

Urgent: Laguna Honda Hospital In Danger of Being Downsized and Radically Changed

Attend an Important Meeting to Oppose Changes at Laguna Honda Hospital

February 23, 2005 • 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Department of Public Health and Laguna Honda Hospital

Laguna Honda Hospital, Gerald Simon Auditorium,
1st Floor (Near LHH's Front Entrance)

AT A TOWN HALL MEETING SPONSORED BY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS ON DECEMBER 16, Laguna Honda Hospital's (LHH) new Executive Administrator, John Kanaley, said that the mission of LHH was not going to change. What he did not tell the community on December 16 was that by December 9 he had already helped change LHH's mission statement. Providing "long-term care" has been removed from LHH's mission statement. Also on December 16, Supervisor Sean Elsbernd indicated he would hold a hearing before the Board of Supervisors City Services Committee regarding the LHH admission policy. Elsbernd failed to deliver on his promise, and that hearing was never held.

The Department of Public Health Department (DPH) is using spin control to assert that a new "social rehab" program at LHH is merely a "physical rehab" program, but public documents demonstrate that this new grant will further eliminate skilled nursing beds from San Francisco's dwindling supply of beds for frail elderly and disabled San Franciscans.

Now, the mission of LHH has changed, and so has its admissions policy. DPH and LHH are hosting a Town Hall meeting on February 23 to discuss changes that are occurring at LHH, including a new focus on providing "behavioral health" programs that were formerly offered at the Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility. LHH's mission will be discussed, and LHH administrators plan to discuss a "Frequently Asked Questions" document describing what is going on at Laguna Honda. Unfortunately, that document contains information that is inaccurate.

Laguna Honda Hospital is in danger of being made much smaller. It is also being changed from a nursing home for the frail elderly and disabled into a "social rehabilitation facility for the urban poor," in the words of Director of Public Health Mitch Katz.

In 1999, voters approved Prop A, a \$299 million bond measure to rebuild LHH at its present capacity of 1,200 beds; the remainder of funding comes from the tobacco settlement fund. The current estimated cost for the full replacement facility is \$50 million over the initial estimate, but the Mayor's Office is determined not to exceed the initial budget, even if it means cutting 300 – 500 beds. For Director Katz, reducing the size of the LHH replacement facility is preferable to funding all 1,200 beds.

**Your Support on February 23
Is Urgently Needed; Please Attend**



For Further Information, Visit:
www.stopLHHdownsize.com

拿冠勒康達醫院入院規例改變已影响到
三藩市華人能否接受該院的長期護理服務。
從2003年至2004年，華人入院的比數已從11%
降至6%。從東華醫院和聖法蘭西醫院轉入
的病人數目已大幅度減跌。拿冠勒康達院宗
旨在未得到社區意見下而作更改—減除了
提供長期護理的服務。閣下請寫信給公共
衛生委員會同醫生主席，要求該院入院
規例改回原本。更請閣下來臨該院將會
在2月23日，星期三，晚上七時舉行的公廳
會。地址是：375 Laguna Honda Blvd. 地下大禮堂。
閣下將會聽到該院行政人員公佈的新
例。藉此機會向院方反映對社區不良影响。