

**HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**City and County of San Francisco**  
**Resolution No. 17-07**

DETERMINING THAT ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL'S REPLACEMENT OF THE LEVEL 2  
NEONATAL CARE UNIT WITH A SPECIAL CARE NURSERY WILL HAVE A  
DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, On November 6, 2007 California Pacific Medical Center notified the Health Commission that it intended to transfer the level 2 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) from the St. Luke's campus to its California Campus effective February 13, 2008; and

WHEREAS, after convening an interdisciplinary planning team, California Pacific Medical Center now proposes to change the level of care provided at St. Luke's by replacing the Intermediate level 2 NICU Nursery and the existing Mother/Baby unit with a Special Care Nursery/Mother Baby Care Unit; and

WHEREAS, the staffing model for the Special Care Nursery would be one NICU qualified RN on the floor at all times backed up by STABLE Program-trained mother/baby RNs and, if census requires, additional NICU RNs will be available on call; and

WHEREAS, St. Luke's will have a full team available to resuscitate any baby, including in-house pediatricians able to do neonatal resuscitation and pediatric resuscitation, a respiratory care team qualified to do neonatal resuscitation and all nurses will be trained in neonatal resuscitation; and

WHEREAS, California Pacific Medical Center proposes to provide on-going cross-training programs for RNs so that there will be more depth in the nursing staff thus providing a higher level of care overall; and

WHEREAS, St. Luke's current nursing staff provide postpartum (mother)/well baby care for mothers and well babies as a Mother/Baby unit, and Labor and Delivery Nurses who work in Labor and Delivery, and this will continue under the new model; and

WHEREAS, California Pacific Medical Center estimates that, as a result of the change, up to 30 additional newborns might be transferred annually from St. Luke's Campus to the California Campus; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission held a Proposition Q hearing on the proposed change on December 4, 2007; and

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WHEREAS, at the Proposition Q hearing the Health Commission heard testimony from physicians, RNs, St. Luke's patients and community members that the proposed change in the level of service may jeopardize patient care for the remaining Labor & Delver and Maternal/Child Program at St. Luke's, reduces needed services for the Southern half of the City and places significant barriers in the way of low-income families' continued access to such services; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission supports women and families receiving care in their community if they choose to do so, rather than being diverted from or transported away from St. Luke's to receive care in a different part of the city; and

WHEREAS, at the Proposition Q hearing California Pacific Medical Center agreed to assist families with transportation to visit their newborns at the California campus as well as use of special family housing; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission is concerned that the ongoing reduction in the level of service provided by the NICU at St. Luke's may jeopardize the Obstetrical and Certified Nurse Midwifery services thus placing at risk services that support 1,300 annual births by St. Luke's OB Department, and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission is concerned that this reduction in essential services, like previous service closures, may negatively affect the viability of St. Luke's Hospital, possibly leading to a future announcement of closure of this vital and unique acute care resource; and

WHEREAS, if California Pacific Medical Center proceeds with this change, the Health Commission wants to ensure that this change does not negatively affect mothers who deliver at St. Luke's and their babies, therefore the Commission requests the following data from California Pacific Medical Center: the number of newborns who were transferred along with APGAR scores, as well as their status upon admission to the California Campus and their discharge status as well as transfer times; the number of RNs that were STABLE trained; and any adverse events; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission believes that the stakeholder and community meetings that have begun to plan for St. Luke's are encouraging and wants to preserve and expand services at St. Luke's; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that St. Luke's Hospital's replacement of the Neonatal Care Unit with a Special Care Nursery will have a detrimental impact on the health of the community; and be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission requests that California Pacific Medical Center provide the following information on a quarterly basis to the Commission for 24 months after implementation: number of newborns transferred along with APGAR scores, as well as their status upon admission to the California Campus and their discharge status as well as transfer times, the number of RNs that went through the STABLE program, any adverse events, and the status of the Obstetrical and Nurse Midwifery practice at St. Luke's; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in response to public input, California Pacific Medical Center is commended for having chosen to work with its medical staff and the community to be able to continue delivery services at St. Luke's Hospital.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of December 18, 2007 adopted the foregoing resolution.

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Michele M. Seaton  
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission