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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
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**London N. Breed Mayor
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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday September 20, 2022 4:00 p.m.

101 Grove Street, Room 300

San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex

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 Suzanne Giraud, Ph.D
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

Excused: Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm.

2) LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER (LHH) CLOSURE PLAN AND CMS RECERTIFICATION UPDATE

Roland Pickens, Director, San Francisco Health Network and Acting LHH CEO, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Dr. Teresa Palmer, former Laguna Honda Hospital physician, appreciates the efforts to save LHH and to keep the current number of licensed beds. She noted that It is difficult to hear Mr. Pickens tell the community at a different meeting that LHH managers are responsible and need to ensure that proper care is provided; this is a reminder that mismanagement was the cause of this situation. She asked 1) How will the DPH/LHH will keep inappropriate discharges from happening again; 2) If mismanagement is so severe that CMS delays recertification, how with the DPH/LHH protect the current number of beds and care for residents? 3) Are staff being trained on proper discharge assessment and patient discharge rights to ensure that those discharged to a lower level of care will not die due to the transfer? and 4) Why shouldn't the City and County pay for patient care for all those at LHH if CMS delays recertification?

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guillermo is glad to see data showing progress. Given that there is an increased monitoring on regulations, she asked if the DPH/LHH confident that there is sufficient and appropriate staffing to continue progress, beyond recertification. Mr. Pickens stated that LHH exceeds the required skilled nursing facility

patient-to-staff ratios. Per diem staff are used to fill for permanent staff when they are out; he noted that it is more difficult to find registry staff due to the national labor shortage. He added that the consultants' assessment will include recommendations regarding staffing models.

Commissioner Guillermo asked for a staff morale update. Mr. Pickens stated that directly after decertification, staff morale fell. He gave credit for the stupendous job LHH staff did during the first critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping patients safe and noted the long-term staff the staff experienced during this time. Staff morale improved in August of this year during the intense month of training, which brought staff together in one cohort. As staff sees data showing some improvement, morale is also improving. Staff have given feedback that the data is helpful to see progress and areas of continued improvement. He also stated that the intent is to support a culture in which staff is supported while providing safe and compliant care.

Commissioner Green was impressed with the acceleration towards the goals. She is happy to hear staff morale is tied to the progress day. She added that the LHH JCC Health Commission members are encouraged by the dedication and hard work of staff. She asked about the morale of LHH residents and their families. Mr. Pickens stated that patients and families remain concerned because the final outcome of the recertification process is not yet known.

Commissioner Chow asked if patients are utilizing the Ombudsperson or working with LHH staff to communicate their needs and concerns regarding the recertification process. He also feels it would be helpful for the public to better understand the thorough assessments that took place in regard to the recent LHH patient discharges; he noted that decisions regarding the discharges were not made by just one or two staff members. Mr. Pickens stated that assessments were conducted based on CDPH and CMS-approved screening processes, which relied on participation by multi-disciplinary teams including physicians, nurses, dieticians, therapists, and pharmacists. He added that the facility to which LHH patients were being referred also had an admission team assess the patient to ensure the facility could meet the needs of the patients. Mr. Pickens also stated that patients and families are utilizing the local and state Ombudsman in addition to LHH staff to communicate their concerns and get answers to questions. Due to feedback from the Ombudsman, some LHH signage was changed.

Commissioner Bernal stated that he had the opportunity to visit LHH last month and witnessed the staff huddles and trainings. He commends the LHH staff working hard to make enormous improvements.

Director Colfax stated that he recently walked the LHH neighborhoods and was happy to see dramatic improvements due to the hard work of the staff.

3) CLOSED SESSION

- A) Public comments on all matters pertaining to the Closed Session. (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.15).
- B) Vote on whether to hold a Closed Session. (Action Item)
- C) Closed Session Pursuant to Evidence Code Sections 1156, 1156.1, 1157, 1157.5, 1157.6, and 1157.7; Health and Safety Code Section 1461; San Francisco Administrative Code Sections 67.5, 67.8, 67.8-1, and 67.10; and California Constitution, Article I, Section 1.

LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER QUALITY UPDATE REGARDING RECENT REGULATORY SURVEY ACTIVITY

The Health Commission held a 45-minute closed session and returned to open session at 5:55pm.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

1. If Closed Session is complete, discussion and vote to elect whether to disclose any portion of the Closed Session discussion that is not confidential under Federal or State law, The Charter, or Non-Waivable Privilege (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a).) (Action item)
2. If Closed Session is complete, 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 to not disclose discussions held in closed session.

4) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2022.

Action taken: The Health Commission approved the minutes of the September 6, 2022 meeting.

5) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

CELEBRATING THE NEWLY RENOVATED CASTRO-MISSION HEALTH CENTER

Mayor London N. Breed and City officials celebrated the opening of the newly renovated [Castro-Mission Health Center](#), the City's first neighborhood-based primary care clinic that has welcomed Castro and Mission communities for the past 57 years.

Castro-Mission Health Center patients can access primary care services such as routine checkups, podiatry, pharmacy consultation, women's health services, behavioral health services and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs, as well as specialty services for LGBTQ+ youth. In addition, the City's Gender Health SF Program will move to the health center later this fall to provide increased access to quality gender-affirming health care for underserved transgender and non-binary people.

The capital improvements completed in July 2022 include 12 upgraded state-of -the-art exam rooms, four new consultation rooms, plus an interior remodel, seismic upgrades, fire protection upgrades and improved air conditioning. The exterior renovations include low-maintenance landscaping surrounding the facility.

The Castro-Mission Health Center at 3850 17th Street is part of an important legacy of community-driven health services that the city established in 1965 as part of the first public health center in San Francisco. The center, formerly known as Health Center 1, played an integral role in the early HIV/AIDS epidemic and continues to serve as the third-largest HIV treatment and care provider in San Francisco's primary care network. Operated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH), the Health Center continues to bring comprehensive health services to the Castro and Mission communities, and helps meet the increasing need for more integrated and holistic models of patient care.

The \$14.8 million capital improvement project enhances and increases capacity of the facility. The Castro-Mission Health Center serves about 3,900 patients annually, mostly coming from the surrounding neighborhoods; more than half are long-term regular patients. Additionally, 51% of patients come from Latino communities and another 50% come from LGBTQ+ communities representing the deep historical roots in both neighborhoods.

It is one of three primary care clinics including Southeast Family Health Center and the Maxine Hall Health Center, in the San Francisco Health Network that have now been renovated or rebuilt as part of the 2016 Public Health and Safety Bond. San Francisco Public Works provided project management, construction management and design services for the renovation, and Build Group served as the general contractor. More than a quarter of the work was performed by contractors designated as small businesses.

The Castro-Mission Health Center renovation project is primarily funded by the Public Health and Safety Bond, largely passed by San Francisco voters in 2016. The \$350 million bond supports essential seismic and service delivery improvements to aging facilities that San Francisco relies on to protect the health and safety of residents, neighborhoods and businesses. The bond also funds capital improvements to Maxine Hall Health Center and Southeast Family Health Center, as well as clinic facilities at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

DPH RELEASES 2021 HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT

DPH released the 2021 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report that outlines San Francisco's progress towards San Francisco's goal of "Getting to Zero" new HIV infections, while highlighting the challenges faced by people who are experiencing homelessness and people who inject drugs.

The report shows that the number of new HIV diagnoses was 160 in 2021, a 16% increase from 2020. However, the number of new diagnoses is lower than the 173 reported in 2019. It is unclear whether the rise in diagnoses from 2020 is a result of an actual rise in transmission, or if more people accessed testing as the COVID-19 pandemic subsided and the lower number in 2020 was an underestimate of new infections in that year.

While HIV testing at medical sites improved and now exceed pre-pandemic levels, and linkage to care nearly matched pre-pandemic levels with 94% of people newly diagnosed with HIV entering care within one month, HIV testing at community sites is still lagging from 2019 levels. Also of concern, the proportion of new diagnoses among people experiencing homelessness has increased in the last decade to a high of 24% in 2021. The report reveals that those who were homeless and were diagnosed with HIV in 2020 were less likely than housed populations to have timely linkage to care and viral suppression. While new diagnoses have been declining over the past 10 years across all racial/ethnic groups, disparities remain, with HIV diagnosis rates in 2021 3.3 and 2.8 times higher among Black/African American and Latino men compared with white men, respectively.

The report also shows that overall deaths among people diagnosed with HIV have been increasing. While deaths due to HIV-related causes have continued to decline, for the first time, accidental deaths, which include drug overdoses, surpassed non-AIDS cancers as the second most frequent underlying cause of death in 2017-2020. The percentage of deaths due to drug overdoses among people diagnosed with HIV increased from 11.1% in 2009-2012 to 15.0% in 2017-2020. In response to the high rates of overdoses citywide, DPH is strengthening the continuum of services for people who use drugs with a comprehensive strategy that includes the widespread distribution of naloxone and harm reduction supplies, a street overdose response team, establishing drug sobering centers and other supportive spaces for people who use drugs, reducing stigma, and expanding access to low-threshold treatment.

To address increasing HIV diagnoses in populations experiencing disparities in the rate of HIV infections and care outcomes, DPH developed a framework called Health Access Points (HAPs). There are HAPs for seven priority populations, including people who use drugs (PWUD), Black/African Americans and Latinx persons. Our community partners leading the PWUD HAP are Positive Health Program Ward 86, Glide, St. James Infirmary, and Alliance Health Project. The goal of the HAPs is to provide equity-focused, stigma-free, and low barrier access to person-centered, comprehensive HIV, HCV, STI and substance use prevention and treatment

services, as well as primary care, mental health services, and food and housing services. All seven of the funded HAPs also have an increased emphasis on harm reduction services and overdose prevention.

Project OPT-IN, a team of DPH staff and community partners, works to provide these services to PEH. Another DPH program, LINCS (Linkage, Integration, Navigation and Comprehensive Services) ensures that all people newly diagnosed with HIV are linked to care rapidly and provides support to people experiencing homelessness and others who have fallen out of care. The LINCS program has been instrumental in improving rates of linkage to care and viral load suppression in priority populations.

For more information about the 2021 HIV Epidemiology Report, read the full version here: sfdph.org/dph/files/reports

DPH PROVIDING FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION TO THE COMMUNITY

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce reached out to the Environmental Health Branch (EHB) to request an onsite Food Safety Presentation for the community. EHB provided the bilingual food safety presentation on August 31st, covering key food safety principles such as food temperatures, rapid cooling, vermin abatement, and sanitation. Public engagements like these are great opportunities to connect with the communities that we serve and educate small business owners and community organizations about food safety practices. In addition, it provided an opportunity for restaurant operators to have reinforced food safety education and training. This is just one small way that EHB builds trust and a partnership with the community. The training was well received by the restaurant owners who attended. One owner commented that they attended because “I want to professionally understand the food safety principles and bring it back to my staff so that they in turn can do a better job. During the pandemic, it is even more important to focus on food safety and sanitation.”

The training was also covered by the local media, Channel 26, KTSF, World Journal and Tsing Tao. The training was organized by EHB Food Program Manager, Nhi Tu and included Environmental Health Inspectors, Abel Simon, Christina Lee, Manny Barretto and Philips Ossai. Thank you to our staff for their contributions!

MPX UPDATE

LOCATION	TOTAL CASES AS OF 9/13/22 (probable and confirmed)
San Francisco	779
California	4,453
U.S.	23,117
Worldwide (83 Countries)	59,606

DPH is ensuring a robust, public health response to the MPX outbreak that aligns with our goals toward health equity and supports communities most affected by the virus. Vaccines are the best protection against MPX and one of the key strategies to lower the spread of the virus.

Since the onset of MPX, DPH has persistently advocated for more vaccines. As a result of these efforts, we were able to secure from the federal government a special allotment of 10,000 additional MPX doses to provide protection for people, including SF residents, who are attending upcoming community-based and large, public events associated with the Folsom Street Fair and Castro Street Fair.

The vaccines, which includes first and second doses of Jynneos, will be available to eligible event attendees at various pop-up vaccination sites, neighborhood vaccine clinics, the Folsom Street Fair and Castro Street Fair, and events at health system providers that will be posted on sf.gov/mpx and advertised through the

community. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), as well as a large network of healthcare providers (including clinics specializing in LGBTQI+ health), and the San Francisco Health Network are also providing additional resources to support expanded vaccine operations over the next several weeks.

