

HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
RESOLUTION NO. 32-95

**URGING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF TO EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL
FOR PURSUING A MEDICAID 1115 WAIVER TO CREATE A
MORE COST-EFFECTIVE WAY OF PROVIDING HEALTH
SERVICES TO BOTH MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES AND UNINSURED
PEOPLE IN SAN FRANCISCO**

WHEREAS, the prospects of severe Federal budget reductions in Medicaid/Medicare and SAMHSA threaten to erode the fiscal basis of health services provided through the Department of Public Health; and,

WHEREAS, inadequate capitation rates available through the State of California's Two-Plan Medi-Cal Managed Care Program will be further exacerbated by federal reduction in Medicaid funding made to the State, thereby making the provision of health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries even more tenuous; and,

WHEREAS, legislative proposals that would cap entitlement programs by restricting eligibility for federal and federal/state assistance and/or reducing covered benefits would significantly increase the responsibility of local health departments for caring for more indigent and uninsured people while at the same time reducing available revenues to carry out this responsibility; and,

WHEREAS, the increasing demand on the local General Fund to offset declining State and Federal revenues will further compromise the ability of the Department of Public Health to maintain its indigent care responsibility and to compete successfully in the Medi-Cal managed care market; and,

WHEREAS, the Department is committed to ensuring the provision of a cost-effective, comprehensive system of preventative, primary, adult, long term, mental health and substance abuse services for our clients; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Commission and the Board of Supervisors have already endorsed the development of a Managed Mental Health Care System in San Francisco and stated the County's willingness to assume responsibility for the provision of Mental Health Services to Medi-Cal recipients; and,

WHEREAS, the Department has expressed concern that long term care services have generally not been systematically addressed in the development of comprehensive health care delivery system; and,

HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
RESOLUTION NO. 32-95 (Cont'd.)

WHEREAS, Section 1115 (a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. B15) enables States to request exemptions from Medicaid rules for the purpose of demonstrating cost-effective alternatives to the provision of health services under the Medicaid Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Health Department is preparing an 1115 Waiver request for the State to submit on its behalf to the Federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) as part of the effort to assist Los Angeles through its health care fiscal crisis; and,

WHEREAS, AB 911 passed by the California Legislature enables any County to request inclusion in this State 1115 Waiver within a narrow, 72-hour period after receiving notification from the State of its intent to seek a waiver; and,

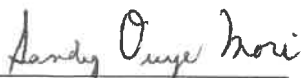
WHEREAS, an 1115 Waiver would make it possible to pool all of the dollars that currently pay for health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and uninsured people in San Francisco in order to create a more rational and cost-effective system of care using a broad provider network that could minimize the harmful consequences of proposed Federal budget reductions on the County as a whole; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Health Commission of the City and County of San Francisco does hereby urge the Director of Health and Department of Public Health staff to explore the potential of developing a Medicaid 1115 Waiver proposal for the City and County of San Francisco to provide a rational cost-effective continuum of health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and uninsured residents of San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Health present to the Health Commission regular status reports regarding the development of our 1115 Waiver, this work shall be in sufficient time to meet the narrow time requirements for submission of a waiver request on behalf of Los Angeles County; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to support the Department of Public Health efforts to develop an 1115 Waiver.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, November 7, 1995.



Sandy Ouye Mori
Executive Secretary to
the Health Commission