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President
Laurie Green, M.D.
Vice President
Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner
Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner
Cecilia Chung
Commissioner
Suzanne Giraud 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

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MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday February 16, 2021 4:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Webex Event

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 Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Suzanne Giraud, Ph.D

Excused: Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the February 2, 2021 meeting minutes.

3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant Colfax, Director of Health, gave the report, which can be viewed at:
<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

San Francisco announces plan to expand vaccine eligibility to workers in education and childcare, emergency services and food sectors

Today, there are over 33,100 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 372 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

On February 9, Mayor London N. Breed and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax, in partnership with local healthcare providers, announced that starting February 24, COVID-19 vaccines would be offered to individuals identified as eligible in Phase 1B, Tier 1 of California's population prioritization plan for vaccine administration. This includes people who work in the education and childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture sectors.

This expansion into Phase 1B, Tier 1 occurred as San Francisco, in partnership with healthcare providers, continues to expand its vaccine infrastructure but vaccine supply remains limited. Phase 1B, Tier 1 is comprised of more than 115,000 individuals who live or work in San Francisco, in addition to the approximately 210,000 healthcare workers and people 65 and older who are currently eligible.

Healthcare providers in San Francisco and DPH are currently vaccinating healthcare workers and people 65 and older. San Francisco will continue to prioritize those 65 years and over for vaccination, as they carry the highest risk of hospitalization and death of any population in the city.

The City has developed a webpage for people who live and work in San Francisco to find vaccination sites in San Francisco and book appointments. People who are eligible to be vaccinated can sign-up for an appointment at: [SF.gov/getvaccinated](https://sf.gov/getvaccinated).

City's vaccination strategy

The goal of the City's vaccination strategy is to make receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as convenient and comfortable for as many people as possible, particularly in those neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the pandemic. In partnership with the healthcare providers in San Francisco, which are receiving the majority of the vaccine doses from the state, the City is facilitating the quick and efficient delivery of vaccines through high-volume vaccine sites, neighborhood vaccine access sites, community clinics, pharmacy partnerships, and mobile vaccination teams.

The distribution of a national vaccine during a pandemic is an unprecedented event, and the City of San Francisco is partnering with healthcare providers to have as many people vaccinated as fast as possible, while following the federal and state guidelines for prioritization.

Anyone who works or lives in San Francisco can sign up for a notification when they are eligible for vaccination at [SF.gov/vaccinenotify](https://sf.gov/vaccinenotify). The City will continue to provide regular updates to the public about the vaccine in San Francisco at: [SF.gov/covidvaccine](https://sf.gov/covidvaccine).

Recap of current vaccine supply (as of February 14th):

San Francisco pauses high volume vaccination site operations due to lack of supply-

The vaccine supply coming to San Francisco's healthcare providers and DPH is limited, inconsistent, and unpredictable, making vaccine roll out difficult and denying San Franciscans this potentially life-saving intervention.

With the opening of the City College and Moscone high volume vaccination sites, vaccines administered by healthcare providers, pharmacies, and DPH in San Francisco increased significantly to average 7,400 doses over the last seven days. At the beginning of last week, San Francisco vaccinated 31% of the 65 and older population, and ended the week at 47%, nearly at the halfway mark. The City has the capacity to administer more than 10,000 vaccines per day but lack the vaccine supply.

As of February 14, the Moscone high volume site will pause for one week and will reopen once supply is sufficient to resume operations. Moscone is being operated in partnership with Kaiser Permanente and fellow consortium members, Adventist Health, the CA Medical Association, Dignity Health, Futuro Health and the California Primary Care Association.

The City College high volume site expects to resume on Friday for second doses only. The third high volume site will launch this week but with available appointments far below full capacity. No existing appointments were canceled; spots are only released for booking once the vaccine supply is confirmed.

San Francisco healthcare providers, pharmacies, and DPH has to vaccinate more than 760,000 residents over the age of 16, requiring more than 1.5 million doses. As of February 13, San Francisco received 262,000 doses and administered more than 190,000 doses to San Franciscans and surrounding Bay Area residents. This is a vaccine usage rate of 72.4%. The remaining vaccine doses are set aside for scheduled first appointments and scheduled second doses.

