

HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 19-94

ENDORISING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WOMEN'S HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) was created in 1975, to advance women's equality in San Francisco and to assist the City and County in realizing its policy to ensure women equal economic, political, social, and educational opportunities as well as equal services by public agencies, and where the COSW had its powers and duties enhanced through Ordinance 271-89 in July 1989, operate as a separate City Department; and,

WHEREAS, The Women's Health Advisory Committee (WHAC) was officially created by the San Francisco Health Commission, and its membership appointed by the Director of Public Health in 1992; and,

WHEREAS, WHAC is committed through its Mission Statement to advocate for a health care system that will serve the specific needs of women of all races, colors, ethnicities, creeds, religions, ages, physical abilities, national origins, sexual orientations and family groupings; and,

WHEREAS, one of WHAC's major objectives is to develop policies and recommend reform of the health care system to better meet the needs of women locally and nationally, and where WHAC has completed 19 focus groups with 250 women reviewing health care services in the current system; and,

WHEREAS, WHAC has formally presented the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the San Francisco Health Commission with a report of its findings entitled: Restructuring Health Care Delivery: "Woman-Centered Health Services," and where this report advocates several policy recommendations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Health supports WHAC efforts to influence the basic education of health professionals by working with other Women's groups to influence National and State Educational Policy to make women's issues a priority through: 1) Recruitment and financial support of women in basic health professional schools, 2) Recruitment of women faculty and administration in educational institutions, and 3) Development and funding of research/demonstration programs that address medical and health care issues unique to women; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that an effective approach to women's health care must be based upon, and integrate, feminist principles of valuing women and their women's experiences, ideas and needs, while recognizing the existence of ideological,

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structural, and interpersonal conditions that oppress women. The following principles provide a foundation for the definition of women's health:

- A definition of women's health assumes a life span perspective by addressing women's health needs throughout their lives, from infancy to old age.
- Women's health includes the ethnic, psychosocial, cultural, political and economic, factors that comprise women's mental and physical well being. Socialization (gender roles, attitudes toward physical fitness and body image), sexuality, spirituality and family can also affect health status.
- Women's health means more than reproductive health and more than freedom from disease-specific phenomena, but it is also concerned with a woman attaining, retaining, and regaining an optimal sense of well-being.
- Health care services should focus on health promotion, health maintenance, and the prevention and detection of alterations in health. Improvements in health status are no longer likely to come from technological breakthroughs, but also from environmental and social change, from changes in lifestyle, and from the participation of people in their own health care.
- The design and implementation of women's health services must be initiated and guided by women. Health for women is a daily experience, and a woman's own experience of her feelings, symptoms and the context (environmental, political, socioeconomic, interpersonal) in which a woman operates, is a crucial aspect of the definition of health; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that WHAC, incorporating the voices of San Francisco women, proposes a model "Woman-Centered Health Care System." This model is more than personal medical health services; it is an integrated system of public health functions, care coordination, health promotion, disease prevention, and community empowerment that addresses the changing language and cultural needs of women, their families, and their communities. This model includes four primary components:

- 1) Community Health: consumer involvement/empowerment; public health protection
- 2) Primary Care: direct care services for acute & chronic illness management, specific to women's health; includes reproductive health care
- 3) Care Coordination: access, outreach, advocacy, referral, service coordination
- 4) Health Promotion: primary, secondary and tertiary prevention; maintenance and enhancement of health; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department study the WHAC proposed model "Women Centered Health Care System" for the purpose of increasing the sensitivity of the Department's services to adequately address women's health needs; and, be it

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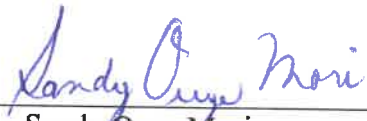
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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department assign a staff person as a liaison to the Women's Health Advisory Committee and direct the Department to incorporate the recommendations into all future Department planning efforts; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Health and the Health Commission support the recommendation that the Commission on the Status of Women remain as a separate City Department.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, April 19, 1994.



Sandy Ouye Mori
Executive Secretary to
the Health Commission