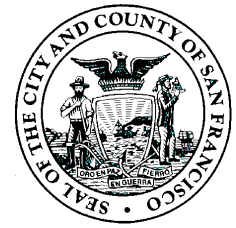


Dan Bernal
President
Laurie Green, M.D.
Vice President
Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner
Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner
Cecilia Chung
Commissioner
Suzanne Giraudo ED.D
Commissioner
Tessie M. Guillermo
Commissioner

**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>

AMENDED MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday April 5, 2022 4:00 p.m.
101 Grove Street, Room 300
San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Dan Bernal President
Commissioner Laurie Green, MD, Vice President
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.
Commissioner Cecilia Chung
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

Excused: Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 pm. Mr. Morewitz noted that due to unexpected audio equipment failure within an hour before the meeting was to begin, the meeting will be held remotely. He apologized and noted that when the equipment is replaced, hybrid Health Commission meetings will resume.

2) DPH EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Health Commission recognized the contributions of DPH Human Resources teams.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow stated that this recognition shows that it is possible to hire DPH staff in a timely manner. He hopes that lessons learned during this period will be maintained and that the DPH not revert to the old system which sometimes took one year to hire new staff. He encouraged the DPH to work with the City administration to incorporate lessons learned in that

Commissioner Bernal associated himself with Commissioner Chow's comments and noted that the slow pace at which DPH was able to fill vacant positions prior to the pandemic was a concern. He expressed gratitude for the DPH Human Resource staff creativity and commitment to reach the hiring goals.

3) RESOLUTION HONORING DR. SUE CARLISLE

Susan Ehrlich, MD, ZSFG CEO, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow thanked Dr. Carlisle for all the incredible work she has done on behalf of the partnership between the DPH/ZSFG and UCSF. He feels privileged to have worked with her for so long, while a long-term member of the Health Commission. He appreciates her collegiality and many contributions that she made to the overall health of San Franciscans. He wished her well in her future endeavors.

Commissioner Chung agreed with the sentiments expressed by Commissioner Chow. She appreciates the education Dr. Carlisle shared regarding the UCSF/DPH Affiliation agreement, during her orientation 10 years ago. She acknowledged the incredible work Dr. Carlisle exhibited during the construction of the new ZSFG hospital building, retrofit of building 5, and the new UCSF research building.

Commissioner Green noted how complex the relationship between ZSFG and UCSF is and gave credit to Dr. Carlisle for always making it look seamless. She is appreciative of Dr. Carlisle's leadership and all the impactful work she has contributed over the decades.

Director Colfax stated that Dr. Carlisle was gracious in welcoming him in his DPH Director of Health role. He thanked her for her mentorship of interns, residents, junior faculty, and other leaders.

Commissioner Bernal associated himself with the comments of the other Commissioners and Director Colfax and is grateful for Dr. Carlisle's multi-faceted leadership.

Dr. Carlisle stated that it has been a pleasure to be part of the UCSF and DPH partnership and to feel as though she has contributed to making it stronger. She is very grateful to have been able to serve in her leadership positions.

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

4) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2022.

Action taken: The Health Commission approved minutes of the March 1, 2022 meeting.

5) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, presented the item. Roland Pickens, San Francisco Health Network Director, and Michael Phillips, Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) CEO, gave an update on LHH.

75 new behavioral health beds for SF residents involved in justice system

Mayor London N. Breed, DPH, and the San Francisco Adult Probation Department (SFAPD) announced an expansion in transitional housing and behavioral health care services for justice-involved adults who are experiencing homelessness. The 75-unit housing site at 509 Minna Street (the Minna Project) in the South of Market neighborhood is currently undergoing renovations for an anticipated opening in early May.

The Minna Project is a partnership between DPH and SFAPD and will open in collaboration with community partners, including Westside Community Services and Tenderloin Housing Clinic, who will oversee program and property management. Participants of the Minna Project will have access to onsite wraparound services, including outpatient mental health and substance use disorder treatment, case management, medication management, support groups, and recreational activities. The Minna Project will support participants in recovery through group therapy, peer support, and medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders.

Together, these services are designed to aid the transition to independent living after involvement with the justice system.

Individuals with behavioral health needs are overrepresented in the justice system, with up to one-third of all jail inmates receiving behavioral healthcare. This population is also disproportionately affected by homelessness and the overdose epidemic. The Minna Project provides the City with an opportunity to provide housing, healthcare, and wraparound services to address this variety of related factors affecting individuals experiencing behavioral health issues.

Minna Project participants will be welcomed from several referral sources, including justice system partners, the Superior Court, Jail Health Services, and an array of treatment and community partners. Program participants are anticipated to reside onsite for 1-2 years before transitioning to more permanent housing.

The new facility at 509 Minna adds 75 beds to DPH's residential care and treatment programs and is part of a 400-bed expansion over the coming years to provide more spaces and overnight options. After 509 Minna opens, DPH will have opened 40 percent, or 164, of the planned 400 new beds. The facility will soft launch in early May, with initial guests coming in already connected to services until the program ramps up for onsite wraparound services by Fall.

The Reentry Division of SFAPD will coordinate the delivery of onsite services through community partners. This team, led by formerly incarcerated people, has developed a portfolio of reentry and rehabilitative programs for justice-involved adults that promote recovery and independence. SFDPH will fund the transitional housing program and develop the clinical behavioral healthcare services available for Minna Project participants. The building at 509 Minna Street will be master-leased by Tenderloin Housing Clinic.

DPH-issued health alert regarding people exposed to fentanyl while using other drugs

On March 17, DPH issued a [health alert](#) in response to a series of overdoses, both fatal and nonfatal, among people inadvertently exposed to fentanyl while using cocaine.

Over a period of two weeks, DPH became aware of three fatal and nine non-fatal fentanyl overdoses among persons in San Francisco who reportedly intended to only use cocaine. The three fatal-overdoses occurred in the Mission district on March 5, 2022 and were previously reported in the media.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can be up to 50 times more potent than heroin. Drug overdoses began increasing precipitously in San Francisco beginning in 2015, mostly due to the presence of fentanyl in the local illicit drug supply. A total of 474 deaths in 2021 were attributed to fentanyl, according to [preliminary City data](#).

In San Francisco, fentanyl is typically sold as a powder (white or lavender) and may have a similar appearance to stimulants like cocaine, leading to unintentional use of fentanyl among people who are intending to use stimulants. People who use stimulants may have little or no tolerance to opioids. For this reason, fentanyl overdoses usually involve cocaine and/or methamphetamine.

Anyone who accesses drugs outside of the regulated medical supply chain may be at risk of fentanyl overdose. San Franciscans who use drugs and/or who know people who use drugs should be aware of the risks of doing so and take extra precautions. DPH recommends the following:

- Be aware that any illicit drugs may contain fentanyl and may pose a risk for opioid overdose.
- Carry and know how to use naloxone, a medicine that can rapidly reverse an overdose, especially if you use illicit drugs or know others who do.
- Take steps to reduce risk including avoiding the use of illicit drugs.

- If you use illicit drugs, please take the following safety precautions: use small “tester” doses; avoid using alone; avoid using drugs at the same time as others in your group due to the rapid onset of fentanyl overdose; avoid mixing drugs; avoid mixing drugs and alcohol; and use fentanyl test strips to identify fentanyl in illicit drugs before use. Fentanyl test strips can identify the presence of fentanyl, however, they are not always accurate and additional safety precautions are always recommended.
- Seek treatment for substance use disorders. Medication and other forms of treatment are available through City treatment programs, primary care services, and other health providers.

Overdose prevention resources can be found online at sf.gov/information/overdose-prevention-resources.

SF ramps up mobile COVID testing to target hardest hit communities

DPH is deploying a new mobile testing strategy to be able to rapidly expand or contract testing as needed and to target resources where they are needed most in neighborhoods with the highest positivity rates that have suffered the greatest impact from the pandemic.

Recently, a mobile testing van operated by OPTUM Serve began administering tests at five access points in the Bayview, SoMa and Civic Center and will continue to offer tests for the next 90 days through the *Increasing Community Access to Testing* program funded by the State. DPH also expanded its contract with CityHealth to provide mobile testing at various scheduled locations including the Mission, the Bayview, and the Tenderloin. The CityHealth service, which collects specimens for lab-based PCR tests, is expected to begin the first week of April.

The mobile testing launch comes as DPH prepares to close the 7th and Brannan Street “SoMa testing site” on March 31. At peak demand in mid-January, testing at the SoMa site, managed by contracted partner Color Health, rose to an average of 1,200 per day and has since dropped to an average of 150 per day last week.

DPH will evaluate [real-time data on test positivity rates](#) to decide where to station the testing vans on a month-to-month basis. A calendar of where the vans will be parked with dates will be available at sf.gov/gettested.

DPH will keep stationary sites operating where there is a need, including Alemany Farmers Market, Southeast Health Center, and Ella Hill Hutch. Starting April 1, the Alemany Farmers Market testing site in partnership with Color Health is expanding hours on some days.

DPH and community partners are distributing over-the-counter test kits to individuals who are medically vulnerable in senior housing facilities, in highly impacted communities, and among City workers performing essential services. In January and February, 230,000 over-the-counter test kits were distributed out.

Testing has played a critical role in San Francisco’s COVID-19 emergency response and the data collected has enabled the City to address health and socioeconomic inequities in the deployment of resources, such as placement of vaccine sites in areas with higher test positivity.

As of March 13, San Francisco conducted an average of 4,663 tests per day, down from 16,178 at the peak of the Omicron surge in January. The 7-day positivity rate is 2.4% compared to the peak of 18.9% in January when DPH-affiliated sites rapidly scaled up testing capacity in response to the Omicron surge.

DPH recommends people get tested if they have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or when they have had a close contact with someone who has COVID-19; testing five days after an infection to come out of isolation; or when asked by their school, workplace, doctor, or the Department Public of Health.

San Francisco has one of the lowest hospitalization and death rates in the nation, despite its dense population, in large part due to high vaccination (83%) and [booster rates](#), and strong community and business support for other COVID-19 safety protocols, including masking.

DPH is keenly focused on reducing health disparities by lowering the impact on communities hardest hit by COVID. In addition to testing, DPH is closing gaps in vaccinations and boosters through vaccine events in schools and communities of color and is distributing masks to those communities while masking is strongly recommended for indoor public settings.

Individuals should access tests through their health care provider if they have one. Those who need to get tested at [DPH-supported sites](#), can do so at high capacity, mobile, or community-based testing sites. Additional information on testing recommendations and sites can be found at: sf.gov/gettested

Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center

Laguna Honda Hospital is a licensed skilled nursing facility serving approximately 700 patients with complex medical needs who are low or extremely low income as part of San Francisco's healthcare safety net.

As a result of reforms implemented starting in 2019, Laguna Honda improved its policy for self-reporting incidents to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). In July 2021, Laguna Honda reported two non-fatal overdoses on site to CDPH, which triggered an extended survey that contributed to CDPH finding the hospital to be in a state of substandard quality of care in October 2021. In response, CDPH and Laguna Honda worked closely with CDPH on a plan of correction, and during CDPH's follow-up survey in January 2022, the facility remained in non-compliance due to one incident in which a staff member was not following protocols. On March 16, 2022, CDPH returned for the second revisit survey and became aware that a patient was smoking in a communal bathroom on a unit and another patient on oxygen was in possession of a lighter. Smoking is prohibited indoors at Laguna Honda and using an igniter when done in the presence of oxygen can pose an extreme risk. In response to the patient smoking and the patient found in possession of a lighter, on March 22, CDPH placed Laguna Honda on Immediate Jeopardy for noncompliance with federal regulations and standards. Staff took immediate corrective actions that included increased clinical safety searches and new restrictions on visitors. The Immediate Jeopardy was lifted on March 27 after the facility displayed compliance with the immediate corrective actions.

Despite Laguna Honda's success in responding to the Immediate Jeopardy and ongoing work with CDPH to address these concerns, the facility is nearing the end of the 6-month window to achieve substantial compliance in response to the extended survey conducted by CDPH in October 2021.

Laguna Honda received notice on Wednesday, March 30th. from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that its participation in the Medicare/Medi-Cal program could be terminated due to not being found in substantial compliance in the required timeframe. This is a standard notice that federal regulations require be provided to facilities at this point in the regulatory compliance review process. Laguna Honda has until April 14 to resolve remaining deficiencies that were found in October 2021, as well as any deficiencies that were found since, to achieve substantial compliance with all CMS regulations.

Every resource is being utilized to address the concerns of the regulatory body. Laguna Honda is working diligently to meet all regulatory requirements and is developing an updated plan of correction with CDPH in response to the CMS decision.

Commission Appointment and Recognition for DPH's Baljeet Sangha

Baljeet Sangha, MPH, FACHE, DPH San Francisco Health Network's Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director, was re-engaged, and accepted, a nomination for another 2 year term with the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) at the State to serve as a Commissioner for the Hospital Supplier Diversity Commission, representing the Hospital Industry. On the Commission, Baljeet will continue to champion the

State of California's goals and HCAI's priorities. Supplier Diversity has profound effects on social determinants of health, our communities, and our workforce, and Baljeet will contribute to the development of a progressive strategy and pathway to bring equity and transparency to this space.

Additionally, Baljeet was recently named one of the Top 100 Chief Operating Officers of 2022 by Alumni Spotlight. These executive team members are in charge of implementing strategy, managing change, and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organizations they serve. This year's awardees span across nearly all industries including education, information technology, food and beverage production, healthcare, civil engineering, tourism, financial services and more. Congratulations, Baljeet, for your exemplary service to the health of San Franciscans!

[DPH in the News](#)

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow noted that an important function for the Health Commission is to ensure that the DPH is doing the work necessary to maintain regulatory compliance. He noted that there have been challenging issues over the past years concerning LHH and that staff have always found solutions to these issues. He noted that only 6 LHH residents out of 760, were lost to COVID during the pandemic. He added that delivering care to the large group of vulnerable patients is an incredible challenge. He also stated that he heard Mr. Pickens describe that LHH is taking the current situation very seriously and is making every effort to remedy the situation. He also stated that LHH residents are free to come and go; LHH is not a locked facility. He thanked the DPH and LHH staff for keeping the Commissioners updated and again, noted the importance of making every effort for LHH to come into regulatory compliance.

Commissioner Guillermo, LHH JCC chair, stated that she associates herself with Commissioner Chow's comments and thanks all the LHH staff for their efforts to comply with regulatory requirements. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic revealed many areas of improvement in long term care facilities across the country. This has led to a higher level of regulatory scrutiny to ensure consistent quality of care. She noted confidence in the relatively new LHH management team. She commends all LHH leaders and staff who are working hard to bring LHH into compliance. "As unique as San Francisco is, and as complex of a LHH population, we have to be more thoughtful in how we approach the regulatory work."

Commissioner Green stated that LHH staff have worked around the clock to answer surveyor's questions and develop plans of correction. She hopes the families of LHH residents, and the community, can feel the tremendous faith the Health Commission has that LHH will be able to meet all regulatory requirements.

Commissioner Bernal stated that all LHH staff deserve great credit for the manner in which they collaborated with the Center for Disease Control during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to control outbreaks, resulting in being a national model for long term care facilities. He noted that mental health and substance use issues are common in some LHH residents. He is grateful to LHH staff, DPH leadership, the Mayor's Office, and CMS Quality Control for their efforts.

Commissioner Chow asked what other resources may be helpful. Mr. Pickens stated that there has been overwhelming support from the Department, Health Commission, Mayor's Office, State and Federal government. Mr. Phillips stated that LHH staff are so appreciative for the support from the Commission, Department, and City. LHH will continue all of its work in earnest to meet regulatory requirements.

6) COVID-19 UPDATE

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

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green asked how vaccination distribution in San Francisco could be impacted by federal policies; she is unsure if booster shots will be covered. Director Colfax and Dr. Susan Philip, San Francisco Health Officer, stated that there is no indication that any coverage will change at the individual level regarding coverage for vaccinations and boosters.

Commissioner Chow asked for information regarding the City's position on the point-of-service treatment after diagnosis, mentioned by President Biden in public statements. He also noted a recent San Francisco Chronicle article which noted that the Bay Area has the highest rate of COVID in the state. Director Colfax stated that the DPH supports the lowest barrier of treatment, which is vaccinations and boosters, then treatments. He indicated that San Francisco is in a better place than it has been in previous episodes of the pandemic. The subvariant is more transmissible so more people are testing positive, but hospitalizations are very low due to the high vaccination and booster rate in the area. Dr. Philip noted that the article quotes higher rates than DPH data shows. She added that case rates were expected to rise as preventative measures, such as masking, were relaxed.

7) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

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

Mark Morewitz, Health Commission Executive Secretary, introduced the item.

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

9) PROPOSED APPROVAL OF HEALTHY SAN FRANCISCO POLICY CHANGES

Stella Cao, DPH Office of Managed Care, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chung asked how many people will be impacted by the policy change. Ms. Cao stated that the DPH does not anticipate that the policy change will result in negatively impacting Healthy San Francisco participants.

Commissioner Chow stated that under the ACA, there is guarantee of coverage. Ms. Cao stated that it is not expected that individuals would drop existing health insurance coverage for Healthy San Francisco, which has usage fees. Most of the Healthy San Francisco participants are individuals who are undocumented and/or categorized as very low income.

Commissioner Guillermo stated that this is a worthy policy change. For some individuals, waiting days for coverage can mean sickness or death. She noted that this change mirrors the compassion of San Francisco.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the policy changes.

10) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Chung, Chair, stated that the Committee reviewed and recommended for approval the Contracts Report and contract request with City Health.

11) CONSENT CALENDAR

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the following:

- APRIL 2022 CONTRACTS REPORT
- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH CITY HEALTH, A MEDICAL CORPORATION TO PERFORM COVID-19 TESTING SERVICES. THE TOTAL PROPOSED CONTRACT AMOUNT IS \$7,447,440 WHICH INCLUDES A 12% CONTINGENCY FOR THE TERM OF FEBRUARY 07, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022 (11 MONTHS).

12) OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Chung noted concern about the impact of the war between Russia and Ukraine on DPH staff, as the COVID pandemic continues and so many other issues such as passage of anti-LGBTQ legislation in other states. She asked if there is a way to check with DPH leadership regarding how DPH staff are coping with so many intense issues. She noted that helpfulness of a trauma informed model during this time.

13) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Chow, ZSFG JCC Chair, stated that at the March 22, 2022 meeting, the committee reviewed standard reports including the CEO report, HR report, and Medical Staff report. During the CEO report, the committee discussed the anti-abortion protesters and how the hospital handled the protest inside the hospital. The committee appreciates the continued evolution of security protocols to ensure the protection of patients and staff. During the Medical Staff report, the committee approved the Community Medicine Rules and Regulations. During the closed session, the committee approved the credentials report and PIPS Minutes Report.

14) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 22-12**

HONORING DR. SUE CARLISLE

WHEREAS, Dr. Amanda Sue Carlisle, PhD MD, was appointed as the Associate Dean of the University of California School of Medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco Hospital and Trauma Center [in 2003 and promoted to Vice Dean in](#) in 2012; and

WHEREAS, During Dr. Carlisle’s long tenure with UCSF, she also served as Chief of Anesthesia at SFGH, and Professor of Clinical Anesthesia and Medicine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carlisle demonstrated exemplary leadership, enhancing the collaboration between UCSF and ZSFG, and participating in the planning for the rebuild of the ZSFG hospital, thus elevating the level of patient care, in addition to playing a critical role in advocating, leading the planning, and obtaining approval by UCSF and the City and County of San Francisco for the state-of-the art UCSF Research and Academic Building scheduled for completion in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carlisle earned her M.S. and Ph.D. from Tulane University. She completed her postdoctoral work in the Department of Biology at Rice University. She earned her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania and completed her residency in Medicine and fellowship in critical care in Anesthesia at UCSF. After joining the French Hospital Health Plan as a primary care internist, she entered the Anesthesia residency at UCSF, where she was also Chief Resident. She joined the San Francisco General Hospital Medical Staff in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carlisle is the recipient of the 2015 Lloyd Holly Smith award for Service at UCSF, the 2013 San Francisco Board of Supervisors Certificate of Honor, the UCSF Chancellor's Award for Advancement of Women, the UCSF Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Distinguished Colleague Award, and the UCSF at ZSFG 2009 Rapaport Award for Distinguished Service to SFGH. She is a recipient of the Stuart C. Cullen MD Award for Clinical Excellence (1990), and the Faculty Clinical Excellence Award (1993); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carlisle is a strong supporter of women and underrepresented minority faculty and has mentored, advised, and hired many people into leadership positions.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission honors Dr. Amanda Sue Carlisle for her outstanding service and leadership to the San Francisco public health community.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission adopted the foregoing resolution at its April 5, 2022 meeting.

Dan Bernal

Dan Bernal, Health Commission President

**Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 22-13**

**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; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the Mayor’s orders and State law, the Health Commission met remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic through March 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, On February 10, 2022, the Mayor issued an emergency order that (1) requires decision-making boards and commissions established in the Charter (with the exception of the Board of Supervisors) to hold meetings in person at a physical location where members of the public may attend and provide comment, (2) allows members of those boards and commissions to participate remotely in the in-person meetings for COVID-related health reasons, (3) allows but does not require subcommittees of those boards and commissions to meet in person at a physical location where members of the public may attend and provide comment, and (4) prohibits all other policy bodies (with the exception of the Board of Supervisors and its committees) from meeting in person under any circumstances, with limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that amended 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 (including a booster once eligible) and consistent mask-wearing, regardless of vaccination status, 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 safety for indoor gatherings, including vaccination, masking, improved ventilation, and other measures, 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; 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 regardless of vaccination status (and as strongly recommended for everyone by the State of California’s indoor masking order and Health Officer Order No. C19-07y), encouraging vaccination (including a booster as soon as eligible), staying home when sick or when experiencing any COVID-19 symptom, discouraging consumption of food or beverages in the meeting, following good hand hygiene practices, and making informed choices when gathering with people whose vaccination status is not known; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission will begin meeting in person consistent with the Mayor’s February 10, 2022 order, allowing members to participate by video from a separate location for COVID-related health reasons and providing members of the public an opportunity to observe and provide public comment either in person or remotely; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 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 Health Commission has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
2. As described above, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting meetings of this body and its committees in person without allowing certain members of this body to attend remotely would present imminent risks to the health or safety of certain attendees due to COVID-19, and the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of those members to meet safely in person; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for at least the next 30 days, the Health Commission will hold in-person meetings, with some members possibly appearing remotely. If all members of the Health Commission are unable to attend in person for COVID-related health reasons, then the Health Commission will hold the meeting remotely without providing an in-person meeting location. If the Health Commission votes to allow it and appropriate space is available, the Health Commission’s subcommittees may hold in-person meetings as well, or alternatively, the subcommittees may hold meetings 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).

All meetings of the Health Commission and its committees will provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the body 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 Health Commission is directed to place a resolution substantially similar to this resolution on the agenda of a future meeting of the Health Commission within the next 30 days. If the 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 Health Commission.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on April 5, 2022, adopted the foregoing resolution

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary