

Laurie Green, M.D.
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Tessie M. Guillermo
Vice President

Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner

Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner

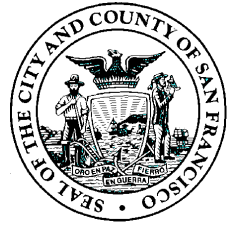
Cecilia Chung
Commissioner

Suzanne Girauo ED.D
Commissioner

Karim Salgado
Commissioner

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

London N. Breed Mayor
Department of Public Health



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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday November 5, 2024 4:00 p.m.
101 Grove Street, Room 300
San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Laurie Green, MD, President
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo
Commissioner Cecilia Chung
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Suzanne Girauo, Ph.D (*Left the meeting at 5:11pm*)
Commissioner Karim Salgado

Excused: Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm.

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

4) ZSFG EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Health Commission recognized the following ZSFG teams for their impactful and innovative work:

- OTOP/Ward 93/W95
- Health Information Management Services
- Birth Center, NICU & Pediatrics
- Patient Safety Program at ZSFG
- Inpatient Psychiatric Services

5) ZSFG FY2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

Susan Ehrlich, MD, Chief Executive Officer, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green stated that she feels lucky to witness the ZSFG leadership team in action at each ZSFG JCC meeting. She noted that the Commission is grateful for the many contributions of each ZSFG staff member.

Commissioner Giraudo thanked Dr. Ehrlich for the excellent report, noting the reports get better each year. She appreciates Dr. Ehrlich's written response to her question regarding the ZSFG adolescent unit and looks forward to future updates.

Commissioner Christian stated that she serves as a member of the ZSFG JCC and the amount of high quality work that gets done every day at the hospital is astounding. She feels it is a privilege to serve on the committee.

Commissioner Guillermo congratulated all the ZSFG staff for the incredible work they do each day. ZSFG is held up around the country as an example of high quality care. She noted that having a hospital as large and encompassing as ZSFG gives a glimpse of the expansiveness of the San Francisco Health Network, to which ZSFG is a part.

Commissioner Chung noted that ZSFG saved her life twice. She is grateful to the hospital and proud of all the incredible work done there.

Director Colfax stated that he appreciates the report and is so proud of the breadth and depth of the work. He noted that earlier this year when he called Dr. Fauci to speak at ZSFG, Dr. Fauci immediately agreed because he is well aware of the incredible work and monumental accomplishments that have come out of the ZSFG during the last decades. He also stated that most San Franciscans' lives have been touched by ZSFG in some positive way. He thanked ZSFG for their effective partnership with LHH during the recertification process.

6) PROPOSITION Q HEARING: 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.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Christian thanked CPMC and DPH staff for being so responsive to the Commissioners' questions and requests. She noted it is important for the Commission and public to hear what has gone on since the closure took place several years ago.

Action Taken: Commissioners Guillermo, Chung, Christian, and Salgado unanimously voted to approve the resolution indicating that the closure of the Mission Bernal Campus Labor and Deliver Unit would not be detrimental to healthcare services in the community. Commissioners Green and Giraudo left the room for this item and did not vote due to their conflict of interest. (See Attachment)

7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant Colfax MD, DPH, Director of Health, presented the item, which was presented before item 6.

DPH EXPANDS ON-DEMAND TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WHO USE FENTANYL

Mayor London N. Breed and DPH announced the expansion of a successful pilot that will now immediately connect individuals who suffer from fentanyl addiction to a medical professional for on-demand buprenorphine prescriptions from 8 a.m. to midnight daily. The pilot program is one component of the City's larger effort to mitigate the impact of the lethal drug fentanyl.

San Francisco is seeing substantially more people enter treatment and access lifesaving medication to curb substance use addiction than last year. As a result of expanded programming and outreach:

- 32% increase in methadone treatment admissions and 46% increase in buprenorphine prescriptions filled at the DPH Behavioral Health Services Pharmacy this year compared to the first eight months of 2023.
- Residential treatment admissions in Fiscal Year 2023-24 also increased 35% over the previous fiscal year.

Additionally, the City's monthly accidental overdose report was released, detailing the sixth consecutive month of decline of fatal overdoses in San Francisco. The City saw an approximate 20% decrease in the first nine months of 2024 compared to the same period of time in 2023, according to the preliminary findings from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

San Francisco residents who use fentanyl can now call the DPH Behavioral Health Access Line at 888-246-3333 daily between 8 a.m. and midnight to be connected to a medical provider and receive an immediate prescription for buprenorphine or a referral to a methadone program. Buprenorphine and methadone reduce the risk of overdose death by approximately 50% and support individuals on a path to recovery and health. Navigation support for prescription pick-up and linkages to ongoing treatment and care are also available through this program.

San Francisco became the first county in the state to offer telehealth consultations and immediate buprenorphine prescriptions when the [nighttime on-demand medication treatment access pilot](#) first launched in March 2024. The pilot provided people in the Tenderloin neighborhood telehealth calls with medical professionals between 8 p.m. and midnight for immediate access to medication treatment. This expanded program is the next iteration of the successful pilot and expands on-demand access for medications for fentanyl use disorder to 16-hours per day, 8 a.m. to midnight daily.

Since March 2024, the nighttime on-demand medication treatment access program has facilitated more than 1,650 treatment calls with medical staff, resulting in approximately 40% of clients starting medication treatment for fentanyl use disorder.

DPH will pair interested telehealth clients with a patient navigator to coordinate ongoing treatment and care, including support picking up the initial buprenorphine prescriptions, assistance enrolling in a methadone program, entering residential treatment, and other support services.

DPH makes substance use treatment accessible across its system of care, including in hospitals and 14 primary care clinics, more than 55 specialty clinics, permanent supportive housing, shelters and navigation centers, street-based settings, and the Jail Health program. In recent years, DPH has been aggressively growing substance use treatment options and removing barriers to treatment. The work has included launching new treatment programs, expanding hours at outpatient treatment facilities and access points, adding 400 residential treatment and care beds, and more than tripling the number of street care workers in the community outreaching to people who use drugs.

The DPH Behavioral Health Access Line is a 24/7 call center that serves as a central access point for substance use and mental health services. Now the telephone line adds the option to virtually connect to a medical professional about medications for fentanyl use order.

DPH RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY WEEK

DPH was proud to host a San Francisco Health Network-wide campaign of activities during National Healthcare Quality Week (October 20-26) to recognize all staff who contribute to delivering exceptional, patient-centered care.

We are all key players in ensuring our patients receive high quality care. Whether a staffer is a clinician directly interacting with patients, a support member ensuring smooth operations, or a dedicated team member behind the scenes working on data analysis and quality initiatives, their efforts matter deeply.

To celebrate our successes and continuous improvement in healthcare quality, we published a wide range of communications including: an appreciation letter from Chief Quality Officer Troy Williams, a feature article in the newly relaunched internal SF Health Network newsletter, team achievement highlights in the Daily Digest for ZSFG and LHH Hospitals, and a social media campaign.

SF Health Network staff also joined the National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) for a lunchtime learning series to celebrate our collective commitment to excellence.

HALI HAMMER FAMILY HEALTH CENTER SCHOLARSHIP

DPH is pleased to share that the Hali Hammer Family Health Center Scholarship has raised \$5,300 since launching in February 2024. This scholarship is named for former DPH Director of Ambulatory Care, Dr. Hali Hammer, in honor of her legacy of compassionate care and fearless leadership that continues to inspire.

With the funds raised, ZSFG Family Health Center anticipates providing at least 10 scholarships to graduates of John O'Connell High School, where the clinic has had a longstanding partnership. The scholarships will support pathways to health careers for local graduates. This financial support relieves stress and burden on students and their families.

We are excited to see Hali Hammer's legacy be carried forward in those we hope will be future doctors, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, medical exam assistants, clerks, and eligibility workers at the Family Health Center.

CELEBRATING OUR HOSPITAL TEAMS IN OCTOBER

There was a lot to celebrate in October! During Physical Therapy Awareness Month and Pharmacy Week, ZSFG shared gratitude with the 35 physical therapists and physical therapy assistants at the Rehab Department as well as all the Pharmacy professionals such as pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, helpers, and support staff—both essential teams who provide invaluable contributions to a patients' recovery.

ZSFG also put a spotlight on a few teams who work behind the scenes but are undeniably vital to hospital operations. During Sterile Processing Week, they recognized the Sterile Processing Department who prepares more than 250,000 surgical instruments and devices needed for surgery and procedures at ZSFG and Laguna Honda Hospitals.

During National Health Care Supply Chain Week, ZSFG recognized the critical role of the hospital's Materials Management team who ensures the hospital has necessary medical supplies, equipment and services to continue to provide quality care. They also joined the Health Network in celebrating Healthcare Quality Management Week, recognizing the teams who help prevent infections and ensures the hospital meets regulatory compliance to provide quality experiences.

Lastly, ZSFG recognized the hospital's Facilities and Engineering teams who care for the infrastructure of the hospital, safeguarding the hospital's ability to respond and provide care during both the patient's next annual checkup and the next emergency or disaster.

ZSFG RAISES BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AT 7TH ANNUAL NOVA WALK

At the 7th Annual Nova12SF walk held on Saturday, October 26, 144 participants joined Avon Breast Center and ZSFG staff on a 12-mile journey across San Francisco, raising nearly \$65,000. The 12-mile walk represents the 12% of women who develop breast cancer and highlights disparities in health care access while building strong community partnerships. The funds raised directly support ZSFG's most vulnerable patients impacted by breast cancer by providing financial assistance for groceries, living expenses, and treatment supplies.

The event kicked off with an opening ceremony in Fort Mason, where the crowd of attendees heard from ZSFG CEO, Dr. Susan Ehrlich, along with patients who have benefited from Nova12 funds. Dr. Judy Luce, who was instrumental in opening the Avon Breast Center in 2004, was honored as this year's Nova12SF Grand Marshal. The group was then warmed-up and motivated by Lawanda Dickerson of U3Fit. During the walk, participants enjoyed snacks at the five-mile mark and lunch at the Avon Breast Center. A group of patients joined the walkers for the final three miles from Avon to K.C. Jones Playground in the Bayview, where a group of drummers welcomed everyone to the finish line and Sharmaine 'Star' Quinnine ended the day with a healing circle.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 10/31:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 3.8%.
- Twenty-six percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraud is impressed with the report and data for the on-demand Fentanyl treatment program. She suggested that the DPH Communications staff reach out to the news reporter who did a story on the night time pilot of this program. She thinks the continued success of the program might be of interest to the public. Director Colfax thanked Commissioner Giraud for the suggestion and stated that he would work with the appropriate DPH staff to determine next steps.

8) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Chair, stated that the committee reviewed and recommended that the full Commission approve all contract-related items on the Consent Calendar. She also noted that the committee members requested a future discussion on fiscal stability of DPH vendors, including cashflow issues, as it relates to how the DPH can support the sustainability of services and the organizations that provide them.

9) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, stated that at the October 22nd ZSFG JCC meeting, the committee reviewed the draft Annual Report which was presented at the meeting today. The committee was pleased to see the incredible breadth of work conducted at the hospital during the year. The committee also reviewed standard reports including the Regulatory Affairs report, Human Resources report, and CEO report. The Commission members of the committee gave feedback to Dr. Ehrlich regarding the new data elements added to the CEO report; we are generally pleased with the new data, which aligns better with hospital's True North metrics. During the Medical Staff report, the Committee recommended that the full Commission approve the General Internal Medicine Summary of Changes and ZSFG Credentialing Manual, which is included on today's Consent Calendar. In closed session, the committee approved the Credentials report and the PIPS Minutes report.

10) CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- **November Monthly Contracts Report**
- **Request for approval of a New Professional Services Agreement with Civic Edge Consulting to perform Stakeholder Outreach Services. The total proposed agreement amount is \$200,000 which does not include the 12% contingency as this is a one-time funding for the term of 11/01/2024 through 10/31/2025 (1 year).**
- **ZSFG Policies and Procedures:**
Request for approval of the following ZSFG-related item, which was recommended for approval by the ZSFG JCC at its October 22, 2024 meeting
 - General Internal Medicine Summary of Changes and ZSFG Credentialing Manual

11) OTHER BUSINESS:

This item was not discussed.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23pm.

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 24-16**

HEALTH COMMISSION FINDINGS THAT THE PERMANENT CLOSURE OF LABOR AND DELIVERY SERVICES (INCLUDING ANTEPARTUM TESTING AND OBSTETRIC TRIAGE) AT CALIFORNIA PACIFIC MEDICAL CENTER MISSION BERNAL CAMPUS WILL NOT HAVE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), part of the Sutter Health integrated network of care, is a non-profit medical center located in the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco, CPMC operates three acute care campuses – the Davies Campus, the Van Ness Campus, and the Mission Bernal Campus; and one outpatient campus – the Pacific Heights Outpatient Campus; and

WHEREAS, In March 2020, labor and delivery services at Mission Bernal Campus were suspended due to surge planning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and services remained closed through the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, In May 2023, CPMC reported to DPH that the hospital was planning to re-open labor and delivery services at the Mission Bernal Campus; and

WHEREAS, On April 3, 2024, CPMC notified the San Francisco Department of Public Health of the permanent closure of labor and delivery services at its Mission Bernal Campus (formerly St. Luke’s) and that obstetrical services will be removed from Mission Bernal Campus’ license; and

WHEREAS, Exhibit F, Section 6.a.iv., of the Development Agreement (DA) between the City and County of San Francisco and Sutter Bay hospitals dba California Pacific Medical Center, requires CPMC to provide no less than six-months’ notice to the City of a proposed material reduction or elimination of a program, service, or service line; and

WHEREAS, Mission Bernal Campus is one of two CPMC hospital campuses that provide labor and delivery services; the other is Van Ness Campus; and

WHEREAS, Mission Bernal Campus’ labor and delivery unit is sized for approximately 2,000 births per year; and

WHEREAS, In addition to delivery services, the Mission Bernal Campus labor and delivery unit also provided services including obstetric triage – a place where pregnant patients entering the hospital are initially assessed and processed to receive emergency medical or needed obstetric care, and antepartum testing – testing provided to pregnant patients with special concerns or conditions that warrant additional monitoring; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Bernal Women’s Clinic, a comprehensive women’s health center providing care during pregnancy, routine women’s healthcare, and management or treatment for complicated gynecological issues, is co-located at Mission Bernal Campus; and

WHEREAS, The closure of the labor and delivery unit at Mission Bernal Campus does not change outpatient obstetric services at the Mission Bernal Women’s Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Between 2016-19, prior to closure, the labor and delivery unit at CPMC Mission Bernal Campus served an average of approximately 800 patients each year and in 2019 accounted for 7% of all births across San Francisco hospitals; and

WHEREAS, While accounting for a smaller proportion of births compared to other San Francisco hospitals, Mission Bernal Campus served a unique population compared to other hospitals in the City; and

WHEREAS, Compared to an average across San Francisco hospitals, a greater proportion of patients who delivered at CPMC MBC between 2017 and 2019, were under age 25, identified as Latine/x, Black/African American or Multiethnic, and were publicly insured; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco residents with public insurance, including Medi-Cal, represented almost half of all births at Mission Bernal Campus; and

WHEREAS, From 2016-19, more than 60% of San Francisco residents who delivered at Mission Bernal Campus were from five zip codes: 94110 (Mission/Bernal Heights), 94112 (Ingleside-Excelsior/Crocker-Amazon), 94124 (Bayview-Hunters Point), 94134 (Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale), and 94131 (Twin Peaks-Glen Park); and

WHEREAS, According to CPMC, Mission Bernal Campus primarily served patients with low-risk pregnancies and without risk of complications; and

WHEREAS, Over the five years prior to the closure, there was a 9% decrease in the number of annual births at Mission Bernal Campus and this decline follows similar birth trends across San Francisco and the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Over the last ten years (2013-22), San Francisco has seen a decline in annual births by approximately 17% and the State of California has seen a 14% decline in annual births; and

WHEREAS, Since the closure of Mission Bernal Campus' labor and delivery, there has been a shift in the population demographics of other San Francisco labor and delivery units, including:

- An increase in the population of Latine/x births at both Van Ness Campus and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG);
- An increase in the proportion of births to San Francisco residents with public insurance at Van Ness Campus and ZSFG;
- An increase in the number of births to San Francisco residents living in zip codes 94110, 94112, and 94124 at Van Ness Campus; and

WHEREAS, Population data indicates that since the closure of Mission Bernal Campus' labor and delivery unit, patients who may have delivered at Mission Bernal Campus have likely been accommodated at other San Francisco hospitals, largely at CPMC Van Ness Campus and ZSFG; and

WHEREAS, While the overall number of births in San Francisco continues to decline, both CPMC VNC and ZSFG have seen a relative increase in the share of births to San Francisco residents; and

WHEREAS, CPMC has stated that Van Ness Campus has more than enough capacity, for up to 5,000 births annually, to accommodate the volume of births from CPMC; and

WHEREAS, Between 2020-22, Van Ness Campus has averaged approximately 3,800 births annually, below its annual volume capacity; and

WHEREAS, With the closure of labor and delivery at Mission Bernal Campus, patients who would have delivered at Mission Bernal Campus may have to travel further outside of the community they are familiar with for these services as Van Ness Campus is three miles north of Mission Bernal Campus; and

WHEREAS, CPMC ensured that their providers, health care workers and other staff members are aware of transportation options and that CPMC may provide taxi vouchers/ride share options to patients for transport to Van Ness Campus on request; and

WHEREAS, CPMC also provides an inter-campus shuttle service which operates Mondays through Fridays, which is used by CPMC employees, doctors and patients, free of charge; and

WHEREAS, Van Ness Campus' labor and delivery unit provides a higher level of support for new parents and their families and improved ability to care for high-risk patients as the facility has a regional level 3 neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) – the highest level of equipment and professionals on staff to care for all mothers and newborns, including high-risk mothers and critically ill pre-term and full-term infants; and

WHEREAS, the labor and delivery unit at Van Ness Campus is able to care for high-risk patients without the need for ambulance transfer; and

WHEREAS, According to CPMC, all staff impacted by the closure of labor and delivery at Mission Bernal Campus were accommodated with equivalent jobs at CPMC, were able to maintain their seniority, and did not experience a decrease in pay; and

WHEREAS, CPMC plans to convert Mission Bernal Campus' labor and delivery unit to general medical-surgical beds and an intensive care unit (ICU) for adults and anticipates hiring an additional 60-80 staff members at Mission Bernal Campus; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Proposition Q, the San Francisco Health Commission held public hearings on October 15, 2024 and November 5, 2024, regarding the permanent closure of labor and delivery services at CPMC's Mission Bernal Campus;

WHEREAS, That the labor and delivery unit at CPMC Mission Bernal Campus was an important part of San Francisco's system of hospital and healthcare services, an asset to the neighborhoods surrounding the hospital campus, and provided high quality care to the patients it served; and

WHEREAS, CPMC Mission Bernal Campus' labor and delivery played a critical role in the City's safety net system; and

WHEREAS, With the closure of labor and delivery services at Mission Bernal Campus, there are currently four hospitals in San Francisco that provide labor and delivery services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Health Commission recommends that CPMC take the following actions to ensure access to services following the permanent closure of Mission Bernal Campus' labor and delivery unit:

- Continue to fill CPMC's role in the City's safety net system by providing access to care for the City's Medi-Cal population;
- Maintain and/or expand services at the Mission Bernal Women's Clinic and provide opportunities for patient and community input to inform service expansion;
- Clearly communicate transportation options to patients of the Mission Bernal Women's Clinic who will now deliver at Van Ness Campus;

- Directly assess patient satisfaction among patients of the Mission Bernal Women’s Clinic who will receive labor and delivery services at Van Ness Campus; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, Provided that CPMC accept the Health Commission’s recommendations, the permanent closure of labor and delivery at CPMC Mission Bernal Campus **will not** have a detrimental impact on health care services in San Francisco.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of November 5, 2024, adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission