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**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

TEL (415) 554-2666
FAX (415) 554-2665
Web Site: <http://www.sfdph.org>

MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday December 20, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Webex Event

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D , Chair
Edward A. Chow, MD, Health Commissioner

Excused: Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Member

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2022 MEETING

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the November 22, 2022 meeting minutes.

3) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE UPDATE

Andi Tenner, MD, MPH, FACEP, Director, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo asked if the DPH is a member of the Pediatric Disaster Coalition. Dr. Tenner stated that the DPH is not an official member but does utilize the organization's very helpful resources.

Commissioner Giraudo asked if there is a relationship between the DPH and the San Francisco Unified School District, especially in relation to dealing with COVID-19 long term. Dr. Tenner noted that her unit is interested in exploring a productive relationship with schools and need to better determine what currently exists and gaps. Commissioner Giraudo noted that there is so much COVID-related trauma with students and staff. She added that Disastershock.com is a free resource for children, families, and schools, regarding how to cope with a disaster, is offered in 26 languages.

Commissioner Chow asked for clarification regarding how the Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) and DPH Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) unit differ and overlap. Dr. Tenner noted that PHEPR works with EMSA on safety issues. EMSA coordinates other city agencies, including the DPH, during disasters. Currently Dr. Tenner is working to assess gaps in how EMSA, Department of Emergency Management, and PHEPR, work together. Commissioner Chow requested a follow-up on this needs and gap assessment.

Commissioner Chow asked how PHEPR works with professional societies such as the San Francisco and Marin Medical Society. Dr. Tenner stated that the COVID pandemic demonstrated the importance of clinics, pharmacies, and private providers, all of which were essential components of disaster preparedness. She noted that PHEPR has outreached to all of these types of entities in regard to disaster preparedness.

Commissioner Giraudo requested an update on community resiliency and disaster planning. She noted that it is important to address the aftermath of disasters, especially directly after an immediate crisis is over.

4) MATERNAL, CHILD, ADOLESCENT HEALTH UPDATE

Aline Armstrong, MSN, RN, PHN, Director, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo understands it has been a challenging year due to so many staff from this branch being deployed to COVID-19 activities. She noted that the presentation included information on delayed mental health and dental care services. Ms. Armstrong stated that dental services were put on hold during the early part of the pandemic because all staff were deployed to COVID-19 activities. She also stated that screening is currently being implemented at clinics by public health nurses and dentists. Public Health Nurses conduct developmental screening and makes referrals to pediatricians. Commissioner Giraudo asked if Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are able to direct families to specific clinics for dental screenings. Ms. Armstrong stated that FRCs are helping refer families for screening. She added that the DPH staff conduct screenings and then refer patients out to providers for treatment.

Commissioner Giraudo asked if there are other data on points regarding the rapid assessment survey with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Mr. Armstrong stated that data is still being analyzed; she will share it when it is completed.

Commissioner Giraudo asked for more clarity on how service collaborations will translate into specific ways service access will improve for vulnerable children, for example children with disabilities. Ms. Armstrong stated that a goal is to bring key stakeholders into planning and eliminate service silos. She noted that the collaboration is in its beginning stage. Commissioner Giraudo hopes that strategies will be clearly defined so organizations can implement them.

5) EMERGING ISSUES

This item was not discussed.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28pm.