

HEALTH COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 12-4

**REQUESTING THAT THE MAYOR PROTECT FUNDING
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco is facing an estimated \$263 million deficit for fiscal year 2012-13 and \$375 million for fiscal year 2013-14; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office instructed Departments to submit budget proposals to include:

- A 5% ongoing reduction to General Fund support beginning in 2011-12 and an additional 5% reduction beginning in FY 2012-14;
- A contingency proposal of an additional 2.5% reduction in General Fund support;
- A reduction of 1% of General Fund supported full time equivalent positions in FY 2012-13 and an additional 1% reduction in FY 2013-1014; and

WHEREAS, this reduction amounts to \$69.3 million over the next two years in the Department of Public Health budget; and

WHEREAS, as part of the State's section 1115 Medicaid Waiver and in preparation for federal health care reform, the Department of Public Health must heavily invest in multiple delivery system improvements simultaneously at a minimum cost of \$5 million in FY 2012-12 increasing to \$10 million in FY 2013-14 in order to meet aggressive performance milestones. If the Department of Public Health does not meet these milestones, it may be forced to return all or a portion of the \$42.5 million in annual federal funding; and

WHEREAS, on February 7th and 21st, community members testified before the Health Commission about the impact that proposed budget reductions would have on their lives and the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, in discussions with the Mayor's Office, it was agreed that the Department of Public Health would submit its budget without meeting the contingency reductions, but with the understanding that additional proposals to meet the contingency target may be necessary in the future. If the Department of Public Health is asked to consider further reductions, contingency proposals may include:

- Further reductions to unmatched General Fund contracts, including program closures;
- Reductions to matched General Fund contracts and civil service programs;
- Service and administrative reductions at the public hospitals and throughout DPH; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health and the Health Commission have made every effort to identify new revenues and budgetary savings that minimize service impacts. However, in order to meet its budget targets, the proposed reductions also include core public health services and programs, all of which are critical to furthering the mission of the Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, reductions in the safety net during the current budget process may result in greater usage of costly emergency services such as police, fire department, ambulances, hospital emergency departments, and inpatient psychiatric services; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission shares responsibility with the Mayor and Board of Supervisors for the health and well being of all San Franciscans with particular focus on maintaining the safety net and public health services for San Francisco's most vulnerable residents; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Health Commission understands the significant financial challenges facing the City and acknowledges that, as the largest City department, the Department of Public Health must play an important role in helping to address those challenges. However, the Health Commission also has a responsibility to communicate its concerns regarding potential budget actions and the implications for our public health services to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors; and, be it

RESOLVED, because the DPH is mandated, under local, state and federal guidelines which include health care reform, to deliver safety net public health services; the Health Commission requests that the DPH be assigned a lower level of reduction in its General Fund allocation so that it may provide necessary critical care for the most vulnerable populations including San Franciscans who are homeless youth and adults, mentally ill, and/or victims of violence.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the City and County of San Francisco cannot identify enough new revenue to prevent further reductions, the Health Commission is committed to working with Director Garcia, the Mayor, and the Board of Supervisors to protect the sustainability of necessary public health services.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of February 21, 2012 adopted the foregoing resolution.



Mark Morewitz

Executive Secretary to the Health Commission