

**Sonia E. Melara, M.S.W.**

President

**Margine A. Sako**

Vice President

**Edward A. Chow, M.D.**

Commissioner

**Cecilia Chung**

Commissioner

**David J. Sanchez, Jr., Ph.D.**

Commissioner

**Belle Taylor-McGhee**

Commissioner

**Catherine M. Waters, R.N., Ph.D.**

Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Department of Public Health**



**Barbara A. Garcia, M.P.A.**

Director of Health

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**MINUTES**

**HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 4:00 p.m.**

**101 GROVE STREET, ROOM 300 or ROOM 302**

**San Francisco, CA 94102**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Commissioner Sonia E. Melara, Acting President  
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.  
Commissioner Cecilia Chung  
Commissioner Margine Sako  
Commissioner David J. Sanchez  
Commissioner Belle Taylor-McGhee  
Commissioner Catherine Waters

The meeting was called to order at 4:06pm.

**2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2012.**

Action Taken: The minutes of the April 3, 2012 Health Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

**3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Barbara A. Garcia, Director of Health, presented the report which is a current overview of the state of public health in San Francisco. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

**Supreme Court Reviews Health Reform**

I'm sure the Commissioners are aware of the current Supreme Court challenge to Health Reform. The Supreme Court held three days of oral arguments on the case during the last week in March and is expected to render its decision in June of this year. A helpful summary of the issues before the Supreme Court can be found at: <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/8270-2.pdf>.

**Planning Commission Approves Initiation of CPMC Hospital Rebuild Project**

On Thursday, April 5, the Planning Commission voted to initiate the California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) hospital rebuild project. The Planning Commission still must vote on final approvals before the

hospital rebuilds can proceed. At the hearing, the City team, led by the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development and including me, Colleen Chawla, and Greg Wagner representing DPH, presented the details of the proposed Development Agreement. The Planning Commission received three hours of public testimony and deliberated on the various issues presented. As it relates to health, a number of key issues were raised by the public and the Commissioners, including the level of charity care provided by CPMC, the lack of acute psychiatric beds in the hospital rebuild plans, and whether 20 years is a sufficiently long commitment to operate St. Luke's. We will continue to work with the Mayor's Office to support the principles set forth by the Health Commission in its history of work on this issue. The Planning Commission will likely have its second hearing on the project approvals in a few weeks.

### **Laguna Honda Sound Reduction**

Laguna Honda staff and neighbors held a constructive meeting April 5 to discuss steps the hospital has taken to reduce sound coming from its air cooling system and fire alarms. Neighbors reported that the air cooling system has been considerably quieter since the air ducts on the hospital roof were reconfigured in March to face away from the homes bordering the Clarendon Valley in the hospital's backyard. The hospital reported it is seeking permission from the Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development (OSHPD) to disable the audible portion of alarms on the outside of the buildings, leaving their visual signal intact. OSHPD officials are reviewing the request, which then must go to the city Fire Marshall and the California Department of Public Health. Neighbors and hospital staff also discussed possible collaboration on community events to further integrate Laguna Honda into the life of the neighborhood.

### **LHH Enters Contest to Win Fruit Tree Orchard**

Laguna Honda is competing in a nationwide contest to win a fruit tree orchard from the *Dryer's Fruit Bars' Communities Take Root* program. Dryer's, in collaboration with the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, annually awards entire orchards to 17 communities around the country.. Voting begins online April 16 at [www.CommunitiesTakeRoot.com](http://www.CommunitiesTakeRoot.com). To encourage people throughout the city to cast their vote for the Laguna Honda orchard, a flier that can be printed and distributed is available at [www.lagunahonda.org](http://www.lagunahonda.org)

### **LHH to Participate in World Tai Chi Day**

Laguna Honda will participate in World Tai Chi Day on April 28 with an hour of tai chi practice from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. in the hospital wellness center. The awareness-raising event takes place annually in 70 countries and all 50 states. Tai chi enthusiasts will be practicing their art simultaneously worldwide. The hospital's tai chi program assists residents to gain strength and peace of mind, and is an important aid to community reintegration. The program is a community partnership with City College of San Francisco. Community members are invited to participate in the event.

### **STD Home-Testing Study to Begin**

STD health officials have been working with researchers at RTI International, an independent, non-profit research institute, to implement an STD home testing study that, if successful, could usher in a new standard and model for options for testing and treatment. Please visit the following site for more information: [www.iknowsfbay.org](http://www.iknowsfbay.org) .

### **FROM THE CENTER: Storytelling Project by African American Women in San Francisco Jails**

The Commissioners and public are invited to a very special screening of the Forensic AIDS Project's digital storytelling project, *FROM THE CENTER*, on Thursday, April 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room B. The project provided African American women incarcerated in the San Francisco jail to tell their own stories, in their own voices, using video and still images. The result

is a series of digital recordings, documenting their personal experiences about HIV/AIDS and its meaning in their lives. The stories are candid, moving and powerful.

### **Jail Health Services Joins Hep B Free**

In March 2011, Jail Health Services joined San Francisco's Hep B Free campaign. The jail-based program initially targeted Asian Pacific Islanders for hepatitis B screening, testing, vaccinating and/or treatment. Since the program began, 161 Asian Pacific Islander-identified prisoners have been asked to be screened for Hep B. Ninety-four people agreed to be tested and 24 were vaccinated. Four people were identified with chronic Hep B and have begun a course of treatment. Interestingly, 35 people have immunity. The success of this outreach was due to a division-wide effort by Jail Health Services and has now been expanded to include men who identify as having sex with men.

### **Gonorrhea Continues to Outsmart Antibiotics**

*Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the bacteria that causes gonorrhea, has proved its mettle against every antibiotic scientists have created over the past 70 years. Now this persistent, versatile bacteria is beginning to show signs of figuring out how to survive cephalosporins, the current treatment for gonorrhea. Mark Pandori, Director, San Francisco Department of Public Health Laboratory, has a front row seat from his lab stool, watching as this bacteria evolves. His observations and those of other scientists are featured in the most recent issue of "Family Practice News." Read what Mark has to say about cephalosporin treatment failures in Asia and Europe and his anticipation for seeing it turn up in San Francisco's Public Health Lab. <http://www.familypracticenews.com/single-view/gonorrhea-continues-to-outsmart-antibiotics/737b33eeb6.html>

### **New HIV Testing Algorithms**

Mark Pandori, Director, San Francisco Department of Public Health Laboratory, is also featured in a recent issue of *CAP*, a publication of the College of American Pathologists. The article focuses on the new set of HIV testing algorithms published by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute and developed by experts who built on the work of a committee from the CDC and the Association of Public Health Laboratories. They are the first new HIV testing algorithms to emerge since 1989. A lot has changed in 23 years. To read more about the guidelines and what plans the CDC has for issuing its own guideline related to HIV testing, go to [http://www.cap.org/apps/cap.portal?nfpb=true&cntvwrPtl%20actionOverride=%2Fportlet%2FcontentViewer%2Fshow&windowLabel=cntvwrPtl%7BactionForm.contentReference%7D=cap\\_today%2F0312%2F0312a\\_hiv.html&state=maximized&pageLabel=cntvwr](http://www.cap.org/apps/cap.portal?nfpb=true&cntvwrPtl%20actionOverride=%2Fportlet%2FcontentViewer%2Fshow&windowLabel=cntvwrPtl%7BactionForm.contentReference%7D=cap_today%2F0312%2F0312a_hiv.html&state=maximized&pageLabel=cntvwr).

### **Southeast Food Access Coalition**

The Southeast Food Access Coalition (SEFA), a Bayview Hunters Point-based project of the Shape Up San Francisco initiative, launched a new website at [www.SoutheastFoodAccess.org](http://www.SoutheastFoodAccess.org). Visitors to the site can find out about community gardens and gardening resources, and community-based organizations that offer nutrition education. The website provides ratings of 20 Bayview corner stores and small markets and four mid- to large-size markets, with information about the types of healthy food available at each store. The Corner Store work featured on the website was profiled by KTVU, by John Fowler, Health and Science Editor on April 3 at <http://www.ktvu.com/videos/lifestyles/health/john-fowler-reports/lZb/>.

### **Why Immunize? Free Classes to Learn About Childhood Immunization**

The San Francisco Immunization Coalition is hosting a series of free classes for parents, caregivers, and any member of the public, to learn more about childhood vaccines. Topics for the two-hour science-based class include what vaccines do and don't do, the diseases vaccines are designed to prevent, and the risks and benefits of immunization. The first class is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 6-8 p.m., at CPMC,

3700 California St. The following classes will be held July 26 and October 16, same time and place. The same information is covered at each class. To attend one of the classes, email [andrew@sfimmunize.org](mailto:andrew@sfimmunize.org) or call 554-2567. For more information, visit <http://www.sfimmunize.org/immunization-classes.html>.

### **Reporter Tags Along on Egg Inspection**

When it was reported last month at the Board of Supervisor's hearing that San Francisco was the recipient of a \$3,884 grant from the state of California for egg inspections, it captured the attention of *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Rachel Gordon. The result was a reporter and photographer tag-along egg inspection with one of our agriculture inspectors, Aldo Zuniga. According to the story, two inspectors from the Environmental Health Section last year inspected 50,508 eggs, rejecting about 30% of them for violations ranging from improper mislabeling to cracked and even dirty. Read the full story at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/04/07/BABT1NVH29.DTL>.

### **Bike to School Day a Success**

On Thursday April 12th, families across San Francisco pedaled their way to class as part of **San Francisco Bike to School Day**. Now in its fourth year, this year's **Bike to School Day** was the biggest yet. Nearly 40 schools participated in the event, celebrating the easy, fun and healthy biking-to-school experience. This important youth biking event is part of Safe Routes to School led by DPH, a program that encourages kids to walk and bike to school.

### **Still Time to Sign Up for SF Walking Challenge**

The Shape Up SF Walking Challenge helped kick off last week's Public Health Week Celebration. Over 200 DPH employees across 12 teams—with interesting names like Public Healthies and the Mighty WICers—are participating. It's never too late to start or join a team. Go to <http://www.shapeupsfwalkingchallenge.org/> to learn more.

### Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Chow asked for more clarification of how the HIV Testing Algorithms will change. Dr. Aragon, DPH Health Officer, stated that the window period will be smaller in which patients will be antibody negative but actually HIV positive. The new testing algorithms will also differentiate between HIV1 and HIV2 which will assist in the assignment of treatment regimens.

### **4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment for this item.

### **5) COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Margine Sako, Committee Chair, stated that the Committee heard an update on the DPH Public Health Accreditation process from Dr. Aragon who gave an overview and discussed how the pre-application process will effectively synthesize other existing DPH projects and planning processes. Commissioner Sako stated that the Committee also heard an update on the Mental Health Services ACT (MHSA) which utilizes California state tax funds collected on those making over \$1M. In addition, Commissioner Sako stated that Craig Murdock gave a presentation on the Community Justice Center which functions as a court but also emphasizes the connection to support services.

### Commissioner Comments/ Follow-Up:

Commissioner Chow asked whether the DPH has achieved its original goals in regard to the MHSA funded programs. Director Garcia stated that the DPH submits an annual plan each year for MHSA funds. She reminded the Commission that in the past, the state formula for distributing these funds was based on per capital instead of need. However, it is expected that, because of the improvement in the economy,

there will be an increase in these funds and the State will use the 1992 formula to distribution which will greatly benefit San Francisco.

**6) CONSENT CALENDAR**

Commissioner Chow asked for the amount of the reimbursement related to this request. Micha McCue Hoy, SFGH Project Manager, stated that the CalEMA grant amount is \$999,999.00 and that the City match is \$333,333.00.

