

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

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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

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 4:09pm

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

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

The Commission approved the minutes of the September 15, 2009 meeting without modification.

3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Big Rumble

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake. The Big Rumble commemorates the anniversary with a week-long series of special events designed to connect the community with preparedness resources. Events will include:

- The Big Rumble Kick-Off Event and Panel Presentation. October 13, 3:30 to 7:00 p.m., North Light Court, City Hall.
- Viewing of the film "5:04 PM", a documentary about the Loma Prieta earthquake and the World Series Earthquake Game as experienced by fans in attendance. October 14, 6:30 p.m., Koret Auditorium, Main Library. Go to www.thebigrumble.org for additional viewing times.
- The Great California Shake Out Drill, a statewide "Drop, Cover and Hold" exercise. October, 15, 10:15 a.m. To participate, register at www.shakeout.org/sanfrancisco.
- The Big Rumble Preparedness Fairs, four locations throughout San Francisco. October 17, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- "Where were you in '89" block parties in local communities. October 17, as scheduled.

As a lead organizer and sponsor of The Big Rumble, the Department of Public Health will have staff presenting in the panel discussion as well as performing Influenza Prevention Outreach at each Preparedness Fair. DPH will also be displaying disaster response assets on the Marina Green, October 17.

I hope the Commissioners will find time to participate in these events as time and interest allow. The website www.thebigrumble.org, offers detailed information. Rebekah Varela, Preparedness Coordinator, 554-2894, is the staff contact.

State Surveyors at SFGH

A survey team from the California Department of Public Health arrived at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center on Tuesday September 29 for a top-to-bottom survey to determine compliance with the Medicare terms of participation. The inspection by registered nurses, pharmacists, facilities evaluators, dietary consultants and a physician is expected to take a week.

Groundbreaking Set for October 22

This is a reminder that the formal San Francisco General Hospital groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, October 22 at 1 p.m. on the main lawn where the new facility will be erected. By now, each of the Commissioners should have received an invitation from Sue Currin, CEO at SFGH. I hope the Commissioners will join Mayor Newsom, Sue Currin and a host of other San Francisco dignitaries and well-wishers for this celebration and milestone event.

DOC Activated to Coordinate H1N1 Swine Flu Response

In our on-going effort to coordinate activities related to the H1N1 Swine Flu pandemic, DPH did a virtual activation our DOC on Monday, September 28. By instituting a virtual activation rather than a facility-based DOC, staff is able to participate from their personal workstations and attend to their daily workload while, at the same time, respond to the H1N1 Swine Flu related activities. This minimizes the disruption of the normal daily Department's operations.

At this time we do not think the City's EOC needs to be activated. One of the primary efforts is directed at planning for the H1N1 Swine Flu vaccination clinics at the end of the month when the vaccine arrives. This is an immense undertaking and is going to require reassignment of staff along with a targeted push to recruit volunteers from the public to help at all of the clinic sites. We are grateful to the Department of Emergency Management and representatives from the San Francisco Fire Department for helping us with our planning efforts.

San Francisco Vital Records Office Gets Accolades from State of CA

The State Office of Vital Records has recognized San Francisco's efforts to improve the reliability and quality of death registration data. As a result, San Francisco is one of a few counties that no longer will be required to print and mail copies of death certificates to the State. Death certificates are accessible from the State's Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS). This will save time, paper and rewards San Francisco for good performance.

Additionally, Karen MacKenzie, Manager of the Chief Deputy Registrar for the Office of Vital Records, has been delegated responsibility for State EDRS training for mortuaries and county vital records personnel in this region, as the State no longer has staff resources to conduct training.

San Francisco Submits Comments to FDA on New Tobacco Regulations

The Mayor's Office requested technical assistance from the Tobacco Free Project in preparing comments to the FDA regarding new tobacco regulations. Included in the Mayor's comments were that the FDA should: (1) Take no action that would interfere with or preempt state or local laws regulating tobacco products; (2) Encourage local governments to complement FDA jurisdiction by acting in those areas the FDA is not authorized to act such as banning tobacco product sales in particular types of retail outlets, such as pharmacies and those that admit persons under 18; (3) Enlist local enforcement assistance and provision of funding for enforcement; (4) Expand sponsorship ban to include tobacco company corporate name sponsorship; (5) Expand product standards to ban menthol flavoring; (5) Issue regulations regarding E cigarettes; and (6) Expedite adoption of graphic warning label regulations, including a warning that smoking can cause impotence, within 6 months and implementation within one year.

Safe Routes to School Program

The ShapeUp Coalition is kicking off a "Safe Routes to Schools" program on October 7 at the Longfellow Elementary School in the Outer Mission. Under the leadership of DPH, the ShapeUp Coalition won a \$500,000 grant from the CA Department of Transportation to establish a comprehensive Safe Routes to School program for the City's elementary schools. Longfellow Elementary School was among five other schools selected to participate in the first year. Each of these schools are unique in that at least 68% of the student body lives within one mile of their classrooms, providing an excellent opportunity to walk and bicycle to and from school.

Supervisor John Avalos and Superintendent Carlos Garcia will be on hand to kick off the event that emphasizes student safety, physical exercise and healthy lifestyle choices.

Retailers Pledge not to Sell Candy Containing Lead

As part of a Public Health Trust Lead in Candies Grant awarded to the Bay Area Counties "Get the Lead Out Coalition," the DPH Childhood Lead Prevention Program (CLPP) spearheaded a Retailer Outreach Strategy to educate retailers about the danger of lead in some popular imported candies. From November 2008 through August 2009, seven *promotoras* from community subcontractor, La Raza Centro Legal, distributed lead awareness and education materials to over 500 retailers in the Mission and outer Mission districts. They provided the stores with flyers, FAQ sheets developed by California Poison Control and other lead education materials. The *promotoras* spoke directly to managers and owners requesting that they sell State Health Department-audited candies. After consulting with the *promotoras*, many of the business owners agreed to sell only tested safe candies and to post the "Lead Free Candy" poster in their stores. Many thanks to CLPP Program Director Joe Walseth and Health Educator Cynthia Melgoza, who lead this effort on behalf of DPH.

Life-Threatening Risk Posed by Cocaine Laced with Veterinary Anti-Parasite Drug

SAMHSA recently alerted medical professionals, substance abuse treatment centers, and other

public health authorities about the risk that substantial levels of cocaine may be adulterated with levamisole—a veterinary anti-parasitic drug. Nationally there have been approximately 20 confirmed or probable cases of *agranulocytosis* (a serious, sometimes fatal blood disorder), including two deaths, associated with cocaine adulterated with levamisole. The number of reported cases is expected to increase as information about cocaine adulterated with levamisole is disseminated.

SHOP Grant Awarded to CBHS

Community Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) was awarded the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Targeted Capacity Expansion grant for Substance Abuse Treatment and HIV/AIDS services. The grant will be used by Southeast Health Opportunities Project (SHOP) to serve the predominately African American residents of San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP), Potrero Hill, and Sunnydale neighborhoods that are impacted by substance use and abuse and HIV/ AIDS. CBHS and its partners will implement this project. The program will focus on low-income individuals who use or abuse illegal substances, engage in high-risk sexual behaviors, are involved in the criminal justice system and are in need of comprehensive treatment services. At least 300 people will be served annually. The contract award is in the total amount of \$2,250,000 (\$450,000/yr * 5yrs).

Adult Travel & Immunization Clinic Featured in Chronicle Story

The October 1 issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle* featured an article by Heather Knight about a relatively new group of individuals who, after having lost their jobs to the recession, decide to go abroad to work or volunteer with non-profit organizations. One of the early stops in their journey is to visit the Adult Travel & Immunization Clinic where they come for immunizations and advice on how to stay healthy while abroad. Their stories can be found at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/10/01/BA6N19ULQG.DTL>.

New Chief Medical Officer at SFGH

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., as the new Chief Medical Officer at San Francisco General Hospital. Dr. Yee began his new responsibilities on September 1, 2009.

Dr. Yee is the William and Mary Ann Rice Memorial Distinguished Professor of Medicine at UCSF, and will continue in his roles as Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at SFGH and Director of the Center for Specialty Access & Quality. He served as interim Chief of Medical Services at SFGH from October 2007-April 2009. In his nearly 5 years at SFGH, Hal has contributed to patient care quality and safety in numerous ways, most notably by conceiving eReferral. He was recently recognized with a Hero award from the SFGH Foundation. His current research focuses on improving access to and the quality of specialty care by enhancing the primary care provider-specialist interaction.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Yee and extending your support for his new role as Chief Medical Officer.

Chief of Emergency Services at SFGH

After a year long and thorough national search, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Chris Barton has accepted the position of Chief of Emergency Services at San Francisco General Hospital. Dr. Barton has carried out these responsibilities as interim Chief for over a year, and has shown excellent administrative leadership and a willingness to take on very difficult decisions during this time of major transition. I look forward to working with Dr. Barton in his new permanent role.

CDC Grant Funds Epidemiologist to Track Chronic Hepatitis B & C

Melissa Sanchez, PhD, has joined the Communicable Disease Control Unit as a Supervising Communicable Disease Epidemiologist. Melissa will serve as director for the Chronic Viral Hepatitis Surveillance project, which is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant enables DPH to characterize the epidemiology of chronic hepatitis B and C in San Francisco through a population-based surveillance program. She will also be working on CDC Public Health Preparedness grant-funded projects to improve the Department's ability to detect, investigate and monitor disease trends and outbreaks.

Prior to coming to DPH, Melissa was an epidemiologist with the California HIV/AIDS Research Program within the University of California, where she served as the Co-Investigator for the California-Mexico AIDS Initiative. I know the Commissioners join me in welcoming Ms. Sanchez to DPH.

Recycle Your Old Cell Phones During Domestic Violence Awareness Month

This final notice comes from the Department on the Status of Women and the Department of the Environment who have teamed up during Domestic Violence Awareness Month for the Second Annual Cell Phone Drive for City Employees.

Any City employee, including commissioners, can bring their old cell phone - working or not - to the Department on the Status of Women for recycling. Donated phones will be sent to a recycling facility where reusable materials are reclaimed and cell phones in good working order are refurbished and distributed back to local community-based organizations working to help survivors of domestic violence lead violence free lives.

Phones can be sent via inter-office mail to the Department on the Status of Women or dropped off in person at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 130. For more information, call 252.2570 or visit www.sfgov.org/dosw.

Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center

<p>SEPTEMBER Health Commission – Director of Health Report (August 13, 2009 and September 11, 2009 MEC)</p>
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	08/09-09/09	09/09-10/09
New Appointments	0	0
Reinstatements		
Reappointments	3	3
Delinquencies:		
Reappointment Denials:		
Resigned/Retired:	0	0
Disciplinary Actions:		
Restriction/Limitation-Privileges	0	0
Deceased	0	0
Changes in Privileges	0	0
Additions		
Voluntary Relinquishments		
Proctorship Completed		
Proctorship Extension		

Current Statistics – as of 9/09	
Active Staff	87
Applicants	9
Total Members	96

Dr. Katz mentioned that Mayor Newsom facilitated a negotiating session with the SEUI regarding the CNA and clerical staff layoffs. No resolution was reached at this meeting. The layoff notices go into effect November 15, 2009.

Commissioner Chow asked Dr. Katz to comment on a recent news column regarding the local impact of the state budget cuts. Dr. Katz explained that there was a total General Fund impact of \$26.5 million, and \$18 million of that is covered by the funds set aside in the current budget for this purpose. The local impact was reduced further by \$6.25 million due to changes in the MediCal allocation and using federal funds to cover reductions to immunization programs. The Mayor’s proposed solution for the remaining \$2.25 million includes not backfilling Prop. 99 funds that would go to private hospitals’ emergency rooms (\$1.1 million), only partial backfill for Prop. 36

and MediCal reductions to drug and alcohol programs (\$.85 million), and using federal Medicaid revenue for some Maternal and Child Health programs (\$.30 million).

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

5) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Tierney provided an updated on the Finance Committee. He announced that the Contracts Report including a request for a premium increase for the Healthy Kids program was approved and the Committee began an ongoing discussion on how to revise the Health Commission Budget Principles. Commissioner Tierney praised the extensive Grants Report put together by Anne Okubo and Jacquie Hale.

Action Taken:

The Commission unanimously approved the Consent Calendar of the Finance Committee.

6) CONSIDERATION OF THE ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN

Anne Kronenberg, Deputy Director of Health, and Amalia Egri Freedman, Resource Development Associates, presented the preliminary findings from the review of the CPMC Institutional Master Plan (IMP). Ms. Kronenberg asked for the Commission's input for the IMP analysis before a finalized version is presented on November 17. Anna Cheung, CEO of St. Mary's Medical Center, noted that SMMC's IMP has not been updated since 1987 and explained that the proposed technological updates for cancer and vascular services will greatly contribute to the quality of care provided at SMMC. Dr. Richard Podolin, Chief of Staff at St. Mary's, talked about the importance of SMMC as a community hospital, and stressed the necessity for the proposed Cancer and Vascular Services renovation. Ms. Freedman reviewed the renovations outlined in the IMP and summarized the review process. A copy of their presentation is attached and hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Commissioner Comments/Requests for Follow-Up:

Commissioner Illig reminded the Commission that no voting will occur on the SMMC IMP at this meeting, and noted that the Commissioners had not received a copy of the IMP to review before this meeting, as was the case with the Plans for St. Francis and CPMC. He has read the IMP and said that the majority of the Plan describes limited changes to cancer and vascular services over the next 5 years, within a context of possible additional changes to the hospital campus over 10 years.

Commissioner Melara asked about the occupancy rate at SMMC and if there is data on what the occupancy rate will look like in subsequent years. Ms. Freedman responded that the occupancy rates may not be the best indicator of total system capacity with an emphasis on preventive care. She suggested focusing on the capacity and range of services based on demand as a better indicator of need.

Commissioner Tierney suggested Ms. Freedman conduct interviews with staff of the Department's AIDS Office or members of the HIV Health Services Planning Council because St. Mary's provides significant HIV primary care at its clinic.

Commissioner Chow requested more detail be included on SMMC's clinic facilities in the final analysis. He asked how St. Mary's capacity will change in the future as a result of the upcoming renovations, and specifically, whether any beds would be reduced or relocated. Ms. Freedman stated that there would be no change in the number of beds and that this concern will be addressed in further detail in the final analysis. Commissioner Chow also suggested including a patient as one of the interviewees in the IMP evaluation process.

Anne Kronenberg noted that the Institutional master Plan is presented in two parts, with short term and long term goals. The entire IMP outlines the next ten years and consists of general visions as well as smaller, short-term projects.

Commissioner Sako asked if the IMP should be revisited every two years. Pamela Duffy, Land Use Attorney for SMMC, explained that the planning code requires every IMP be updated or revised every 2 years. Anne Kronenberg added that if there are no changes in the 2-year update, it would not come before the Health Commission for review. Ms. Kronenberg explained that a complete IMP must be submitted and reviewed every ten years, but if changes are made before ten years have passed, the update is referred to the Department for analysis, and then to the Health Commission.

Commissioner Chow asked if the 58% occupancy rate is based on licensed beds, and Ms. Freedman answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Chow asked if Father Charles Gagan was interviewed as a representative of USF. Ms. Freedman said Father Gagan was interviewed as a neighbor, not as a representative of USF.

Commissioner Sanchez praised Dr. Podolin's comments pertaining to the mission of St. Mary's. He spoke of his familial ties to SMMC and asked the IMP evaluators to consider the financial limitations that could impact the quality of care provided to patients at SMMC.

Commissioner Illig asked what the interviewees were told about the IMP prior to their interviews. Ms. Freedman responded that the interviewees were provided with a one-page summary of the IMP. She stressed that the evaluators did not interpret any information for the interviewees. Ms. Freedman said that the final analysis will provide more context for the proposed changes and the health impacts it will have on the city.

7) **H1N1 INFLUENZA PLANNING UPDATE**

Mitch Katz, M.D., Director of Health, and Erica Pan, M.D., MPH, Director of Bioterrorism and Infectious Disease Emergencies, presented an update on H1N1 vaccines. Dr. Katz explained that the H1N1 virus is the dominant flu this year. Dr. Katz noted that DPH is not counting the number of new H1N1 cases by conducting tests, but rather advising people with symptoms of H1N1 to stay home rather than going to the doctor. He stressed the importance of encouraging individuals without severe flu symptoms to stay away from the doctor's office to prevent further spread of the illness. Dr. Katz explained that H1N1 is of concern because of the shift in who comprises the most vulnerable demographic: H1N1 has caused young individuals to fall ill. He noted the seasonal flu typically kills people who are already very ill, elderly, or suffer from underlying respiratory issues.

Dr. Katz stressed that although H1N1 makes people ill, there is no reason to practice social distancing because H1N1 is already the dominate flu virus this year. The first shipment of the H1N1 vaccine, in the form of a nasal spray, should arrive this week but the bulk of the vaccine will arrive in late October and early November. Dr. Katz noted that this first shipment of H1N1 vaccines is not mercury-based and that children under five-years-old are being recommended the single dose vials. Because the demand for the vaccine has yet to be determined, it is possible that everyone who wants to get vaccinated may do so, eventually.

Commissioner Comments/Requests for Follow-Up:

Commissioner Sako asked what kind of public awareness has been conducted, especially for the elderly, who are not currently high on the priority list to receive the H1N1 vaccine. Dr. Katz explained that because the supply and demand of the vaccine changes frequently, and there are different priority groups for the seasonal and H1N1 flu, DPH does not want to send out conflicting messages at this time.

Commissioner Illig praised the Department's "Infect Me Not" campaign, and suggested the messages about the H1N1 and the seasonal flu be in laymen's terms so the public knows when to seek medical attention.

Commissioner Chow asked if there is a shortage of the seasonal vaccine. Erica Pan responded that the seasonal flu vaccines are on a backlog, but they are being delivered. She confirmed that there will be more enough seasonal flu vaccine for anyone who wants one.

8) REVIEW OF HEALTH COMMISSION BUDGET PRINCIPLES

The item was postponed to the October 20, 2009 Health Commission meeting.

9) OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Sako announced that she will be on medical leave in December and asked if the Commission could postpone the update on the EMS services within the Fire Department to January, 2010.

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Chow announced on behalf of the SFGH Joint Conference Committee that the Medicare Validation Survey is underway.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION

Commissioner Illig announced that after reviewing many applications for the Executive Secretary position, the Hiring Committee will begin conducting the initial interviews next week.

10) CLOSED SESSION

A) Public Comments on All Matters Pertaining to the Closed Session

None.

B) Vote on Whether to Hold a Closed Session (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.11)

The Commission (Illig, Melara, Chow, Sako, Sanchez, Tierney) voted to hold a closed session pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.11.

C) Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)

REVIEW OF GOLDEN GATE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION V. CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO;

San Francisco City Attorney Vince Chabria provided the Commission with an update on the Golden Gate Restaurant Association V. City and County of San Francisco case.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, MITCHELL H. KATZ, M.D.

Reconvene in Open Session

Action Taken: The Commission (Illig, Melara, Chow, Sako, Sanchez, Tierney, Waters) voted not to disclose any discussion held in Closed Session pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a).

11) ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.

Grace Alderson
Acting Health Commission Executive Secretary