Recap of expanding access to City's COVID-19 vaccination network

High-Volume Vaccination Sites – The Moscone Center high-volume vaccination site officially opened on February 5 by appointment only for anyone eligible to receive the vaccine, regardless of health coverage. Initially, the site will operate at a moderate capacity, but when supply increases, it can expand to 7,000 to 10,000 vaccinations per day. Hours of vaccination are limited but will ramp up to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, when vaccine is more readily available. The site is part of a collaborative effort between the City and County of San Francisco and DPH, partnering with a consortium of statewide healthcare organizations: Kaiser Permanente, Adventist Health, the California Medical Association, CommonSpirit/Dignity, and Futuro Health, as well as the California Primary Care Association.

In addition to the high-volume sites at the Moscone Center and City College of San Francisco, which opened on January 22, the City will add a third high-volume vaccination site at The SF Market in the Bayview. These high-volume sites were chosen in part for their proximity to neighborhoods in the southeastern part of the City that have been most heavily impacted by COVID. These sites will serve anyone, regardless of their health coverage status or provider.

Neighborhood Vaccine Access Sites – On February 1, the first neighborhood vaccine access site opened in the Mission District at 24th and Capp Streets. The City is working to expand neighborhood vaccine access sites to the Bayview, Excelsior, Visitacion Valley and other neighborhoods with the highest infection rates for COVID-19 and limited access to health care services.

The 24th Street site is by appointment only and is serving community health workers and local residents over the age of 65 within the Unidos en Salud network, which includes uninsured vulnerable populations. The site has an initial capacity of 120 vaccinations per day and, when vaccine capacity increases, this site may expand to conduct 200-400 vaccinations per day.

Community Clinics – In addition to these neighborhood vaccine sites, DPH and its community partners continue to vaccinate people through community clinics in the Western Addition, Chinatown, Bayview, Outer Sunset, and Potrero Hill.

DPH recently expanded vaccination access through the Southeast Health Center, which is offering walk-in appointments for residents 65 and older in the neighboring zip codes 94124 and 94134. Patients must show proof of age and residency in order to be vaccinated. No insurance required.

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG) is offering free COVID-19 vaccines for people meeting all of the following requirements: live in zip codes 94110, 94112, or 94107; ages 65 and over; and either Medi-Cal recipients, Healthy San Francisco recipients, or uninsured. Patients must show proof of age and residence, such as a utility bill or driver's license. For those with Medi-Cal or Healthy San Francisco, patients should bring an insurance card.

The San Francisco Health Network (SFHN) has been moving quickly to vaccinate patients and members of the community. Across all SFHN hubs and sites, 14,500 people (who are ages 65 and over or In-Home Health Support workers) have been vaccinated as of February 8. The SFHN COVID Vaccination Taskforce brings together leaders and teams across Ambulatory Care community clinics and programs, ZSFG, and Laguna Honda

Hospital, with the mission to offer vaccination to every patient quickly and equitably, following city and state guidelines.

Partnerships with Pharmacies – On February 3, Safeway Pharmacy began vaccinating individuals 65 and older who live and work in San Francisco at San Francisco State University. DPH will partner with Safeway Pharmacy, CVS, and Walgreens to eventually expand vaccination services throughout the city.

Dr. Farahnaz Farahmand appointed DPH Director of Children, Youth and Families

After a comprehensive search, DPH pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Farahnaz Farahmand as the new Director of the Children, Youth, and Families System of Care (CYF SOC) for Behavioral Health Services (BHS). Dr. Farahmand has more than 15 years of experience working with children, adolescents, and families served by public behavioral health systems through direct clinical services, supervision, published research, and program development and improvement.

Dr. Farahmand has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from DePaul University in Chicago and completed her doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship with UCSF/ZSFG Child and Adolescent Services. In December 2014, she joined SFDPH BHS as CYF's Director of Practice Improvement. In her role as the Director of Practice Improvement, Dr. Farahmand developed and implemented numerous practice improvement initiatives and collective impact programming with system partners. In January 2017, Dr. Farahmand became the Assistant Director of CYF where she continued to advance practice improvement and collective impact efforts, including the oversight of our new Psychological Assessment Services program and visioning for Family-Centered Care within CYF and in partnership with our system partners. In August 2019, Dr. Farahmand stepped into the role of Interim Director of CYF. In addition to maintaining her role as Assistant Director, she joined the BHS Executive Leadership Team and BHS COVID Response Team, oversaw more functions and staff within CYF, and has worked with CBHDA and DHCS on legislative mandates.

