

HEALTH COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 04-07

**RESOLUTION URGING THE SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO IMPLEMENT CALIFORNIA MINOR CONSENTS RIGHTS INTO THE
HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM OF ALL SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOLS.**

WHEREAS, the Balboa Teen Health Center Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a group of students who advocates for youth health rights in San Francisco; and,

WHEREAS, a multi-lingual needs assessment was distributed to 1600 SFUSD public high schools students by the YAB; and

WHEREAS, the YAB used the needs assessment to determine high schools student's thoughts and knowledge on health care preferences and barriers, knowledge of minor consent services, and thoughts on the level of importance of services available on campus; and

WHEREAS, based on the needs assessment it can be concluded there is a serious lack of information about the minor consent rights among San Francisco youth provided; and

WHEREAS, 91% of students believed that health education is very important; and

WHEREAS, only half of students knew that they could consent to drug and alcohol counseling; and

WHEREAS, as indicated by Newcomer High School, students new to the United States showed a severe lack of knowledge about all services available to them as youth; and

WHEREAS, information on youth health-related rights is hard to find (especially for non-native English speakers); and

WHEREAS, the YAB discovered a strong need for education about minor consent rights; and

WHEREAS, many SFUSD high school students clearly showed a lack of knowledge about health services available to them; and

WHEREAS, many SFUSD high school students clearly showed a lack of knowledge of what services are provided at their school based health centers or wellness centers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, we urge that health education classes specifically cover the following, but not be limited to, minor consent laws related to health care, including minor confidentiality in regards to abortions, birth control, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV testing, outpatient mental health treatment, alcohol/drug abuse treatment, rape, sexual assault, and mandated reporting; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, we urge that such education be implemented expeditiously, with the input of the health education curriculum department, and with health education teachers; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, we urge that SFUSD prioritize utilizing and leveraging already existing services, materials, resources and publications available, such as, but not limited to, community projects, lectures and presentations, pamphlets and brochures and multimedia, that will be of little or no financial bearing to the District; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, we urge that health professionals at school-based health centers and/or SFUSD Wellness Centers outreach at least once in every health education class or advisory periods so that students will be made aware of and empowered with the school and community resources available to make informed health decisions; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a special effort be made to outreach to Newcomer and Asian students; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, we urge the SFUSD to implement California minor consent rights into multiple venues including health education curriculum in all San Francisco public high schools beginning 2007-2008 school year.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of May 1, 2007 adopted the foregoing resolution.

Rebekah Varela
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission