

**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/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 if asked, will provide taxi/ride share vouchers; and

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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

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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 high risk Maternal Fetal specialists; providing a higher level of support for new parents and their families; 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

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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~~**will not** have a detrimental impact on health care services in San Francisco.

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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