Dr. Farahmand has led and supported CYF through unprecedented times, always with the goal of maintaining stability for her workforce and continued access to tools and supports.

We are truly honored Dr. Farahmand will continue to lead CYF. She has been an invaluable partner and leader during this especially challenging time.

Chinatown Public Health Center celebrates Year of the Ox

In celebration of the Year of the Ox, DPH's Chinatown Public Health Center Nutrition Services Teen HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) program will host a series of virtual symposiums to promote healthy activities to practice for Lunar New Year.

On January 30, the clinic invited Chef Martin Yan, who demonstrated healthy cooking techniques for tofu dumplings and other vegetarian dishes while sharing his personal stories and journey with the audience. Additionally, Dr. Joana DeRosa, chiropractor, presented the traditional Chinese medicine meridians and patting exercises that audience members can practice on their own to promote circulation and energy flow. Lastly, Catherine Wong, nutrition manager, highlighted the newly released 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture, which was designed to help Americans eat a healthier diet.

Teen HEAL will be hosting a second symposium on February 20, where Dr. Shelley Fung and Dr. DeRosa will be sharing more heart health activities to practice in time for the Lunar New Year. All teens, parents and families are invited to celebrate a health new year. If you are interested, please contact Catherine.Wong@sfdph.org.

San Francisco Health Network selected to receive grant and advance telehealth for people experiencing homelessness

On February 9, SFHN Primary Care, in collaboration with Behavioral Health Services, was accepted into the Center for Care Innovation's (CCI) Virtual Care Collaborative Clinical Connections Program. The program is a multi-state, 15-month learning collaborative to brainstorm how to deliver care over phone or video to people experiencing homelessness. With the acceptance, CCI recommended SFHN Primary Care for a \$17,000 grant to the Public Health Foundation to be used to advance telehealth for people experiencing homelessness (PEH). PEH face barriers to engaging in health care, including having to leave belongings on the street while they physically go to a health care facility. Telehealth has the potential to increase access to health care, either through roving teams or telehealth access points. By expanding telehealth, PEH will be able to engage in care more easily and reduce serious physical and behavioral health problems by catching and treating problems early.

Peers honored at 10th annual Mental Health Services Act awards ceremony

On December 18, DPH's Behavioral Health Services Mental Health Services Act (BHS MHS) program joined the Mental Health Association of San Francisco in a virtual ceremony to congratulate peers and providers funded by the BHS MHS program. The 10th annual Mental Health Services Act Awards Ceremony honored clients with a total of 267 awards for Achievement in Recovery, recognizing the strides individuals have made in their recovery over the past year.

During the event, attendees were able to spend a few hours together to acknowledge the hard work done by participants of MHS funded programs in San Francisco. Rebecca Massie was awarded the Peer Impact Award. Yolanda Morrisette was honored as Peer of the Year. The two teams of the year included the RAMS team, who is working in the COVID Shelter in Place hotels and Peer Support Services at the Mental Health Association of San Francisco.

DPH partners with food operators to ensure a safe Super Bowl weekend

DPH's Environmental Health Branch (EHB) has been actively enforcing the Health Orders and Directives since the declaration of the COVID-19 emergency here in San Francisco. Since March 2020, EHB has responded to over 2,500 complaints.

In preparation for Super Bowl weekend, as part of EHB's effort to proactively educate food facility operators about health safety and prevention tips, EHB sent out an information flyer to all the city's permitted bars and restaurants. The flyer encouraged dining establishments to plan ahead and take all necessary measures to protect their guests and staff and highlighted safety guidelines they could follow to do so. Health inspectors also reached out to many facilities with a history of violations with additional education and guidance. As the result of these efforts, EHB saw a reduction in the number of complaints and violations noted over the weekend.

