

Laurie Green, M.D.
President

Tessie M. Guillermo
Vice President

Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner

Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner

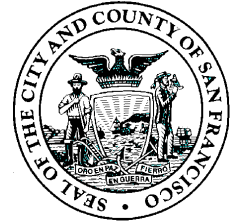
Cecilia Chung
Commissioner

Suzanne Girauo ED.D
Commissioner

Karim Salgado
Commissioner

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

**London N. Breed Mayor
Department of Public Health**



Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.
Executive Secretary

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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday December 17, 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 Edward A. Chow M.D
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Suzanne Girauo, Ph.D
Commissioner Karim Salgado (*Left at 5pm*)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.

President Green announced the departure of Cecilia Chung from the Health Commission, who has joined the Commission on the status of women. During her 12-year tenure on the Health Commission, Commissioner Chung served as chair of the Finance and Planning Committee and Community and Public Health Committee. She also was a member of the Laguna Honda Joint Conference Committee. President Green Ms. Chung well in her new role.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2024.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Christian noted that the following paragraph on page 9, Amendments to the Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center Governing Body Bylaws, fourth paragraph did not correctly capture her comments and requested the paragraph be corrected; amended language is underlined.

"Commissioner Christian asked how the Commissioners would be able to ask questions and give input prior to the December 17, 2024 meeting. Mr. Morewitz stated that other Commissioners routinely send input and questions prior to meetings. He then routes the comments to appropriate DPH staff and sends their responses to the Commissioners. Commissioner Christian said she is aware that Commissioners routinely submit questions. She asked whether the Commissioners could the suggestions submitted in a way that would be

lawful and not create a Seriatim meeting. Seeing suggestions from others sparks additional ideas or suggestions.”

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to approve the corrected minutes of the December 3, 2024 meeting.

3) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Ward Kline thanked the Commissioners for giving him a platform to speak and get stakeholders and the community the confidence to speak up. There is a lot going on, there is a new administration coming in and a lot of people are worried. He suggested that everyone focus on the circle in front of them and everyone will be fine. There has been great improvement with the overdoses, we're finding out the information system was being used by causing the stress levels and everybody didn't understand what the base level was for a person and that was driving the overdoses. He noted that Director Colfax took the brunt of his anger and he apologized.

Dr. Teresa Palmer thanked everyone at the DPH and the Health Commissioner for their work. She requested a restated commitment to getting the 120 bed waiver filed so San Francisco can legally get patients into those beds. She asked for transparency.

Patrick Monette-Shaw made comments and submitted a written summary:

As Commissioners know, CDPH administers a NHA “Administrator-in-Training” required curricula program. On 7/15/2023, I placed a CDPH records request and received a response on 10/4/2023. Six months later, I placed a follow-up records request on 4/4/2024 and received a response 4/5/2024. Both times, CDPH found no records Jennifer Carton-Wade ever enrolled in CDPH’s 1,000-hour A-I-T program, required as a precursor to taking state and national exams to become a licensed “nursing home administrator.” I placed another follow-up request 12/15/2024. CDPH’s license lookup shows Carton-Wade hasn’t obtained the required qualifying NHA license within 12 months of her June 2023 hire. LHH’s 1/28/2023 job posting announcement for LHH’s Assistant Nursing Home Administrator openings stated a NHA license was a REQUIRED minimum qualification; otherwise job candidates had to sit and pass state/national exams for a NHA license within 12 months of hire. Carton-Wade should be terminated as unqualified, lacking a valid NHA license.

4) LHH EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Health Commissioners recognized the following LHH teams:

- Activity Therapy Team
- Rehabilitation Services Team
- Environmental Health Services Team
- Quality Management Team
- Restraint-Free Laguna Honda Team
- Nursing Department Wound Care Champions

Public Comment:

Dr. Palmer stated that she worked for LHH for 15 years and then went to the private sector, assuming that there would be interdisciplinary teams that cared about their patients, but this was not the case. She is so glad the Health Commission is pushing LHH to be the best it can be. It is the bottom of the safety net in San Francisco. She hopes that the new Mayor and the Board of Supervisors understand how important LHH is to the San Francisco residents.

5) LHH FY2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Diltar Sidhu, LHH Interim Nursing Home Administrator & CEO, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green stated that has been a privilege to see the dedication and diligence of the staff and leaders during the recertification process. She feels confident that things will only be able to improve.

Vice President Guillermo associated herself with President Green's comments and congratulated LHH on the completion of difficult and complex goals, moving towards being the best post-acute skilled nursing facility in the United States. LHH is an example of what can be achieved and the best quality of care. She has confidence that LHH will continue to improve and do great work as it faces future challenges ahead.

Commissioner Chow associated himself with the accolades that President Green and Vice President Guillermo gave. He noted that the LHH Annual Report does not truly capture the amount of work all LHH did. It took scores of people to respond to each quality measure and survey, in addition to achieving Medi-Cal and Medicare recertification.

Commissioner Christian thanked LHH staff and leaders for the tremendous amount of work they completed during the last few years. It is unfathomable the amount of work that was required.

Director Colfax expressed gratitude to all LHH staff and leaders for the incredible volume and high quality of work completed in the last year. He noted that the addition small things like table cloths and table centerpieces on the neighborhood dining tables has made vast improvements to the warmth and inviting atmosphere for LHH residents.

6) LHH ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Albert Lam, MD, LHH Chief Medical Officer & Medical Director, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Benson Nadell, San Francisco Ombudsman Program Co-Director, requested that a demographic information be added to information on those people admitted to LHH for long term care and rehabilitation. He asked two elements could be added to the Admissions process: role of Medi-Cal plans and the tool that LHH Utilization Review staff uses for admission screening.

Dr. Teresa Palmer is worried about people in the community who are suffering and not getting into LHH. She went through the experience of applying to LHH in 2017 and was shocked at the amount of paperwork and lack of assistance from staff. She suggested that LHH add its information to the resource list each Board of Supervisor offers its constituents. She also suggested that LHH staff go to senior centers to educate people about LHH; LHH should develop some education and outreach materials. The community wants all LHH beds utilized. She requested that LHH admissions data broken down with more information.

Patrick Monette-Shaw made comments and submitted a written summary:

The Admissions Update Slide #6 illustrates LHH is "lying with statistics." It uses a deceptive "Y-Axis" scale of just "five" between each increment. That artificially skews the size of each bar in the chart, creating a misleading illusion LHH's average daily census has soared — appearing it doubled between July and November. I recreated this slide using a more realistic interval of "50" on the "Y-Axis," which reveals between July and November LHH's average daily census has essentially remained flat. It's an

increase of just 12 patients more on a daily average. It shows a 40% change decline since 10/14/2021, with LHH's SNF beds almost half empty! Stop "lying with statistics." Similarly, slide #5 is deceptive, reporting 48 admissions as the numerator, but hides the denominator of discharges/deaths. The 11/12/2024 report showed 28 admissions offset by 22 deaths/discharges. Today's report claiming 48 admissions excludes the "State of the Hospital" deaths/discharges data.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green looks forward to future updates on LHH outreach to the community to continue to educate them LHH services and bed availability. She also requested an update on the timeline for LHH to apply for a waiver to regain use of 120 beds. Albert Lam, LHH chief Medical Officer, stated these two initiatives as critical needs.

Commissioner Chow requested an update on plans to make LHH Acute Rehabilitation Unit available to other Health Plans to increase revenue.

7) AMENDMENTS TO THE LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER (LHH) GOVERNING BODY BYLAWS

Diltar Sidhu, LHH Interim Nursing Home Administrator & CEO, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Dr. Teresa Palmer stated that she is glad the Commission listened to the Community. For future consideration, she urged the Commission to reconsider the situation in which LHH is subservient to the San Francisco Health Network because this is how LHH go into trouble. Hospital Administrators do not understand how a skilled nursing facility works. It makes her nervous that Director Colfax is not supervising the LHH leader. She is concerned that the new mayoral administration understands that LHH is vital to San Franciscans and should not be used to balance the DPH or City budget.

Benson Nadell, San Francisco Ombudsman Program Co-Director, thanked the Commissioners to revise the document and add necessary definitions. In the industry, the term "Post-acute" is used to discourage beds moving to Medi-Cal coverage.

Patrick Monette-Shaw made comments and submitted a written summary:

Today's updated By-Laws amendments remain troublesome. First, Article VII: "*Hospital Administration*," Section 1-A, "*Qualifications of the LHH Chief Executive Officer*," states LHH's CEO shall report to the SFHN CEO. That's a major mistake. That potentially contributed to Sandra Simon's 8/1/2024 resignation as LHH's CEO 14 months after her June 2023 hiring. Previously, LHH's CEO reported for decades to the Director of Public Health. Perhaps Simon eventually concluded reporting to the SFHN CEO was too burdensome, and cumbersome on her authority as LHH's CEO reporting to SFHN's CEO. SFHN wasn't initially formed to oversee LHH. Second, Article VII, Section 1-B, states LHH's CEO must have 10 years experience in healthcare settings, and possess a NHA license. The By-Laws allow the "*governing body*" Health Commission, or Director of Public Health, to "*modify*" the qualifications requirements of LHH's CEO. Diltar Sidhu isn't qualified even as interim CEO; he only has 7.5 years' experience.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guillermo stated that she appreciates the swift action taken by LHH staff to make revisions to the document in response to the Commission's requests.

Commissioner Chow stated that he feels the amendments incorporated community and Commission feedback.

Commissioner Christian made a motion to amend the document with the addition of the following language,

noting that her intention is to make the document more clear to a lay person. She added that for the proposed amendment to Article X, the City Attorney's Office provided the suggested language in response to her request for more clarity. (Requested changes are in red).

Preamble:

Whereas, these Governing Body Bylaws apply to the entire facility, including its acute and skilled nursing beds as well as all other services provided at the facility.

Article IV: Governance, Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities of the Governing Body, Medical Staff, item K

To appoint, reappoint, and, where appropriate, remove members of the Medical Staff consistent with the Medical Staff bylaws, including appointment and reappointment of one or more dentists, podiatrists, and/or clinical psychologists to the Medical Staff respectively, when dental, podiatric, and/or clinical psychological services are provided.

Article VI: Director of Health, Section 2. Role and Responsibilities of the Director of Health, item B

Ensuring the existence of systematic and effective mechanisms for communication between the Governing Body, the San Francisco Health Network, Hospital Administration, as that term is defined below by these Bylaws), and Medical Staff, through meetings of the Governing Body, Joint Conference Committee, and Hospital Administration.

Article X: Conflict of Interest, A

Members of the Governing Body shall abstain from voting on any matter in which they have a legal conflict of interest, as defined by applicable State and local law. In addition, where a member has a personal, professional or business relationship with any person who is the subject of has an ownership or financial interest in the subject of a governmental decision being made by the member where as a result of the relationship, the ability of the member to act for the benefit of the public could reasonably be questioned, the member shall disclose that relationship publicly prior to acting on the matter.

Commissioner Chow requested that the fourth proposed amendment be separated out for discussion before consideration of a vote.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to add the first proposed three amendments to the draft LHH Governing Body Bylaws, being considered for final approval.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to separate the fourth proposed amendment for discussion.

Commissioner Christian noted that her original question for this portion was that it seemed to rely on an individual's judgement in regard to a possible conflict of interest when it applied to a personal relationship, instead of building in clear criteria which would cover all situations.

Commissioner Chow stated that he prefers a shorter more concise statement instead of the language proposed by Commissioner Christian.

Commissioner Girardo stated that she appreciates the added clarity of the new proposed language.

Commissioner Salgado stated that she appreciates the proposed amendments made by Commissioner Christian.

Henry Lipton, Deputy City Attorney, stated that the proposed new language comes directly from the San Francisco Campaign and Conduct Code.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to add the last proposed amendment to the draft LHH Governing Body Bylaws, being considered for final approval.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to approve the amendments to the LHH Governing Body Bylaws.

8) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH NETWORK & ZSFG TEAMS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS EQUITY AWARDS

A multidisciplinary team from DPH, the San Francisco Health Network and ZSFG Hospital received two prestigious equity awards in December recognizing their innovative efforts to deliver high-quality, equitable care for heart failure patients, with a focus on addressing social and behavioral needs of Black/African Americans.

The team received the 2024 Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity from The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente and the 2024 Quality Leader Award from the California Association of Public Hospitals & Health Systems and California Health Care Safety Net Institute. These honors recognize innovative initiatives, such as integrating AI-driven tools in electronic health records that provide recommendations about medical and social care and establishing an addiction medicine/cardiology co-management clinic that combined primary care, cardiology, social medicine, addiction medicine, and palliative care. Results of this work included eliminating the gap in readmission rates for Black/African American patients, reducing readmission rates by 13%, and lowering mortality risk by more than 6%. DPH is honored by these achievements, which reflect the strength of the entire city's public healthcare system and our commitment to equity in healthcare.

DPH, ZSFG & GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION COHOST ADDICTION CARE SYMPOSIUM SUPPORTING RN EDUCATION

More than 200 nursing and other staff from DPH attended an all-day Addiction Care Symposium in ZSFG's Carr Auditorium on December 2nd. The event focused on helping staff address substance use disorders. The 2nd annual symposium offered participants valuable insights into best practices in opioid and stimulant use disorder treatment, communicating with patients effectively, alcohol withdrawal, and the Addiction Care Team Nurse Liaison Program.

Participants also heard from ZSFG Addiction Care Team staff about their services and overdose prevention as well as future educational opportunities. This included the Center for Innovative Academic Detailing on Opioids and Stimulants (CIAO), which is a DPH program that offers ZSFG staff and providers across San Francisco one-on-one counseling sessions on opioid and stimulant use disorder management, buprenorphine prescribing, controlled substance monitoring, and other evidence-based practices.

Attendees were eligible for six hours of continuing education credit while advancing how they deliver compassionate and evidence-based nursing care for individuals living with substance use disorders.

STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS FROM DPH PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE BRANCH

Two Environmental Health Branch employees recently received awards from the DPH Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch. One employee was Principal Inspector Mary Freschet, who received the Emergency Planning Award for her work during the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). APEC was a National Special Security Event and Mary worked with her counterparts in the FDA and Homeland Security beginning months before the event to ensure food safety. This work included coordinating staff across five food service events. Staff were required to monitor food preparation from the time the food entered the event until it was served. Due to her outstanding work, there were no foodborne illnesses or food related issues at any of the APEC events.

The other employee honored with the Emergency Responder of the Year Award was Jonathan Piakis. Jonathan is a Certified Industrial Hygienist who is one of the managers assigned to the Hazardous Materials Program and supervises the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team. The Emergency Response Team provides 24/7 response to any hazardous materials incident in San Francisco. Jonathan has managed many incidents and prepared the first Fentanyl response protocols in San Francisco with his guidance being duplicated throughout the State. In addition, he participated in the APEC and Super Bowl national security events and coordinated with his counterparts in Homeland Security and the FBI.

Congratulations to our Environmental Health staff on this recognition.

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES FALL GRADUATES

A total of 16 families were celebrated recently after successfully completing Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health's Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program.

NFP provides services to some of the most vulnerable babies and first-time parents from pregnancy until the child is 2 years old. Families are supported by a Public Health Nurse, who provides personalized information on topics such as prenatal care, signs of postpartum depression, child development, and breastfeeding.

This year's ceremony featured a former NFP graduate who shared how she was able to transition to a career as a doula and help start Birth Companions Community Center because of the help and inspiration of her Public Health Nurse and the NFP program. Congratulations to all of our new graduates and their Public Health Nurses!

SF HEALTH NETWORK PROVIDING CUTTING-EDGE HIV+ CARE

As we commemorated World AIDS Day on December 1, we also reflected on the incredible strides that have been made towards managing this disease. In 2024, our SF Health Network (SFHN) HIV Health Services team reports that more than 450 HIV-positive patients received the latest in long-acting injectable HIV antiretroviral therapy (ART) across 10 SFHN medical sites. The once-every-two-months shot ensures treatment for those who either cannot or prefer not to take daily medications. Of those patients, 60% identify as people of color, 98.5% had undetectable viral loads, and 87% were timely with their injection schedule.

SFHN's Ward 86 at ZSFG Hospital performed the first-in-the-nation demonstration project showing the promise for Injectable ART use among people living with HIV. We are proud to be able to provide our patients the cutting-edge care that meets them where they are.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 12/12:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 1.0%.
- Twenty-five percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow requested an update on the Avian Flu at a future meeting.

9) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Edward A. Chow, MD, ZSFG chair, stated that at the December 12th ZSFG JCC meeting, the committee reviewed and approved the Environment of Care report which details the vast amount of behind the scenes work by many dedicate staff to create infrastructure and operations' systems which enable the clinical, research and public health work to be conducted on the ZSFG campus. Each year this report reminds us of the importance of every individual in the work of ZSFG and the DPH. The Committee also reviewed and recommended approval of the 8.09 Provision of Care Policy, which is brought to the committee for consideration each year. The policy will be brought to the full Commission for approval at its January 6th meeting.

The Committee also reviewed the CEO report, which continues some new data elements in additional to those historically included in this report. The Committee also reviewed the Human Resources and Regulatory Affairs Report. During the Medical Staff Report, the Committee recommended that the full Commission approve the items on the Consent Calendar. In closed session, the committee approved the PIPS Minutes report.

10) CONSENT CALENDAR

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

• **ZSFG Policies and Procedures:**

Request for approval of the following ZSFG-related item, which was recommended for approval by the ZSFG JCC at its December 12, 2024 meeting

- Radiology Clinical Service Rules and Regulations
- Psychiatry Rules and Regulations

11) COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Suzanne Giraud, chair, stated that the Committee discussed the annual HIV and STI update. She stated that in the last year there were only 133 new HIV infections, which is a 20% decline since 2022 and a 67% decline since 2013. The highest rates of infection remain in Latinx and Black/African American men. She added that all STI rates have decreased.

12) OTHER BUSINESS:

This item was not discussed.

13) CLOSED SESSION:

LITIGATION AGENDA

Public comment on all matters pertaining to the Closed Session. (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.15).

There was no public comment on this item.

Motion and vote in open session to assert the attorney-client privilege, to confer with, or receive advice from, its legal counsel regarding pending litigation when discussion in open session concerning those matters would likely and unavoidably prejudice the position of the City in that litigation. (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d). (Action item)

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to go into closed session .

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - SETTLEMENT OF EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code §54956.9, Administrative Code §67.10(d))

Ordinance authorizing settlement of the lawsuit filed by John Pugh against the City and County of San Francisco for \$60,000; the lawsuit was filed on December 22, 2022, in San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-22-603655; entitled *John Pugh v. City and County of San Francisco, et al.*; the lawsuit involves alleged personal injury from a vehicle collision. (Action Item)

Following Closed session, the Commission will reconvene in Open Session.

Motion and vote in open session regarding whether to disclose the discussion that was held during Closed Session. (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a).)

Possible Report on action taken in Closed Session. (Government Code Sections 54957.1(a) and 54957.7(b) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(b)).

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted in closed session to recommend that the BOS approve the settlement. The Health Commission voted in open session to not disclose discussions held in closed session.

14) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.