This increase in vaccine allotment is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “*Pilot Program for Additional Vaccine Allocation to State and Local Health Departments that Host Large LGBTQ+ Community Events*,” a federal pilot program to provide additional vaccines to states and cities holding events that convene large groups of LGBTQI+ individuals.

The health and safety of those attending these large events, and socializing and celebrating locally because of these events, is essential, which is why from September 18 to October 2, we are temporarily expanding eligibility for the Jynneos vaccine across San Francisco vaccine sites to also include eligible people who are visiting San Francisco from outside the Bay Area. Please visit sf.gov/information/mpx-vaccine for more information about vaccine eligibility.

DPH will continue to focus our resources and efforts on reaching communities who are inequitably impacted by MPX, especially BIPOC and Latinx communities. As part of these efforts, we are implementing a multi-prong community strategy for vaccinating communities that are highly impacted by MPX and may have barriers to healthcare. We will continue to seek out opportunities to leverage additional resources from state and federal partners to reduce disparities around MPX in BIPOC communities.

Our community strategy includes partnering with trusted community partners at various venues to reach those communities most highly at risk and supporting pop-up vaccine clinics at neighborhood events. This includes an upcoming event at Club Papi at Beaux Nightclub, 2344 Market Street from 8pm to 11pm on Wednesday, September 21st.

DPH will continue to advocate for and stand with all communities who are disproportionately affected by MPX, and we will continue to notify the public about opportunities to access the vaccine in the weeks leading up to the Folsom Street Fair, the Castro Street Fair, and beyond.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of September 7:

- San Francisco’s 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 44 and 74 people are hospitalized, including 16 in the ICU.
- San Francisco’s remaining ICU capacity is 29.8% and remaining non-ICU capacity is 20.1%.
- Eighty-five percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 75% have received booster dose(s).

[DPH in the News](#)

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow asked if the DPH continues its in-person monitoring and trainings for local restaurants. Director Colfax stated that he will circle back to the Commissioners with a response to this question.

Commissioner Chow requested the number of MPX cases in future updates to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bernal asked for more information regarding MPX-related preparations for the upcoming Folsom Street Fair. Dr. Susan Philip, Health Officer and Director of the Population Health Division, stated that San Francisco received additional allocations of the MPX vaccine and will offer it at the Folsom Street and Castro Street Fairs during the next few weeks. DPH staff will be present at both fairs and will offer vaccine to San Francisco residents and those who live outside of the city. She noted that DPH activities for these fairs focus on equity with a special focus on the Latinx communities.

6) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

7) COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Giraudo, Chair, stated that the committee discussed two presentations. Dr. Phillip Coffin, DPH Center on Substance Use and Health, presented data on a new study on injectable treatments for methamphetamine and cocaine use that will last up to one month. He also noted that overdose data indicates an increase in overdoses due to Fentanyl. There has also been an increase in Fentanyl and opioid deaths in Black African Americans in San Francisco. Much of Dr. Coffin's work with the DPH has been translated into national policy and replicated in other studies. Dr. Jonathan Fuch, Director of the DPH Center for Learning and Innovation, gave the second presentation on "Reinvesting in Our People." This DPH unit focuses on internal workforce development in accreditation, needs assessment, and racial equity planning, and training priorities. External capacity building is another focus of this unit. The Learning Portal is an exciting project that includes trainings for community-based organizations and other partners throughout the city. The Pathways program is a summer intern research program that has been in existence for ten years and showed data indicating progress and success.

8) OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Giraudo stated that she is the Health Commission representative on the SFGH Foundation Board of Directors and noted that the organization would be holding its first in-person board retreat since the pandemic began.

9) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Guillermo, LHH JCC chair, stated that at the September 13, 2022 meeting, the committee discussed a similar presentation on the LHH recertification and closure plan, as was shown at the meeting today. During the Regulatory Affairs Report, JCC members noted that CDPH has not investigated facility complaints dating back to 2019; this means that these complaints have not been verified and no plans of correction have been developed. In total, 161 incidents have not been investigated by the state. In closed session, the committee approved the Credentials Report and discussed other quality reports.

10) CLOSED SESSION (CONTINUATION IF NEEDED)

The Health Commission did not return to closed session.

11) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.