DPH in the News

KPIX, Feb 15 2021, Bay Area COVID-19 roundup: San Francisco mass vaccination sites on pause; Newsom recall effort gaining momentum; battle over in-person schooling

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/02/15/bay-area-covid-19-roundup-san-francisco-mass-vaccination-sites-on-pause-newsom-recall-effort-gaining-momentum-battle-over-in-person-schooling/>

LA Times, Feb 15 2021, Dodger Stadium COVID-19 vaccination site to reopen for second doses

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-02-15/dodger-stadium-covid-19-vaccination-site-to-reopen-for-second-doses>

Mercury News, Feb 14 2021, Coronavirus: San Francisco to temporarily pause mass vaccination
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/02/14/coronavirus-san-francisco-to-temporarily-pause-mass-vaccination/>

SFist, Feb 14 2021, SFDPH's updated safe sex guidelines during the pandemic sure are something
<https://sfist.com/2021/02/14/sfdphs-updated-safe-sex-guidelines-during-the-pandemic-sure-are-something/>

AP, Feb 13 2021, Californians urged to celebrate Valentine's Day virtually
<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/article249241905.html>

KRON, Feb 13 2021, 'Quicker can be better': San Francisco gets cheeky in updated pandemic safe sex guidelines
<https://www.kron4.com/health/coronavirus/quicker-can-be-better-san-francisco-gets-cheeky-in-updated-pandemic-safe-sex-guidelines/>

KPIX, Feb 12 2021, Bay Area COVID-19 roundup: long-haulers find relief among fellow sufferers; double-masking offers more protection; SF seeks school reopening court order
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/02/12/bay-area-covid-19-roundup-long-haulers-find-relief-among-fellow-sufferers-santa-clara-county-ban-on-indoor-religious-services-to-stay-in-effect/>

KTVU, Feb 11 2021, COVID vaccine shortages, irregular distribution delays some COVID inoculations
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/covid-vaccine-shortages-irregular-distribution-delays-some-covid-inoculations>

BAR, Feb 10 2021, Limited supply slows COVID vaccine rollout
<https://www.ebar.com/news/news/301919>

California Health Report, Feb 10 2021, As need for mental health care surges, a funding program remains underused
<https://patch.com/california/san-francisco/need-mental-health-care-surges-funding-program-remains-underused>

NBC Bay Area, Feb 10 2021, SF Black, Latinx community vaccinated at lower rates, clinics call for representation
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/sf-black-latinx-community-vaccinated-at-lower-rates-clinics-call-for-representation/2463836/>

SFBay, Feb 10 2021, SF to expand vaccine eligibility, officials double down in school district lawsuit
<https://sfbayca.com/2021/02/10/sf-to-expand-vaccine-eligibility-officials-double-down-in-school-district-lawsuit/>

KRON4, Feb 9 2021, Who's next for the COVID-19 vaccine in San Francisco
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/live-soon-san-francisco-covid-19-response-update-for-feb-9/>

NBC Bay Area, Feb 9 2021, SF to begin vaccinating teachers, others in Phase 1B starting later this month
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/san-francisco/sf-to-begin-vaccinating-teachers-others-in-phase-1b-starting-later-this-month/2463788/>

SF Chronicle, Feb 10 2021, S.F. teachers, emergency responders and food workers eligible for vaccine starting Feb. 24
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/San-Francisco-says-teachers-emergency-responders-15937165.php>

SF Examiner, Feb 9 2021, City's contract nurses win fight for emergency sick leave benefits
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news-columnists/citys-contract-nurses-win-fight-for-emergency-sick-leave-benefits/>

48 Hills, Feb 8 2021, SF moved people onto Treasure Island despite serious toxic dangers
<https://48hills.org/2021/02/sf-moved-people-onto-treasure-island-despite-serious-toxic-dangers/>

KRON4, Feb 8 2021, List: These San Francisco schools are reopening first
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/list-first-sf-schools-to-reopen/>

SF Chronicle, Feb 6 2021, Keeping romance alive: how to enjoy Valentine's Day during the pandemic
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Here-s-how-to-enjoy-Valentine-s-Day-in-the-15929002.php>

KPIX, Feb 5 2021, San Francisco officials unveil mass vaccination site at Moscone Center
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/02/04/san-francisco-officials-unveil-mass-vaccination-site-at-moscone-center/>

KRON, Feb 5 2021, Moscone Center to open as mass COVID vaccination site
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/moscone-center-to-open-as-mass-covid-vaccination-site/>

KTVU, Feb 5 2021, Mass vaccination site opens Friday at San Francisco's Moscone Center
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/mass-vaccination-site-opens-friday-at-san-franciscos-moscone-center>

NBC Bay Area, Feb 4 2021, SF's Moscone Center to open as mass vaccination hub
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/race-for-a-vaccine/sfs-moscone-center-to-open-as-mass-vaccination-hub/2458979/>

Bay Area Reporter, Feb 3 2021, SF may see rise in STDs post-COVID
<https://www.ebar.com/news/news//301677>

Golden Gate Xpress, Feb 3 2021, SF State mandates COVID-19 testing for campus residents, yields three positives
<https://goldengatexpress.org/96226/campus/sf-state-mandates-covid-19-testing-for-campus-residents-yields-three-positives/>

KQED, Feb 3 2021, San Francisco opens first navigation center for homeless young adults
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11858254/san-francisco-opens-first-navigation-center-for-homeless-young-adults>

LA Times, Feb 3 2021, San Francisco, amid school renaming flap, sues its school district to reopen during pandemic
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-02-03/sf-sues-its-schools-to-reopen-during-coronavirus-pandemic>

SFist, Feb 3 2021, SF opens first drop-in vaccination site in Bayview, no appointment needed
<https://sfist.com/2021/02/03/sf-opens-first-drop-in-vaccination-site-in-bayview-no-appointments-needed/>

Commissioner Comments:

In regard to the Environmental Health Branch (EHB) work with food vendors prior to the Super Bowl, Commissioner Chow asked how the EHB guidance was received by the food vendors. Dr. Colfax stated that the EHB has been effective in their work with the vendors.

4) COVID-19 UPDATE

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, and Rita Nguyen, MD, Assistant Health Officer and Information and Guidance (I&G) Branch Director for COVID-19 Activation, presented the item.

Public Comment:

A parent in San Francisco expressed grave concern for the schools that have been closed for a year. She added that any high school that had not opened before the current surge cannot open now. She is concerned that some students continue to suffer at home while other schools are open.

Cynthia, UCSF pharmacy student, advocated for the City to expand mental health services, especially to the elderly populations.

An individual stated that her low income building has had several cases of COVID-19. Management does not inform tenants of cases and people are not allowed to quarantine. She asked for guidance from the DPH. Mr. Morewitz encouraged the individual to email him at mark.morewitz@sfdph.org.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow stated that his experience of the mass vaccine site is that it is an efficient and professional model. He complimented the DPH on the implementation of all of its vaccine site, which have focused on reaching the most vulnerable populations. Dr. Colfax stated that on February 24th, San Francisco plans to add teachers and emergency workers to list of eligible groups for vaccines.

Commissioner Bernal thanked Dr. Nguyen for her excellent presentation and for the COVID Command Center Information and Guidance Branch (I&G) work.

Commissioner Chow stated that the I&G branch has done excellent work developing a framework in order to research detailed guidances. He noted the webpage containing I&G documents is dense and encouraged the DPH website to more clearly link to the I&G site webpages. Dr. Nguyen stated that the SFDPH and SFGOV websites do not allow the volume of documents needed for I&G.

Commissioner Green noted that the complexity and breadth of the I&G work cannot be underestimated. She asked if the branch has enough resources. Dr. Nguyen stated that staff capacity has been an issue; there were 55 staff assigned to the branch and now there are 45 staff. She added the quality of people assigned to the branch has been excellent.

Commissioner Green asked for more information on how the branch prioritizes its resources. Dr. Nguyen stated that since not everyone reads documents on the website, the branch responds with direct emails to individuals who have submitted questions or concerns through other DPH staff. She added that priorities are based on an equity lens; will a response to a question protect or assist a community in need.

5) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

6) COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Commissioner Giraud, Chair, stated that Dr. Ayanna Bennett presented Racial Equity Assessment Tool models for the Commission to consider. The Committee participated in a robust discussion on this topic and requested that Dr. Bennett bring some examples of how the paradigm might be used in DPH contracts. The Committee also discussed a draft Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgment Resolution and requested the addition of information on health disparity of Native Americans and inclusion of names of other Native American tribes represented in San Francisco in the Whereas statements. The Committee also requested a statement affirming the Health Commission and DPH commitment to the health and wellbeing of Native Americans.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow stated that he is pleased to hear that the Committee requested the addition of health equity information in the draft resolution.

7) RESOLUTION TO HONOR TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, MD

Grant Colfax, MD, Director of Health, introduced the item. Dr. Aragon stated that he is grateful for every experience at the DPH. He noted that teamwork is key and San Francisco should be very proud of the incredible work contributed by the DPH and COVID-19 Command Center.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal stated that the Health Commission is so grateful to Dr. Aragon for the effective leadership and extensive work he contributed to the DPH during his tenure. He lauded Dr. Aragon for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and noted that he will be missed, although the DPH is in excellent hands with Dr. Susan Philip as Acting Health Officer.

Commissioner Chow thanked Dr. Aragon for his many years of dedicated and innovative service. He noted that Dr. Aragon exhibited kindness and compassion in his leadership style.

Commissioner Green stated that she is appreciative of how Dr. Aragon can approach a complex topic and successfully explain it in simple terms and operationalize the paradigm through the DPH complex bureaucracy. She especially thanked him for his tireless leadership during the pandemic.

Commissioner Chung thanked Dr. Aragon for being a great teacher; she noted that his presentation of the collective impact paradigm made such an impression that she brought it to her work.

Commissioner Christian told Dr. Aragon that he is missed. She thanked him for his gentle generosity in answering questions and providing easy-to-understand responses.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See attachment)

8) FOOD INSECURITY IN SAN FRANCISCO DURING COVID 19 & FOOD AS MEDICINE UPDATE

Paula Jones, Ph.D, MA, Director Food Insecurity; Rita Nguyen, MD, Assistant Health Officer and Information and Guidance Branch Director for COVID-19 Activation, Erin Franey, Program Manager, Food as Medicine Collaborative; Priti Rane, MS, RD, IBCLC Director Nutrition Services ; Veronica Shepard, Program Coordination and Support, Office of Food Insecurity & Racial Equity ; and Christine Goette, MPH, Program Manager, HEAL Prevention Programs/Shape Up SF Coalition Backbone, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Felisia Thibodeux, Executive Director of the IT Bookman Community Center in the Outer Mission, stated that senior participants of the community center have been able to access culturally appropriate food and gift cards to help compliment food for Thanksgiving meals. She noted that senior participants have said that the high

quality fruit and vegetables not only changed their health but also raised their spirits. The organization uses food distribution for wellness checks with clients.

Tony Kelly, Bayview Hunter's Point Community Advocates, stated that his organization is one of the smallest organizational recipients of the food distribution grants. He noted that although very helpful, the grants have not prevented the end of much of the private funding previously available. He added during the past three or four months, clients have once again begun needing food.

Keisha, from Farming Home, stated that every Friday morning volunteers pick up donated food and make food boxes to share with families.

Ted, from Farming Home, stated that feeding people is vitally important but the social impact of this act is great. One of their programs focuses on Chinese elders and another on Black youth; the two programs have brought together very different communities at the farm. Everyone works side by side.

Nancy Temple stated that she is grateful to the City for supporting so many community groups helping feed those most in need.

An individual who is the Medical Director of ZSFG OB/GYN La Clinica program stated that the program has provided basic food to support patients. She noted that a pregnant patient almost on insulin was able to manage her diabetes with the healthy and fresh food.

Anthony stated that COVID-19 has exacerbated food insecurity and added that food security is a human right.

Janet Cordero stated that a small investment to start a food program turned into large grant. Then the DPH asked if the program could be scaled up. She suggested that in the future, the DPH should not close food pantries at its health centers and clinics.

Geoffrea Morris, Supervisor Safai Legislative Aide, agreed that food insecurity has been exacerbated by the pandemic. All presenters and those making public comment are champions of effective food security programs.

Laura, District 11 resident, stated that it is important to give culturally appropriate food and it is crucial to invest in plans that are sustainable over time.

An individual stated that she is concerned that the City programs do not meet the cultural needs of her local food pantry.

Cissiie Bonini, EatSF Executive Director, thanked the DPH for partnering with the community to provide culturally appropriate food.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Christian thanked the presenters for their excellent work. She noted that it is such an inspiring and effective example of the DPH working with community partners.

Commissioner Green stated that the work presented is exceptional. She thanked all the presenters and community involved for their leadership. She asked for more information regarding how the DPH is reaching out to the community to ensure those eligible know about these services. Dr. Jones stated that some programs have been allowed flexibility for remote sign-up, which has been essential during the pandemic. She noted the importance of community partners in reaching those who are eligible for these programs.

Commissioner Green asked if there is thought to develop best practices. Dr. Jones stated that there are efforts to create sustainability plans for the food programs coordinated through the COVID Command Center. She added that in her experience, there has never been such effective coordination between the City and community in food security programs.

Commissioner Green noted that Kaiser has developed a large scale food program in the East Bay and asked if that type of Kaiser program exists in San Francisco. Dr. Nguyen stated that the City has worked with Kaiser in regard to its food pharmacy but has not engaged with the organization on other food programs in San Francisco. Ms. Shepard stated that there has never been enough food in food security programs and that people continue to go hungry.

Commissioner Chow thanked everyone for the presentation and excellent work. He also stated that looking at the presentation through an equity lens, there is no information regarding food security programs for Asians. He suggested that future presentations highlight a broader array of programs covering a more diverse group of communities.

9) EPIC UPDATE

Eric Raffin, Chief Information Officer, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow thanked Mr. Raffin for the incredible work and updated timeline. He is pleased at the rate of uptake of “My Chart” by San Francisco Health Network patients. He noted that for some groups of Asian individuals, the order of first and last name may differ which is important to take into consideration in regard to how EPIC captures this information. Mr. Raffin stated that he will look into this issue.

Commissioner Chow asked how private practitioners, with permission from patients, can exchange patient information with EPIC. Mr. Raffin stated that there are dozens of companies that provide smaller medical offices with electronic medical record systems. These systems can connect with the EPIC mainframe; EPIC also offers a read-only option called CARELINK that allows external providers to view patient information, with patient consent.

10) OTHER BUSINESS:

This item was not discussed.

11) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Green chaired the February 9, 2021 LHH JCC meeting. She stated that the Committee reviewed the standard reports including the CEO and Regulatory Affairs Report. The CEO Report included data showing the effective vaccine rollout at the hospital. CEO Michael Phillips announced that Dr. Wilmie Hathaway was selected as the hospital’s new Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Lisa Hoo has been chosen to replace Dr. Hathaway as Chief of Staff. The incredible work of both these physicians is well known to Committee Members. During discussion of the Regulatory Affairs Report, the Committee heard that 6 COVID Focused Infection Surveyors note no deficiencies in their January 27th exit conference. In Closed Session, the Committee approved the Credentials Report and reviewed the Medical Quality Report and PIPS Minutes.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.

Attachment

**Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution 21-3
Honoring Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH**

WHEREAS, Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH has served the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) as an innovative and thoughtful leader between 1996 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, During Dr. Aragón's long tenure with the DPH, he served in the following leadership roles: Director of Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Director of Community Health Epidemiology and Disease Control, Tom Waddell Health Center Urgent Care Physician, Deputy Health Officer, Population Health Division Director, and Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, As Health Officer, Dr. Aragón led the design and implementation of public health programs and policies; ensured the effectiveness of mandated health protection functions of local government; enforced local health orders and ordinances; and communicated regularly regarding public health issues with the Health Commission, Board of Supervisors, Mayor, and San Francisco residents; and

WHEREAS, As Director of the Population Health Division, Dr. Aragón was responsible for the vision, mission, strategy, leadership and administration of the division which implemented the core public health services across the city. This included successfully earning and maintaining public health accreditation for the DPH; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Aragón also has a productive 29-year history the University of California as teaching faculty, principal investigator, and clinician; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Aragón worked tirelessly with City and community leaders to shape San Francisco's response through the development of health orders, ordinances, and guidance, always striving to protect the health of all San Franciscans;

WHEREAS, Dr. Aragón modeled leadership through humility, curiosity, and compassion during his DPH tenure; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Aragón is known to have deep understanding of public health theories and mathematical models in addition to a wealth of on-the-ground community public health experience; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Aragón is a native San Franciscan and proud father; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission congratulates Dr. Aragón for being named as Director of the California Department of Public Health and state Health Officer by Governor Gavin Newsom.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission honors Tomás J. Aragón for his many years of outstanding service contributing to the health and wellbeing of all San Franciscans and wishes him well in all endeavors.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its February 16, 2021 meeting adopt the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary

