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Tessie M. Guillermo
Vice President

Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner

Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner

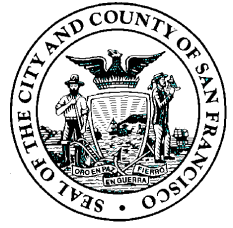
Cecilia Chung
Commissioner

Suzanne Girauo ED.D
Commissioner

Karim Salgado
Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
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**London N. Breed Mayor
Department of Public Health**



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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday October 15, 2024 4:00 p.m.

101 Grove Street, Room 300

San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Tessie Guillermo
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D
Commissioner Cecilia Chung
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Karim Salgado

Excused: Commissioner Laurie Green, MD, President
Commissioner Suzanne Girauo, Ph.D

Commissioner Guillermo called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the October 15, 2024 Meeting minutes.

3) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Ward Kline stated that the situation in New York City government in which there are many people resigning and being investigated is an example of what he has been trying to warn the Health Commissioners and DPH about in his public comments during the last months.

4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant Colfax MD, DPH, Director of Health, presented the item. He noted that San Francisco is in alignment with neighboring counties to implement a masking order for skilled nursing facility staff when they interact with residents. The order will be in effect from 11/1/24 through 03/31/25.

DPH RESPONDS TO RECORD HEAT IN SF

On October 1, DPH quickly activated the departmental emergency operations center (DOC) ahead of what became a long period of excessive temperatures in San Francisco. Dangerous heat waves like what we

experienced are expected to increase in frequency for San Francisco due to climate change. Led by the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch, the DOC's main goal was to prevent and minimize adverse impacts to at-risk communities, public health services, and the county's medical systems. The DOC worked with teams across DPH to ensure that operations continued to run smoothly and that the people they serve were safe. The emergency medical system, including hospitals, were monitored and provided immediate assistance when needed. Communications with community-based organizations and medical and non-medical residential care facilities provided health safety guidance. One highlight in the response was the opening of a community cooling space at DPH's Southeast Family Health Center.

Thank you to all the DPH employees who helped take care of our community during the heat wave.

2023 VIRAL HEPATITIS C SURVEILLANCE REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

DPH's Applied Research, Community Health Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch (ARCHES) recently released the [2023 Viral Hepatitis C Surveillance Report](#). This report provides a comprehensive overview of the status of hepatitis C in San Francisco as well as details data trends and planned efforts to further prevent and cure hepatitis C in our community. Thank you, Hepatitis Surveillance Team, for continuing to inform the public about viral hepatitis.

ZSFG ISSUES ITS FIRST EQUITY PROGRESS REPORT

In September, ZSFG Hospital's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Department issued its first Equity Progress Report, highlighting key updates on equity initiatives during fiscal year 2023-2024. The report provides an in-depth look at the hospital's commitment to equity—one of its True North goals that aligns with all other organizational priorities. The report features an overview of the DEI Team, Equity Council, Equity Champions, and other stakeholders driving equity efforts across ZSFG. It also includes detailed patient demographics, with a focus on primary language, as well as DPH staff demographics, broken down by clinical and non-clinical roles and staff levels. The report outlines DEI strategies and outcome metrics that track progress. The report also includes summaries on important initiatives, such as the Patient/Family Member Community Forum and the continued efforts of our Equity Champions. It showcases the advancements made in Relationship-Centered Communication Equity in Teams trainings, as well as improvements in Equity Communications. [The Equity Progress Report can be found here](#). Congratulations to ZSFG and especially the DEI Department for this accomplishment. This is helping to foster an equitable workforce experience at ZSFG, eliminate health disparities, and cultivate a culture of inclusion and belonging.

ZSFG CO-HOSTS EQUITY AND INNOVATION GRANT CEREMONY

On October 7, the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation with ZSFG honored Project REACH and the Hearing Screening Project at ZSFG with Equity and Innovation grants. The Foundation celebrated the teams at Carr Auditorium where they discussed the importance of the care they provide to the community and how these grants can make an impact. Project REACH brings together human-centered design, whole-person care, and on-the-ground innovations in surgical care to better serve patients at ZSFG experiencing housing instability or homelessness—allowing for more healing environments, more frequent check-ins, and care plans that meet patients where they are.

The Hearing Screening Project is expanding access to a simple yet essential test for an often overlooked and critical gap in healthcare: hearing loss in marginalized communities. Integrating audiology screening into primary care visits and taking the screening test on the move to community centers in San Francisco ensures more patients receive the screenings necessary to treat hearing loss. Through projects and programs like these, ZSFG can continue to help close the critical gap in health equity in our community. Congratulations and thank you to the teams and individuals involved in these efforts and gratitude to the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation.

ZSFG EXPANDS PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES

ZSFG has experienced an increase in the demand for urgent procedures and surgeries among inpatients. To significantly improve the timeliness of such care for patients, ZSFG's Perioperative Leadership Team increased anesthesia staffing to expand perioperative capacity by one room daily effective October 2024. As a result of this addition, ZSFG can now complete a significant number of surgical and interventional procedures in a timelier manner. This is critical, as delays can have adverse consequences, including increased patient morbidity, extended hospital stays, higher clinical workload for providers and staff, provider burnout, and reduced trauma preparedness due to more nighttime operations. To monitor the efficiency of this additional resource, ZSFG will track several metrics including case volume/minutes, first case on time starts, percent room utilization, revenue, and reductions in length of stay. With this additional perioperative capacity, ZSFG will further improve the quality, timeliness, and access to perioperative services for our patients.

ZSFG CELEBRATES HEALTHCARE FOOD SERVICE WORKERS

In October, ZSFG celebrated its Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) team during National Food Service Workers Week. ZSFG's FNS team is made up of 130 employees, including food service workers, diet office staff, cooks, supervisors, managers, support staff, dietitians, and dietetic technicians. It is a well-integrated interdisciplinary team, one that works together to make delicious and nutritious food for the community. Annually, the FNS serves approximately 438,000 patient meals and 547,000 cafe meals, operating out of two kitchens in Buildings 5 and 25.

Proper nutrition is a cornerstone of health and healing. Each member of the FNS team plays a crucial role along with the physicians and nurses who treat the patients. They contribute significantly to a patient's recovery and overall health. The team in FNS who work hard behind the scenes in healthcare food service dedicate themselves to ensuring that our patients have the nourishment needed to fight illness and heal from injuries. DPH expresses its gratitude to these dedicated professionals.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 10/11:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 3.9%.
- Twenty-six percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow asked if staff at acute care hospitals will be required to wear masks. Director Colfax stated that due to projects of vaccination rates and projections of respiratory illness, it was felt that a broader mask order was not warranted at this time. However, individual hospital systems can make stricter masking rules on their campuses.

5) PROPOSITION Q HEARING (FIRST OF TWO PLANNED HEARINGS): CALIFORNIA PACIFIC MEDICAL CENTER CLOSURE OF MISSION BERNAL CAMPUS LABOR AND DELIVERY UNIT

Claire Altman, DPH Senior Health Program Planner, and Hamila Kownacki, CEO, Sutter CPMC, presented the item.

Public Comment:

John Paccet, Certified Nurse Midwife and Sutter Foundation staff member, stated that he has worked at all local Sutter campuses. It is an honor and pleasure for him to provide midwifery services at the Van Ness Campus. There are two physicians in the hospital to help provide higher level care when needed. Sutter is

committed to providing pre-and post-natal care at the outpatient office and continue deliveries at the Van Ness campus.

Dr. Michael Katz, Chief of OB at CPMC for decades, stated that families will continue to be provided services at both the Mission/Bernal and Van Ness campuses. Prenatal care will be offered at the Mission/Bernal campus and the Van Ness campus will offer labor and delivery services. The delivery volume at the Mission/Bernal campus had substantially decreased. Births with complications will be much better served at the Van Ness campus with all the other specialty and surgery teams available there.

Dr. Karen Callen, an OB/GYN for over 40 years, agreed that the delivery volume at the Mission/Bernal campus had substantially diminished over the years. The Van Ness campus has all specialty services available onsite to assist when there are complications during or after birth.

Dr. Yuan Da Fan, Sutter OB/GYN, stated that their job is making sure every mother has the highest level of care and to be safe. He noted that Chinese Hospital closed its OB unit in 1999 due to low birth numbers.

Dr. Terri Slagle, pediatrician specializing in the care of newborns, stated that the Sutter Van Ness campus has highest level of care for births and infants. The baby can stay in the same place as the mother after the birth, even if there are complications. She supports the move of services to the Van Ness campus.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow thanked those who made public comment. He was on the staff at Chinese Hospital when it closed its Labor and Delivery unit in 1999. At the time, he felt the safety of the mother and infant was paramount. It is so important to have the appropriate specialty services in emergency situations. He commended CPMC for the move of Labor and Delivery to the Van Ness campus because it improves the overall quality of care for the mother and child.

Commissioner Christian thanked the presenters and those who made public comment. She requested data supporting the narrative statements in addition to patient satisfaction survey data. She is also interested in the availability of transportation that will be made available to patients, and any relevant barriers.

Commissioner Salgado requested data on birthrates in other zip codes and data regarding labor and delivery hospital choices for families who have had multiple births in San Francisco.

Commissioner Guillermo noted that when the temporary closure occurred, the public voiced concern. However, she is noting that several years later there are no public comments voicing concern at the meeting today. She noted that the Health Commission wants to make the best decisions on behalf of mothers and children and noted that the Commissioners' data requests have been made in that spirit.

Commissioner Chow asked for clarification on whether tours of the Van Ness and Mission/Bernal campuses are offered in Spanish. Ms. Kownacki noted that tours and classes can be scheduled to be provided in Spanish and immediate interpretation is available for both.

Commissioner Chung noted that the Mission and Bernal neighborhoods are resource rich and have other prenatal and post-natal clinic and service options.

Commissioner Christian requested that the Commission be given a copy of the questions asked on the satisfaction surveys.

Commissioner Guillermo asked if the relevant staff involved received equivalent jobs. Ms. Kownacki stated all but one staff member received equivalent jobs with equivalent salaries; one staff person wanted a different kind of job.

Commissioner Chow noted that he is in support of the resolution to say this change will not have a detrimental impact. He will be absent at the November 5th meeting.

6) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Tessie Guillermo stated that at the October 8, 2024 Laguna Honda Joint Conference Committee meeting, the committee reviewed all standard reports including the Human Resources Report, Regulatory Affairs Report, and Executive Team presentation. The committee was pleased that Laguna Honda continues new admissions in all 5 admission categories; there was no waiting list as of the date of the meeting. During the meeting, the committee reviewed all the Laguna Honda policies included on the Consent Calendar and recommended that the full Commission approve the full list at the meeting today.

7) CONSENT CALENDAR

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the following items:

- **LHH Policies and Procedures:**
Request for approval of the following LHH-related items, which were recommended for approval by the LHH JCC at its October 8, 2024 meeting.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Policy No.</u>	<u>Policy Title</u>
1	Facility-wide	20-01	Admission to Laguna Honda Acute and SNF Services and Relocation Between Laguna Honda SNF Units
2	Facility-wide	20-04	Discharge Planning
3	Facility-wide	22-09	Psychiatric Emergencies
4	Facility-wide	24-10	Coach Use for Close Observation
5	Facility-wide	27-02	Referrals for Rehabilitation Services
6	Facility-wide	27-03	Natural Dye Swallowing Assessment for Patients with Tracheostomy
7	Facility-wide	27-06	Guidelines for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Documentation
8	Facility-wide	55-03	Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)
9	Facility-wide	60-12	Review of Sentinel Events (Applicable to Acute Care Units Only)
10	Medicine	C01-02	Guidelines for Autopsy Requests
11	Medicine	D13	Consultant Responsibilities
12	Medicine	D14-01	HIV Testing and Prevention for Residents'
13	Nursing	Acute 01.0	Nursing Staff Education – Acute Unit
14	Nursing	Acute 02.0	Documentation of Care – Acute Unit
15	Nursing	A 8.0	Decentralized Staffing
16	Nursing	C 1.3	Discharge Procedure to Acute
17	Rehab	40-01	Rehabilitation Services Rehabilitation Services for Rehabilitation Unit (Acute Rehabilitation and SNF Rehabilitation) Patients

8) COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Chair, presented the item.

9) OTHER BUSINESS:

This item was not discussed.

10) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.