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Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
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**MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 4:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Webex Event**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present:

Commissioner Laurie Green, MD, Vice President
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.
Commissioner Cecilia Chung (*left at 4:15pm*)
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

Excused:

Commissioner Dan Bernal President
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm. Commissioner Green chaired the meeting. The Health Commission took items 10 and 11 out of order so that Commissioner Chung could participate in the vote.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2022.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow requested that the word "policy" replace "measure," in the following sentence, found on page 7, 4th paragraph:

- 'Dr. Susan Ehrlich, ZSFG CEO, stated that the DPH is using measure policy a bit more conservative than the CDC or CDPH guidances.'

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the December 21, 2021 meeting minutes.

3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, presented the item.

Changes to COVID-19 Health Order—indoor masking, testing and vaccination requirements

Beginning on February 1, San Francisco office workers, gym members and other "stable cohorts" of people may remove masks indoors again, reinstating the mask exemption that was in place before the latest Omicron

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surge. Given the highly transmissible nature of the variant, there is an additional requirement that individuals in these stable cohort groups be “up to date” on their vaccinations, including the primary series and boosters when eligible, as the best protection against the virus.

Other COVID-19 safety guidelines in these settings remain in effect and include a means for others who do not or cannot meet the vaccination requirements to join the group with the added safety of showing a negative test and wearing a mask.

Additional updates begin a new shift in bringing San Francisco’s Safer Together Health Order into closer alignment with current California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requirements, where it can be done safely. These include allowing patrons to enter indoor “mega-events” of 500 people or more with a negative COVID-19 test as an alternative to being “up to date” on vaccinations (masking would still be required). Further changes allow religious and medical exemptions to vaccination requirements with a negative COVID-19 test, affecting locations such as indoor restaurants, bars, gyms, fitness centers, and other venues where food or drink is consumed or where people have elevated breathing. These changes also begin February 1. The public should be mindful that people in some settings may not be fully vaccinated or boosted and so should use good judgment when attending gatherings or events.

Consistent with the state’s current mask rules, San Francisco’s indoor mask mandate remains in effect for most public settings, regardless of vaccination status. For more details on the changes to the health order, go to: www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-healthorders

Rapid antigen tests may be taken within the day before entry, and PCR laboratory tests may be taken within two days before entry. A photo taken of a self-administered rapid antigen test (such as an at-home test) is not acceptable proof of a negative test. Verification of the test result from a third party is needed. For these events and locations, a printed or electronic document from the test provider or laboratory may be used.

The health order also added a definition for “booster-eligible,” which means the time when a person qualifies to receive a booster under U.S. Centers for Disease Control guidelines. Until a person is eligible for a booster, they are considered “up to date” on their vaccination. More information about booster eligibility can be found at: sf.gov/information/get-your-booster.

Clarification has also been provided on when a person may receive a vaccination or booster following a COVID-19 infection. While clinical data does not yet provide a definitive answer to this question, for now the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) recommends that people get vaccinated or receive a booster dose as soon as possible at least 10 days but no more than 30 days after recovery from infection and discontinuation of isolation, unless a healthcare provider has a strong reason for the booster to be delayed.

Additional changes to the health order affect personnel in high-risk settings and include:

- Extending the deadline a month from February 1 to March 1 for personnel in high-risk settings to be up-to-date on vaccination, meaning receiving a booster shot when eligible. The extension of the deadline aligns with state requirements, but also includes San Francisco’s health order requirements on boosters for people whose regular work hours are outside of designated high-risk settings, but who visit high-risk settings as part of their work (such as many police officers, paramedics, and deputy sheriffs working in jails)

Data shows COVID-19 cases in SF in decline following Omicron-driven surge

COVID-19 cases are dropping rapidly following the highest peak in the two-year pandemic. Data shows that cases peaked on Jan. 9 with a 7-day average of 2,164 cases per day and have steadily dropped each day since

then to 1,076 cases per day on Jan. 12. COVID-19 hospitalizations, which trail a peak in cases, are expected to peak in the next few days at a level that remains within the health care system's bed capacity.

Nevertheless, cases remain extremely high due to the Omicron-fueled surge. People, especially those at higher risk for complications from COVID-19, should continue to be cautious over the next several weeks by layering their defenses, such as upgrading masks to N95 or double layer masks (cloth on top of surgical), improving ventilation, testing when recommended, and staying home if sick or symptomatic. Vaccinations and boosters, when eligible, remain the most effective tool to protect oneself against the virus.

Hospitalizations in San Francisco mirror national trends that show the vast majority, about 80%, are among people who are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, including unvaccinated and vaccinated but not boosted individuals.

COVID-19 resources:

- For a list of vaccination and booster sites in San Francisco: sf.gov/getvaccinated
- For a list of testing sites in San Francisco: sf.gov/gettested
- For Isolation and Quarantine guidelines: sfdph.org/dph/COVID-19/Isolation-and-Quarantine.asp
- More SF COVID data can be found here: sf.gov/resource/2021/covid-19-data-and-reports

DPH joins City Departments and community leaders to open Tenderloin Linkage Center

On Tuesday, January 18, 2022, initial operations commenced at the Tenderloin Linkage Center (TLC). The newly opened Tenderloin Linkage Center is an essential component of San Francisco's Tenderloin Emergency Initiative that is forging a path to promote a thriving community and save lives through overdose prevention and connecting people to care and services.

The Emergency Initiative is a 90-day operation run much like the COVID-19 Response, a multi-agency coordinated effort, led by the Department of Emergency Management (DEM). The Emergency Initiative has the following vision: A safer and healthier Tenderloin neighborhood with more effective connections to services for housed and unhoused residents, reduced overdose deaths, reduced crime and sidewalk hazards, and increased investments in long-term neighborhood coordination between City and non-City agencies. The stated public health goals under the Initiative are to 1) decrease overdose deaths and 2) decrease public drug usage.

The newly opened Linkage Center, located at 1172 Market Street, is currently operating seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with plans to expand to operate 24 hours-a-day. Capacity is limited for COVID safety safe precautions, although we are still welcoming over 200 guests a day. During the first week of operation, the Center hosted 1,180 visits with 268 meaningful engagements, 187 referrals, 11 pending linkages, and three completed linkages. Naloxone was administered three times. Anecdotally, TLC has been very well received by guests with lines upon opening and repeat guests.

TLC is a services-focused location designed to provide a safe, welcoming space for those in need of respite and for those interested in accessing San Francisco's health and human service resources easily and quickly.

The Center takes a "radical hospitality" approach with laundry, showers, a warm meal, and drop-in model. Weekly wellness programs will also be hosted here to provide services like COVID-19 vaccination and testing as well as HIV and Hepatitis C testing.

TLC is operated in coordination with Urban Alchemy and HealthRight 360, with support from several other CBOs and onsite support from the DPH, DEM, and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH).

The new Tenderloin Linkage Center will connect people to short- and long-term services, care, and programs. Programs and services include, but are not limited to:

- Behavioral health care
- Shelter
- Transitional housing
- Housing assistance
- Homeward bound
- Withdrawal management
- Substance use treatment
- Food coordination
- Vocational support
- Therapy and mentoring
- Child and family care
- Veteran support

People can self-present to the Center or arrive via vehicle or foot escort from a community partner, if requested. If City outreach teams, first responders or community service providers encounter people on the street who may benefit from this Center, they can call upon a health or social services partner to provide more information and an escort to the site, if desired. People may come and go freely to and from the Center.

The next step for TLC is expanding to operate 24/7, increasing capacity, adding additional wellness programming, including health fairs, and expanding to use the second floor of the building.

Learning what is most important to our guests and how to improve the Linkage Center.

For more information on the Tenderloin Linkage Center, visit sf.gov/location/tenderloin-linkage-center

For more information on the Tenderloin Emergency Initiative, including weekly situation reports, visit sf.gov/TenderloinInitiative.

SF extends COVID Right to Recover program

On January 21, Mayor London N. Breed and Supervisor Hillary Ronen announced that San Francisco will allocate an additional \$5.4 million from the City's General Fund to extend the Right to Recover Program through the end of June 2022 to meet the current surge in applications. The extended Program will continue the support of COVID-19 positive San Franciscans who are in need of financial assistance while self-isolating and recovering from the virus.

Established in July 2020 in collaboration with Supervisor Hillary Ronen, Right to Recover is a partnership between the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH), University of California San Francisco (UCSF), and community-based organizations, Mission Economic Development Agency and Young Community Developers. The Program aims to protect public health and ensure that a lack of financial resources does not deter anyone from getting tested, seeking care, and entering isolation. The Program originally provided 14 days of financial support of \$1,285 to workers, however OEWD has adjusted the payment amount to \$1,000 to align with updated CDC guidelines recommending 10 days of isolation.

Since its establishment, the City has directed \$10.9 million to the Program, serving 7,037 San Franciscans to date, with 75% of the recipients residing in neighborhoods hardest hit by the pandemic. This includes the Excelsior and OMI, Mission, Bayview, Visitacion Valley, Tenderloin, and SoMa. The \$5.4 million extension will serve approximately 5,400 more San Franciscans. Total combined program funding of \$16.3 million will serve over 13,800 residents recovering from COVID-19.

Right to Recover was created to offer a safety net for people who face financial hardship and lack access to benefits such as unemployment insurance or paid sick leave while in isolation following a positive COVID-19 test result. Approximately 46% of program participants are Spanish speakers. English speakers makeup 43% of referrals, followed by 11% of participants who speak languages other than Spanish and English, including Cantonese, Russian, and Arabic, or an unidentified preferred language.

When a person tests positive for COVID-19, SFPDH contacts that person and offers resources based on their needs. SFPDH refers individuals requesting financial assistance in order to safely isolate to OEWD and its community partners Mission Economic Development Agency and Young Community Developers for a Program intake. The City does not ask or record any questions about citizenship or immigration status.

If you or a family member tested positive for COVID, and are interested in the Right to Recover Program, please contact the San Francisco Department of Public Health COVID Resource Center at (628) 217-6101 to receive a Program referral.

For more information on the Right to Recover Program, call the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) Workforce Hotline at (415) 701-4817, where representatives are available Monday through Friday to answer calls in multiple languages, or email workforce.connection@sfgov.org. People can also visit oewd.org/covid19/workers to learn more.

SF drug overdoses decline for the first time in three years

On January 19, DPH announced preliminary findings showing that accidental overdose deaths in 2021 were 7% lower than 2020, representing the first decline since 2018. The [preliminary findings](#) are based on data from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and conclude a year's worth of monthly reports on accidental overdoses in the City.

The year-over-year decline from 700 deaths in 2020 to 650 deaths in 2021 are a sign that the City's record high number of overdoses in recent years may be leveling off with the support of new City investments in substance use treatment, mental health, housing and other services, among additional factors. The City's overdose prevention efforts are designed to have impact by lowering the barriers to treatments and services and encouraging safer use practices that are proven to reduce the risk associated with drug use. The data from 2021 and 2020 categorize overdoses slightly differently, which is why there are variations in annual overdose numbers.

The 2021 preliminary data from OCME has been released alongside a new, detailed [report](#) on Substance Use Trends in San Francisco through 2020, analyzing the impacts of drug overdoses in San Francisco in 2020. The findings of the 2020 report points to fentanyl as the main driver of overdose mortality, especially among younger people and Black/African Americans. Efforts like the distribution of naloxone, the opioid overdose-reversing medication, through community organizations like the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education (DOPE) Project and City services reversed more than 4,300 overdose deaths in 2020. Between January 1 and September 30, 2021, community partners and City services distributed 28,000 naloxone kits, reversing more than 6,800 overdoses. The City will continue to meet distribution demands in 2022.

San Francisco will also open a drug sobering center, called SoMa RISE, this year as a safe space for people who are intoxicated to come inside and be connected to services. Additional overdose prevention efforts planned for 2022 include an expansion of the Street Overdose Response Team, which provides an immediate response and then follow-up care to people who have recently survived an overdose and are most at risk of another one, and opening California's first safe consumption site.

Overdose deaths in San Francisco began a rapid rise in 2018 due to the arrival of fentanyl in the illicit drug supply, an opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and can kill a person in seconds. The COVID-19

pandemic added to the dangers of drug use because people were more often using alone. In response, the City intensified its overdose prevention response, adding new resources that specifically target people experiencing homelessness, who are among those at highest risk.

In 2020 and 2021, the City and community partners launched and expanded overdose prevention efforts, including:

- Expanded hours and services at the Community Behavioral Health Services Pharmacy at 1380 Howard Street, including delivering treatment to Shelter in Place (SIP) sites and telemedicine.
- Added 88 new drug and mental health treatment beds as part of Mayor Breed's plan to add 400 new spaces through Mental Health SF.
- Launched the Street Overdose Response (SORT) team in August 2021 to provide care and support for people at high risk of overdose. SORT has already responded to over 750 calls to date.
- Launched the SRO Overdose Prevention Program, providing targeted outreach and intervention for individuals living in SROs.
- Set up over 150 low-barrier naloxone stations in over 30 shelter in place sites.
- Launched the DPH Clearing House to distribute naloxone both to community partners and directly to individuals with the plan to distribute 28,000 naloxone kits annually.
- Passed legislation requiring frontline City employees with DPH, the Department of Emergency Response (DEM), the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), and the San Francisco Human Services Agency (HAS) to receive training in naloxone use and overdose reversal.

Mayor Breed and DPH are committed to further decreasing overdose deaths in 2022 by completing the implementation of Mental Health SF, overhauling San Francisco's mental health system for all San Franciscans who lack insurance or who are experiencing homelessness, expanding access to treatment, including medication treatment and contingency management, expanding proven overdose prevention methods, and increasing community engagement and education.

The following overdose prevention initiatives are underway and will launch or expand in 2022:

- Expansion of new beds and treatment facilities, including opening the drug sobering center, SoMa RISE.
- Expansion of the Street Overdose Response Team to include peer specialists and additional teams so that the Street Overdose Response Team can maintain a caseload of 700 individuals.
- Opening California's first safe consumption site.
- Launching initiatives so that San Francisco Fire Department paramedics can provide the addiction medicine treatment buprenorphine in the field.
- Launching a fentanyl test strip program, which will be accessible through syringe access programs.
- Launching a five-year project to support the health of San Francisco's Black/African American residents called the Culturally Congruent and Innovative Practice for Black/African American Communities, serving Black/African American residents with mental health needs.

DPH and the OCME will continue to collect and analyze substance use data throughout the City to better allocate resources and invest in overdose prevention and treatment programming that reflects the needs of each community.

Key findings from the [2020 Substance Trends Report](#):

- Overdose deaths continue to be driven by the powerful opioid fentanyl and related analogs, often in combination with cocaine or methamphetamine.
- 89 percent of opioid overdose deaths in 2020 were attributed to fentanyl. Deaths involving fentanyl tend to occur more among younger persons than deaths not involving fentanyl.

- Admissions to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs for fentanyl increased substantially in 2020, as did the overall number of people treated for opioid use disorder with buprenorphine. San Francisco did see a further decline in the overall number of admissions and unique persons admitted to SUD treatment programs. The most recent decline is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic but is also likely made up by increasing numbers of people receiving buprenorphine outside SUD treatment programs.
- Males, persons aged 50 to 59 years, and Black/African Americans had the highest rates of overdose mortality related to opioids, methamphetamine, and cocaine/crack. SUD treatment program admissions were highest among males and Black/African Americans for all substances.
- Drug overdose mortality tends to be concentrated in the Tenderloin, South of Market, and Mission neighborhoods of San Francisco

Safety Tips

If you use drugs or if you know people who use drugs, it is recommended that you carry naloxone for your safety and the safety of others. Naloxone is covered by Medi-Cal, Healthy San Francisco, and most health plans. It can be obtained from the Community Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) Pharmacy at 1380 Howard Street on a walk-in basis with no prescription required, Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chinese New Year healthy cooking symposium

On January 29, Catherine Wong, RD, MPH, Nutrition Manager of DPH Chinatown Public Health Center, hosted a Chinese New Year healthy cooking symposium with celebrity chef Martin Yan. Chef Yan shared healthy cooking skills with participating community members, and Catherine shared key messages related to the 2021-2025 Dietary Guidelines. The symposium also included a presentation from Chiropractor Joana DeRosa on Chinese meridians and tapping exercises. Thank you, Catherine, for organizing this event to promote healthy eating and active living in the community!

Recognizing DPH Occupational Health staff

In an initiative to create relevant safety material which managers and supervisors can readily share with their staff, Gemma Cohen of DPH Occupational Safety and Health has started preparing a new newsletter, "Bee Safe Monthly Buzz", the first edition of which was distributed at ZSFG. The newsletter is split into two topics, each of which can be presented at a separate staff meeting or team huddle. To help high-injury locations, such as the Emergency Department, Gemma has also developed infographics showing injury data for the specific location in an easy-to-understand format. Thank you, Gemma, for your important contributions to the safety of our frontline staff!

[DPH in the News](#)

LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER

January 2022
Health Commission - Director of Health Report
 (January 6, 2022 Medical Exec Committee)

	January	(FY 2021-2022) Year-to-Date
<i>New Appointments</i>	1	12
Reinstatements	0	0
<i>Reappointments</i>	2	29
Delinquencies:	0	0
Reappointment Denials:	0	0
Resigned/Retired/Separated	1	10
<i>Disciplinary Actions</i>	0	0
<i>Restriction/Limitation-Privileges</i>	0	0
Deceased	0	1
<i>Changes in Privileges</i>		
Additions	0	0
Voluntary Relinquishments	0	0
Proctorship Completed	2	3
Proctorship Extension	0	0

Current Statistics – as of 1/04/2022	
Active Medical Staff	36
As-Needed Medical Staff	14
<i>External Consultant Medical Staff</i>	45
<i>Courtesy Medical Staff</i>	2
<i>Affiliated Health Practitioners</i>	8
TOTAL MEMBERS	105

Applications in Process	1
Applications Withdrawn this month	0

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Director Colfax for the report.

Commissioner Chow asked if there is a timeline for how the Health Commission may monitor the Tenderloin Initiative activities. Director Colfax stated that he would work with Mr. Morewitz to calendar the updates. Commissioner Green commended the DPH for the Tenderloin Linkage Center and its continued great COVID-related work.

4) COVID-19 UPDATE

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, gave the update.

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis recommended that the DPH begin discussions about mailing masks and COVID tests to residents. He noted that the federal government mailing of tests is slow. There should be an effort in San Francisco to compliment the federal government effort. He added that everyone needs an N-95 mask.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow asked for guidance regarding a possible second COVID-19 booster shot. He noted that some vaccination sites offer a second booster shot and others do not. Director Colfax stated that second boosters of COVID-19 vaccine may be offered in other countries but neither the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have offered guidance for second boosters yet. The DPH is offering a second dose of vaccine for those individuals who received a first dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine; the second dose would be comprised of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. A booster dose of vaccine is also offered 5 months after the second shot; the third dose would be comprised of the same vaccine as the second dose (either Moderna or Pfizer).

Director Colfax also stated that the CDC has recommended that those who are immune-compromised receive a third primary dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine 28 days after their second dose. They are then eligible for the booster shot of Moderna or Pfizer 5 months after completing their 3 primary vaccinations.

Commissioner Chow asked noted that there have been media stories regarding experiences of SRO residents in regard to COVID precautions due to shared bathrooms and kitchens. Dr. Naveena Bobba, Deputy Director of DPH stated that vaccines and boosters are the best way for everyone to stay as healthy as possible. The DPH is working with SRO residents to encourage vaccinations and testing. Individuals are encouraged to call the DPH COVID Resource Line is (628)217-6101 which helps with vaccination appointments, testing information, and home isolation and quarantine referrals and guidance; there is English and Spanish language capacity onsite. Staff use the telehealth interpreter line, utilized by SFHN, which covers the 7 threshold languages, in addition to Arabic, and Russian. Since Chinatown SROs were mentioned in the media reports, the Chinese Hospital COVID Helpline is also included: (628)228-2828. She noted that food resources, assistance with bill payment and other social service can be found on the website: sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19. The DPH COVID website pages have language options (English, Spanish, Tagalog, Chinese) at the top right of the screen.

Commissioner Green asked if there is data on the percentage of SRO residents who have received booster shots. Dr. Bobba stated that the DPH maintains vaccination information by race, ethnicity, and age categories but not by living situation.

5) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Petrelis stated that Director Colfax presented good news during the COVID-19 Update. He reiterated his suggestion for the DPH to consider mailing N-95 masks and tests to San Francisco residents.

6) RESOLUTION: CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Ayanna Bennett, MD, Director, Office of Health Equity, introduced the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green thanked Dr. Bennett for her introduction to this important resolution and acknowledged the work of Mr. Morewitz in drafting the document.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See Attachment A)

7) SECOND HEARING ON FY 2022-2023 AND FY 2023-2024 DPH BUDGET

Jenny Louie, DPH CFO, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green thanked Ms. Louie for distilling very complex budget topics into an easy-to-understand presentation.

Commissioner Chow commended the DPH for its attempts to improve itself in this budget proposal. He asked for the total number of positions added in this budget. He also asked about the Chinatown Health Center TB Clinic update, which was cut in the budget process years ago, in addition to the DPH Hepatitis B activities. He noted the need for direct observation of patients taking their TB medicine. He added that currently, everyone must go to ZSFG for TB services. He noted that Hepatitis B was a focus of the DPH several years ago but has dropped off the radar; he is unsure how this budget supports those activities. He also stated that both the TB and Hepatitis B activities relate to equity because they address health disparities. Greg Wagner, DPH COO, stated that this budget is complex due to current public health needs of the DPH and growth needed for initiatives such as Mental Health SF and the Tenderloin Linkage Center. Director Colfax thanked Ms. Louie and her team for their hard work. He added that this budget brings the DPH into the present and prepares it for the future. He added that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the strengths and weakness of the DPH. Moving forward, the DPH needs to maintain all that it has done for the past two years and strengthen itself to sustain these efforts in the future.

(After the meeting, Ms. Louie noted that a total of 281.06 Full Time Equivalent positions were added to the DPH through this budget.)

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the DPH FY 2022-2023 and FY2023-24 budget.

8) DPH SAFETY SERVICES STAFFING PLAN UPDATE

Basil Price, DPH Director of Security, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green thanked Mr. Price for the comprehensive presentation.

Commissioner Chow asked if May is a reasonable timeline for the full implementation of the BERT team. Mr. Price stated that staff will participate in several months of training before they begin to provide services.

Commissioner Chow asked if cadets are being replaced with non-cadet personnel. Mr. Price stated that the Sheriff has asked that cadets not conduct clinical searches. The plan is to reduce the number of cadets and used healthcare workers to conduct the searches.

9) RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See Attachment B.)

10) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Chow chaired the 2/1/22 Finance and Planning Committee meeting and noted that the Committee recommended approval of the February 2022 Contracts Report. He thanked Commissioner Giraudo for attending the committee meeting in order to ensure quorum for the vote on the Chinese Hospital Contract.

11) CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow stated that he has a conflict with Chinese Hospital and therefore is abstaining from the vote because the February 2022 Contracts Report included a Chinese Hospital contract modification.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the following:

- **FEBRUARY 2022 CONTRACTS REPORT**

12) OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Giraudo noted that she is the Health Commission representative on the SFGH Foundation board of directors. She added that the foundation's "Hearts in San Francisco" February 10, 6pm virtual fundraiser: [https://one.bidpal.net/heartsinsf2022/ticketing\(details:ticketing-summary\)](https://one.bidpal.net/heartsinsf2022/ticketing(details:ticketing-summary)).

13) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Chow, ZSFG JCC Chair, stated that at the January 25th ZSFG JCC meeting, the committee heard a robust COVID update as part of the CEO report, which described the COVID related activities at the hospital. Committee members were impressed with the breadth of activities completed even during a time of great stress and staff vacancies.

The Committee also discussed the Regulatory Affairs report, Human Resources report, and the remainder of the CEO report. During the Medical Staff report, the committee approved the Surgery Rules and Regulations and the Anesthesia Standardized Procedures. In closed session, the committee approved the Credentials report and the PIPS Minutes report.

14) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm.

Attachment A

**Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 22-06**

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated in the United States from February 1st through March 1st each year, providing an opportunity to highlight unique contributions of Black/ African American individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures. These events spread across cities and college campus in the decades that followed; and

Whereas, Gerald Ford was the first United States President to officially recognize Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;” and

WHEREAS, Since 1976, every U.S. President has recognized February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme; and

WHEREAS, The 2022 Black History Month theme is “Black Health and Wellness,” exploring the legacies of Black/African American scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, in addition to the many other healing modalities and practitioners utilized by members of Black African American communities; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Commission approved the Health Equity Resolution, “Declaring Anti-Black Racism a Human Rights and Public Health Crisis in San Francisco on July 21, 2020. The resolution acknowledges the impact of racial discrimination and the many health disparities, including higher rates of COVID-19, faced by Black African Americans in the United States and San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) developed its Racial Equity Action Plan to address health disparities and combat racism throughout the city’s diverse communities and within the DPH, through activities impacting staff; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission monitors the implementation of the DPH Racial Action Plan through quarterly updates provided by the Director of the DPH Office of Health Equity; and

WHEREAS, The DPH has implemented innovative programs to address health disparities in Black/African American residents such as the Black African American Health Initiative, San Francisco Collective Impact for Healthy Births, the SISTA Leadership for African American Youth, physical and behavioral health services offered at Maxine Hall Health Center, Tom Waddell Urban Health Clinic, and Southeast Health Center; and the Community Health Ambassadors and wellness services at the HOPE SF sites, along with supporting COVID-19 prevention activities in the Black African American communities in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The DPH funds community-based programs directly impacting Black/African American communities such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Black Brother Esteem Project, Rafiki Coalition, Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation, San Francisco Food Insecurity Task Force, Children's Oral Health Initiative, "The Open Truth" campaign to reduce sugary drink consumption, "Truth or Nah" cannabis education campaign, the "Ask About PrEP," HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis campaign, among many other effective activities, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Health Commission recognizes and honors the month of February as Black History Month; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Health Commission fully supports the DPH commitment to continued partnership with Black/African American San Franciscans and the organizations that serve them; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission celebrates the incredible impact of Black/African American leaders and staff in every aspect of the DPH and all the services it provides.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission adopted the foregoing resolution at its February 1, 2022 meeting.

Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.
Health Commission Secretary

Attachment B

**Health Commission
Resolution 22-05**

**RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT
CODE SECTION 54953(e)**

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 54953(e) empowers local policy bodies to convene by teleconferencing technology during a proclaimed state of emergency under the State Emergency Services Act so long as certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, In March, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency in California in connection with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic, and that state of emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) declared a local emergency, and on March 6, 2020 the City’s Health Officer declared a local health emergency, and both those declarations also remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, On March 11 and March 23, 2020, the Mayor issued emergency orders suspending select provisions of local law, including sections of the City Charter, that restrict teleconferencing by members of policy bodies; those orders remain in effect, so City law currently allows policy bodies to meet remotely if they comply with restrictions in State law regarding teleconference meetings; and

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that amends the Brown Act to allow local policy bodies to continue to meet by teleconferencing during a state of emergency without complying with restrictions in State law that would otherwise apply, provided that the policy bodies make certain findings at least once every 30 days; and

WHEREAS, While federal, State, and local health officials emphasize the critical importance of vaccination and consistent mask-wearing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City’s Health Officer has issued at least one order (Health Officer Order No. C19-07y, available online at www.sfdph.org/healthorders) and one directive (Health Officer Directive No. 2020-33i, available online at www.sfdph.org/directives) that continue to recommend measures to promote physical distancing and other social distancing measures, such as masking, in certain contexts; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (“Cal/OSHA”) has promulgated Section 3205 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, which requires most employers in California, including in the City, to train and instruct employees about measures that can decrease the spread of COVID-19, including physical distancing and other social distancing measures; and

WHEREAS, Without limiting any requirements under applicable federal, state, or local pandemic-related rules, orders, or directives, the City’s Department of Public Health, in coordination with the City’s Health Officer, has advised that for group gatherings indoors, such as meetings of boards and commissions, people can increase safety and greatly reduce risks to the health and safety of attendees from COVID-19 by maximizing ventilation, wearing well-fitting masks (as required by Health Officer Order No. C19-07), using physical distancing where the vaccination status of attendees is not known, and considering holding the meeting remotely if feasible, especially for long meetings, with any attendees with unknown vaccination status and where ventilation may not be optimal; and

WHEREAS, On July 31, 2020, the Mayor issued an emergency order that, with limited exceptions, prohibited policy bodies other than the Board of Supervisors and its committees from meeting in person under any circumstances, so as to ensure the safety of policy body members, City staff, and the public; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Commission has met remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic and can continue to do so in a manner that allows public participation and transparency while minimizing health risks to members, staff, and the public that would be present with in-person meetings while this emergency continues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That San Francisco Health Commission finds as follows:

1. As described above, the State of California and the City remain in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this meeting, the San Francisco Health Commission has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
2. As described above, State and City officials continue to recommend measures to promote physical distancing and other social distancing measures, in some settings.
3. As described above, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting meetings of this body and its committees, including the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committees, in person would present imminent risks to the safety of attendees, and the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for at least the next 30 days meetings of the San Francisco Health Commission and its committees, including the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committees, will continue to occur exclusively by teleconferencing technology (and not by any in-person meetings or any other meetings with public access to the places where any policy body member is present for the meeting). Such meetings of the San Francisco Health Commission that occur by teleconferencing technology will provide an opportunity for members of the public to address this body and its committees, including the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committees, and will otherwise occur in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of parties and the members of the public attending the meeting via teleconferencing; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Executive Secretary of the San Francisco Health Commission is directed to place a resolution substantially similar to this resolution on the agenda of a future meeting of the San Francisco Health Commission within the next 30 days. If the San Francisco Health Commission does not meet within the next 30 days, the Executive Secretary is directed to place a such resolution on the agenda of the next meeting of San Francisco Health Commission.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its February 1, 2022 meeting adopt the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary

