

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION NO. 14-3**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE 2013 UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE COUNCIL AND REQUESTING FURTHER STUDY OF SAN FRANCISCO'S UNINSURED AND THE HEALTHY SAN FRANCISCO PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, San Francisco is committed to full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which provides new health care coverage opportunities for San Franciscans; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Lee reconvened the Universal Healthcare Council in 2013 to examine the intersection of the Affordable Care Act with local policies such as San Francisco's Health Care Security Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, The work of the original Universal Healthcare Council, convened in February 2006, ultimately resulted in the enactment of the Health Care Security Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, The 2013 Universal Healthcare Council adopted the following guiding principles:

- 1) support the Affordable Care Act;
- 2) maximize enrollment into health insurance;
- 3) leverage state and federal funding where available;
- 4) maintain Healthy San Francisco;
- 5) maximize affordability; and
- 6) maintain shared responsibility.

WHEREAS, During the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council's deliberations, two key findings emerged:

- That the San Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance remains intact under the Affordable Care Act; and
- That some populations continue to face challenges in finding affordable health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) projects that approximately 26,000 San Franciscans will be ineligible for health insurance options under the Affordable Care Act and an additional 23,000-27,000 will be eligible but will not enroll, leaving approximately 49,000-53,000 San Franciscans uninsured after the first year of implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, There are many reasons why San Franciscans who are eligible for health insurance options may not enroll in health insurance, including a lack of understanding of their options and obligations under the Affordable Care Act, lack of affordability of health insurance options, and complexities and challenges related to the Covered California enrollment process; and

WHEREAS, Maximizing enrollment into health insurance is important for individuals, for the City and for the overall success of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, Health insurance provides access to affordable medical care when needed, covers routine care that prevents illness and improve health, and protects families from high costs in the event of major injury or illness;

WHEREAS, Enrollment of eligible individuals into health insurance is also better for San Francisco's health care safety net to ensure that available state and federal funds that support enrollment of San Franciscans into health insurance are maximized so that local general fund dollars remain available to care for the neediest San Franciscans who have no other options; and

WHEREAS, The Healthy San Francisco program was designed to increase access to health care for

uninsured San Franciscans; the program is not health insurance, is not valid outside of San Francisco, and does not satisfy the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate; and

WHEREAS, SFDPH is making every effort to maximize enrollment of uninsured San Franciscans, including Healthy San Francisco participants, into health insurance, through outreach, education, and direct enrollment assistance; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission commends the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council and thanks them for their thoughtful work on behalf of the citizens of San Francisco; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission supports the guiding principles and two key findings of the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission supports SFDPH's continued efforts to educate the public about the Affordable Care Act and to maximize enrollment into health insurance options; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission supports City policies that increase the ability of small businesses to provide health insurance to their employees; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission requests that SFDPH further explore the affordability of health care coverage for San Franciscans and the provision of care for those who will remain uninsured after implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission requests that SFDPH further explore the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council's suggested changes to the City Option; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission requests that SFDPH implement a transition period to allow for Healthy San Francisco participation through December 2014 to allow time for SFDPH to assess the impact of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act on the Healthy San Francisco program and the transition of eligible participants to health insurance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission requests that SFDPH conduct the analyses and assessments requested in this resolution and submit to the Health Commission any recommendations for Healthy San Francisco or other relevant City policy changes in a timely manner, such that any recommendations may be implemented before the 2015 open enrollment period.

I hereby certify that at the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of February 18, 2014 adopted the foregoing resolution.

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Mark Morewitz  
Health Commission Executive Secretary