

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 17-6**

DETERMINING THAT THE CLOSURE OF THE PROS & WOUND CLINIC AT DIGNITY HEALTH - ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER – SAN FRANCISCO WILL HAVE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, St. Mary's Medical Center (St. Mary's), a non-profit hospital and member of Dignity Health, is an acute care hospital in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, On February 7th, 2017, St. Mary's notified the Health Commission of its PROS & Wound Clinic closure, effective August 31st, 2016; and

WHEREAS, To be in compliance with the Community Health Care Planning Ordinance (Proposition Q), private hospitals in San Francisco are required to notify the Health Commission 90 days prior to service reductions or lease, sales or transfer of management; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's stated the reason for the notification delay was due to an interim hospital president and leadership team; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 6.7 million Americans suffer from a non-healing wound, with the most common wounds being pressure ulcers (2.9 million) and Diabetic foot ulcers (2.1 million) and caring for chronic, non-healing wounds exceeds \$50 billion in costs to the healthcare system per year; and

WHEREAS, Wound care treatment facilities have increased wound healing rates, lowered amputation rates, and shortened hospital stays and wound care is becoming increasingly important with the increased rates of diabetes and obesity in the US; and

WHEREAS, Wound healing slows with age due to changes in the skin that put elderly patients at a substantially greater risk for chronic wounds such as leg ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, and pressure ulcers; persons aged 80 years and older are three to four times more likely to develop leg ulcers and five to seven times more likely to develop pressure ulcers than those aged 65 to 70; and

WHEREAS, The population aged 65 years and older is the fastest growing population segment in San Francisco and is projected to make up one-fifth of all residents; and

WHEREAS, The PROS & Wound Clinic cared for an average of 1,026 patients during fiscal years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016; and

WHEREAS, Although the majority (55%) of patients were aged 18-64 years, adults aged 65 years and older comprised a disproportionate share (44%) of patients compared to their share of San Francisco's population (14%); adults aged 80 years and older make up only two percent of San Franciscans, but nearly one in five clinic patients; and

WHEREAS, the population in need of these services will be increasing; and

WHEREAS, A large majority of patients at the PROS & Wound Clinic were covered by Medicare or commercial insurance; and

WHEREAS, To ensure continuity of care, St. Mary's referred patients to existing PROS & Wound Clinic physicians' alternate practice locations and/or centers with comparable wound care services; and

WHEREAS, there are no other facilities in San Francisco that provide the services of the PROS and Wound Clinic, and placement required utilizing facilities outside of the county.

WHEREAS, placement required utilizing facilities as far as Stanford; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's is unable to determine whether patients continued to receive care; and

WHEREAS, Since the closure of the PROS & Wound Clinic, St. Mary's stated that they have received no patient complaints regarding wound care; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health stated that there is limited information and data to reliably determine the impact of the PROS & Wound Clinic closure on the community; and

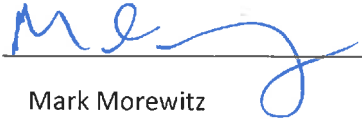
WHEREAS, St Mary's administration has informed the Health Commission of steps being taken to initiate a Prop Q hearing as required by the City Proposition Q ordinance; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Proposition Q, the San Francisco Health Commission held public hearings on June 6, 2017 and June 20, 2017; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the closure of PROS & Wound Care Clinic at St. Mary's Medical Center will have a detrimental impact on the availability of these health care services in the community.

Further resolved that St. Mary's leadership is urged to develop policies to assure initiating a Prop Q hearing, when required, in a timely manner.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of June 20, 2017 adopted the foregoing resolution.



Mark Morewitz
Health Commission Executive Secretary