Commissioner Sanchez asked for more information on the construction being done related to the reimbursement. Ms. Hoy stated that the work will be completed in the SFGH Service Building in addition to bracing the conduits and piping in the main hospital building.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the LPDM 08-PJ03 San Francisco, City and County 075-00000 Reimbursement Request.

**7) HEALTH COMMISSION ELECTIONS**

Action Taken: The Commission unanimously elected Sonia Melara as President.

Action Taken: The Commission unanimously elected Margine Sako as Vice President.

**8) STD UPDATE**

Dr. Aragon introduced Susan Philip, MD, Director of STD Prevention and Control, who gave the presentation.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Sako asked whether current DPH interventions are targeting the highest risk groups. Dr. Philip stated that most of the DPH interventions are targeting older gay men and adolescents of Color, which are the two highest risk groups. She added that there will be focused promotion of the home STD test kit, described in the Director's Report, to women living in the Southeast part of San Francisco.

Commissioner Waters stated that the data showing disproportionate rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in African American adolescents is disturbing and questioned whether current interventions are effective with this population. Dr. Philip stated that Federal funding guidelines are very specific in regard to what interventions may be implemented; the DPH has requested some latitude in regard to using CDC syphilis funds based on the populations most in need of STD prevention. Dr. Philip stated that a needs assessment targeting the Southeastern neighborhoods of San Francisco is being conducted to assist in the process of allocating resources to the populations most in need.

Commissioner Waters asked whether the DPH is working with organizations that specialize in STD prevention but have a strong relationship with various African American communities that may assist in outreach activities. Dr. Philip stated that STD Prevention and Control works with a community-partners group comprised of various organizations, many of which specialize in working with African American youth in the Bayview area.

Commissioner Chung asked whether Hepatitis B and C along with HPV is part of STD screening. Dr. Philip stated that HPV is not a reportable condition but these are areas of focus and interest for the DPH. In regard to Hepatitis B and C, STD Prevention and Control gives vaccinations for Hepatitis A and B at City Clinic but have not yet started screening for B or C. The STD Prevention and Control Unit is looking to the

Hepatitis C Taskforce recommendations before proceeding with future planning to insure resources are used as effectively as possible.

Commissioner Taylor-McGhee asked if the social determinants of the at-risk adolescents are known. Dr. Philip stated that social determinants are a key emphasis when planning for prevention activities and added that preliminary analysis of census-tract data has been conducted which should assist the DPH in developing a broader prevention policy. The STD Prevention and Control Unit is currently focusing on measuring and assessing and will next explore what interventions are most appropriate for the highest risk populations.

Commissioner Chow encouraged the DPH and Jail Health to substantially increase the rate of Hepatitis C screenings in the jail population. He also suggested that the DPH work with the San Francisco Health Plan to compare their STD data to help understand whether current interventions are effective. He also added that he was unable to view the most recent STD data on the DPH website.

Commissioner Sanchez stated that he is disturbed at the high rates of STD infection among African Americans and Latinos. He urged the DPH to determine the best use of its resources and encouraged consideration of working with other entities that have funding to work with the most vulnerable populations.

Director Garcia acknowledged the impactful work of the STD Prevention and Control Unit. She stated that through the Integrated Delivery Service Process, the DPH is attempting to increase the effectiveness of all areas of DPH by utilizing resources most efficiently. She added that the funding for the DPH youth STD prevention program was cut several years ago due to budget issues even though the program is highly effective. She stated that after the community assessment process is completed, it may be appropriate to revisit the budgeting for this program.

#### **9) HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (HIA)**

Tomas Aragon introduced Rajiv Bhatia, MD, Director of Environmental Health and OSH, who gave an overview of the history and purpose of HIAs.

##### Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Chow asked whether social determinants are included in the HIAs. Dr. Bhatia stated that ninety measures were chosen through local community input as the most effective measurements of San Francisco's community health and wellbeing; many of these measures assess social determinants.

Commissioner Taylor-McGhee asked how local public officials have used the HIAs. Dr. Bhatia stated that the DPH has focused its HIA data dissemination to the public rather than directly to elected officials. Commissioner Chung encouraged the DPH to include elected officials in future dissemination plans of HIAs.

#### **10) OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Melara stated that, based on a suggestion made by Commissioner Chung, the Health Commission will conduct a special public session to appropriately plan for the year ahead; she and Commissioner Sako will work with Mr. Morewitz to plan the meeting and will make announcements of the logistics as they are arranged.

Commissioner Chow invited all the Commissioners to attend the next few 5-Year Budget Subcommittee meetings to test a prioritization tool that Dr. Aragon presented at the last meeting. He asked Mr. Morewitz to distribute the presentation to all of the Commissioners.

#### **JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Chow, Chair, gave an update on the April 10, 2012 SFGH JCC meeting. He stated that the Committee heard an update and public comment on plans for the Outpatient Renal Center. DPH will release an RFP in the next few months which will specify that the contractor chosen will build-out the space at the Laguna Honda Hospital site and then manage the outpatient renal services. The JCC is hopeful that a solution can be found regarding the provision of appropriate transportation to the new site for patients.

The JCC also requested that DPH explore the possibility of working with UCSF to combine renovations of the SFGH and Mt. Zion outpatient renal centers into one project which may alleviate the need to move the unit from SFGH.

Commissioner Chow also stated that the JCC heard a DPH Health Information Technology update in which milestones for Meaningful Use were reviewed. Several new systems were demonstrated via video and showed how patient care will be transformed.

Commissioner Sanchez commented that the plan to move the renal center to LHH is not due to a lack of quality of the current services; in fact the last monitoring indicated excellent care. The goal is to find a safe facility to provide these services. He added that UCSF's Mt. Zion campus also has a 13-chair facility that, like SFGH, has had to extend its operating schedule to meet the needs of its patients. In addition, Commissioner Sanchez added that he would like the SFGH campus to be part of a solution in regard to final plans for the DPH outpatient renal services.

#### **Public Comment:**

Louella Lee, SFGH Renal Dialysis Center employee, stated that she is happy various options are being explored for the outpatient renal dialysis center. She added that the City needs to explore additional options to keep services from being privatized. She stated that the proposed 30-chair unit will earn \$1M annually for the DPH but this potential source of revenue will be lost if the service is contracted out to a private contractor. She encouraged the DPH to conduct a Health Impact Assessment of the proposed move of the service to LHH.

Jennifer Gunn, SFGH Renal Dialysis Center Homecare Coordinator, stated that if the outpatient renal services are moved to LHH, the transportation issues will cause a hardship for the patients. She also stated that she and her coworkers have identified a vacant building at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Potrero that could be used for these services.

Rubin Rodriguez stated that SFGH and UCSF have partnered for many years on the outpatient renal dialysis services. He recommended that the RFP be delayed until the DPH fully explores the option of working with UCSF on the Mt. Zion project.

#### **COMMITTEE AGENDA SETTING**

Commissioner Melara asked Mr. Morewitz to distribute a list of all the Health Commission Committees and external Board seats to the Commissioners. At the next meeting, Committee assignments will be made.

**11) CLOSED SESSION**

- A) Public comments on all matters pertaining to the closed session
- B) Vote on whether to hold a closed session (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.11)
- C) Closed session pursuant to Evidence Code Sections 1157(a) and (b); 1157.7; Health and Safety Code Section 1461; and California Constitution, Article I, Section 1

**LHH CREDENTIALS REPORT**

**PERSONNEL EVALUATION: PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR BARBARA GARCIA AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARK MOREWITZ**

- D) Reconvene in Open Session

Action Taken: The Commission approved the LHH Credentials Report and voted not to disclose other issues discussed in closed session.

**12) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.