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**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO**

London N. Breed Mayor
Department of Public Health



Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health
Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.
Executive Secretary

TEL (415) 554-2666
FAX (415) 554-2665
Web Site: <http://www.sfdph.org>

MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday March 16, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Webex Event

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D , Chair
Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Member
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

The meeting was called to order at 2:02pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021 MEETING

Action Taken: The Committee unanimously approved the February 16, 2021 meeting minutes.

3) HOUSING CONSERVATORSHIP UPDATE

Angelica Almeida, Ph.D, Director, Forensic/Justice Involved Behavioral Health Services, presented the item.

Public Comment:

An individual working as provider read a statement from a client urging that the system be designed to help people instead of stripping them of their rights. She added that the system should be able to help people be productive.

Jessica Lehman, Executive Director of Senior and Disability Action, thanked the committee for the excellent conversation and noted that past discussions seemed more politically motivated. She stated that it is imperative that adequate housing options be offered to someone in crisis. She added that many people being released from a 5150 hold do not get coordinated reentry or housing.

Dr. Cooper, a physician specializing in substance use treatment, asked why the system allows for an individual to be held, assessed, and treated 8 times but always released without resolution to the issues that motivated the 5150. He noted that literature shows that coercive treatment does not lead to effective long-term outcomes.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo asked for more information regarding the compliance rate for individuals engaged in voluntary treatment. Dr. Almeida stated that the team tracks this data closely, but she does not have aggregate numbers to share at this time.

Commissioner Chung asked if the program criteria is that an individual has at least eight 5150 incidents or eight emergency incidents including 5150's. Dr. Almeida stated that the criteria is eight 5150 incidents; she noted that most of the individuals have many more 5150's than the lowest criteria. She added that at the third 5150, an individual must be offered voluntary services.

Commissioner Chung asked how intensive case management services play a role in housing conservatorship. Dr. Almeida stated that for those individuals placed in housing conservatorship, the program has dedicated capacity with full service partnerships to leverage resources to support this population. She added that this service spectrum has been effective. She also stated that the program also offers support to case managers and other providers to ensure they have the resources to be effective.

Commissioner Christian noted that she knows Dr. Almeida and knows the high quality of all her work. She stated that there are disparities of Black/African Americans, in terms of the number of 5150's for this population. She requested that this data be disaggregating by race/ethnicity to better understand how many of the calls initiated by police were people of color. It is important to know if police-sponsored calls may indicate that more community resources are needed to address these disparities. Dr. Almeida stated that for Black/African American men, there is a risk of strangers weaponizing 911 as a way to discriminate. It is therefore, very important that the people responding to these calls have the correct skillset to properly assess a situation without prejudice.

Commissioner Christian requested that the data show police stations that responded to ascertain if there is a concentration in one area, in addition to looking at supervisorial districts to better understand the needs of the many communities in San Francisco.

Commissioner Christian asked if the people noted on slide 4 are all the same people. Dr. Almeida stated that there is some overlap but not that the breakdown on the slide does not refer to the same individuals.

Commissioner Christian asked for an explanation of the path to housing conservatorship. Dr. Almeida responded with the following information:

- When an individual is involved in their 5th 5150 within one year, they are notified that they are on the path to housing conservatorship. They receive the same notification at their 6, and 7th 5150 in one year.
- During their 8th 5150 in one year, a psychiatrist makes a referral to housing conservatorship. An individual may be held for 28 days for a conservatorship hearing.
- If granted, the housing conservatorship would last for 6 months, with the possibility of renewal.
- A conservator may give consent for treatment of the individual.

4) ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (AOT)

Angelica Almeida, Ph.D, Director, Forensic/Justice Involved Behavioral Health Services, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Dr. Cooper, a physician specializing in substance use treatment, stated that it is gratifying at how well the AOT data shows long-term outcomes and noted that this program is voluntary. He reiterated the importance of reviewing long-term outcome data when looking at voluntary and involuntary programs.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo asked if there are data on the number of individuals who have cycled through AOT more than once. Dr. Almeida stated that anecdotally, the cohort is small.

Commissioner Giraudo asked how the Street Crisis Team integrates with the AOT program. Dr. Almeida stated that the Street Crisis Team does not directly refer to AOT but there is dedicated capacity for referrals through the new Office of Coordinated Care.

Commissioner Giraudo requested an update in 6 months after the Office of Coordinated Care is implemented, to hear about the integration of these programs.

Commissioner Chung noted that the Commission does not hear a lot of success stories and requested the future presentations included some vignettes.

Commissioner Christian thanked Dr. Almeida for her impactful work.

5) EMERGING ISSUES

This item was not discussed.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07pm.