ms. Brownell said Treadwell & Rollo, environmental consultants, oversee the community monitors. Dr. Bhatia said the Air District has regulatory oversight for this project, and regulates and monitors State legislative requirements. The Health Department is providing an additional, voluntary level of oversight. The Health Department also voluntarily went to ATSDT and asked them to evaluate what the Health Department has done. Commissioner Sanchez wants to ensure that the data that is being submitted by the community monitors is valid, that the sites are being maintained and that we are doing our due diligence. Commissioner Sanchez said the Health Department needs to look at a comprehensive approach to providing prevention and health screening in this community, instead of looking at individual pathways.
- Commissioner Illig asked what the relationship is between DPH and the developer. Dr. Bhatia said DPH is paid by the Redevelopment Agency. The developer pays fees to the Redevelopment Agency. Dust inspection fees are billed directly to the developer. This is not unusual, as all regulatory activities are fee based.

Public Comment

- Reverend Joe Niumalelega, United Samoa Pentecostal Church, said there are a lot of sick kids in the neighborhood. Stop the job and check the people that live over there.

- Minister Christopher Muhammad said Health Department staff deceived the Health Commission.
- Daniel Landry said the Health Department should be able to test for asbestos and the Commission should look deeper.
- Francisco DaCosta said there are other poisonous elements in the soil at Parcel A. Lennar has a bad history.
- Tesse Ester said that less than a month ago a Lennar truck violated the dust control requirements. The asthma and cancer in her community are caused by the shipyard.
- Marie Harrison said SFGH informed her that she needed to move her four year old out of the community. She worked for the shipyard and knows how toxic it is.
- Representative from POWER said shut down the project, and get people who are not from DPH and not from Lennar to see what is going on.
- Willie Ratcliffe, San Francisco Bayview News, said the Health Department should have an interest in what happens in the community.
- Liz Miesner, Environ International Corporation, said Environ has been working with Lennar since August 2007. Environ International agreed with the conclusion that grading activities on the site pose no health risk.
- Reverend Franzo King said all readings should be retested. There is something terribly wrong here and the community needs a serious period of time to detail its concerns.
- Reverend Aurelius Walker, African American Revitalization Consortium and Tabernacle Development Corporation, thanked the Health Department for scientific information and data. He is not here representing Lennar or the city, but represented his community.
- Erin, POWER, said the Health Department should conduct extensive tests and evaluation of Bayview residents, the shipyard project should be shut down until there are tests, and what about other toxic metals that come from the ground. Look at the issues holistically.
- Pastor Joesiah Bell, The Church at San Francisco, said the community is acting as if this is the only development that ever happened in Hunters Point. It is time for closure on this issue. The biggest problems for Hunters Point are the sewage treatment plant and the PG&E tower. Let's continue this job.
- Marcia Dale-LeWinter, Hunters Point Shipyard Citizens Advisory Committee, said the CAC has spent a lot of time paying attention to the dust and asbestos issues. They support redevelopment of the shipyard but know there are health issues that seem to be endemic to the community.
- Valerie Tulier, Latino Steering Committee, asked the Health Commission to stand up for poor and underserved communities. The community needs adequate time to counteract the Department's falsification. Statistics can never negate the sickness of the community.

- Dr. Ahimsa Porter Sumchai, Radiological Subcommittee, said that the 138,000 exceedence was not an isolated incident.
- James Walton, AARC, said the community is very concerned about health but we also have to respect technology. The Hunters Point Shipyard project has been scrutinized more than any other project.
- Octavio Guillermo Solarzano said he has been sick and his mom suffered an asthma attack last week.
- Adela Andrea Flores-Bolanos said the Health Department is deceiving the Health Commission.

Commissioner Illig thanked the speakers for their testimony, and said the public is welcome to submit any additional information in writing. He said the Health Commission is concerned about the health of all San Franciscans and is well aware that there are serious health disparities in the Bayview and among the African American population that existed long before Lennar started building and will continue to exist unless all parties get together to address the issues.

7) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Illig announced that the September 2nd Health Commission meeting will be rescheduled to September 9th, and the Finance Committee will be rescheduled as well.

Commissioner Illig announced that there is a special meeting of the Citywide Health Planning and Effectiveness Committee on Tuesday, August 12th, and the topic will be a reassessment of the purpose and mission of the committee.

Commissioner Sanchez said the Commission should consider having a joint meeting with the School District and look at the issue facing children in the Bayview Hunters Point community.

Commissioner Tierney would be interested in getting a report about the proactive activities the Health Department is doing about Health Disparities in Bay View Hunters Point.

8) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Chow announced that the Joint Commission still has not arrived at San Francisco General Hospital for its survey.

9) **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Michele M. Seaton
Health Commission Executive Secretary