

**HEALTH COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 14-18**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PALLIATIVE CARE AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PALLIATIVE CARE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is to promote and protect the health of all San Franciscans; and

WHEREAS, SFDPH and DAAS convened the Palliative Care Task Force, a 30 – member body bringing together a diverse group of representatives from San Francisco’s leading health care and community organizations, advocacy and professional associations and consumers that engaged in five public meetings between May and August 2014 to develop strategic recommendations to address palliative care in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Palliative care is a dynamic person-and family-centered practice of care that focuses on improving quality of life for patients and families during serious or life-threatening illness; and

WHEREAS, key elements of palliative care include the following:

- Relieves symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness—whatever the diagnosis;
- Facilitates communication with patients about patient care goals and provides support for complex medical decision-making;
- Improves quality of life for both the patient and the family;
- Is provided by a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and other specialists (e.g., Psychologists, Pharmacists, etc.) —who provide an extra layer of support— in conjunction with all other appropriate medical treatments, including curative and life-prolonging therapies; and
- Is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness.

WHEREAS, Palliative care is currently provided in a variety of settings: hospital-based, outpatient and community-based, and hospice-based settings; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is widely recognized as the home of some of the earliest innovative hospital, health system, and community-based palliative care programs in the country; and

WHEREAS, The Palliative Care Task force developed short and long-term recommendations around four critical areas necessary to the development and delivery of an integrated and collaborative palliative care service system: Quality, Finance, Systems, and Community Education; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Long Term Care Coordinating Council has established a Palliative Care Workgroup to continue the work of the Palliative Care Task Force; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission commends the Palliative Care Task Force for its discussion and thoughtful work on behalf of individuals with serious or life-threatening illness and the broader City and County of San Francisco; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission supports the advancement of palliative care practices that serve individuals in the least restrictive setting possible; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission requests that SFDPH consider Palliative Care Task Force recommendations, as appropriate, when planning for future health services,

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of December 16th, 2014 adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission