

Laguna Honda Foundation web pages also go missing during audit of hospital's patient gift fund

by Patrick Monette-Shaw
SF Examiner.com | SF Hospital Examiner

It's remarkable that some of the Laguna Honda Foundation's web pages also appear to have gone missing during the midst of an audit of Laguna Honda Hospital's patient gift fund.

San Francisco officials appear to be changing their tune about both improper spending from Laguna Honda Hospital's patient gift fund, and how much money may need to be returned to the fund for exclusive patient use.

In June 2010, the City Controller may have completely overlooked problems with LHH's patient gift fund, issuing a pathetic "review" that concluded LHH's accounting practices complied with common accounting practices.

The Department of Public Health, and a non-profit entity — Laguna Honda Volunteers, Inc. — have mistakenly reported since June 2010 that there has been no improper spending of patient gift funds based on the City Controller's erroneous report in June.

Both organizations are likely wrong. How they will retract previous assurances is unknown.

Whistleblower analyses have continued to document major irregularities with management and spending of funds intended for patients.

It appears Volunteers, Inc's cheerleading may have been misguided.

On September 2, San Francisco's director of public health, Mitch Katz, issued a press release wrongly stating inaccurate statements had been made and broadcast about the patient gift fund by so-called "detractors."

Katz claimed only \$37,102 needed be returned to the patient gift fund.

He was off by least \$102,000, perhaps more.

Restituting at least \$139,000 for patient benefit would go a long way to improving the quality of lives of patients at Laguna Honda Hospital.

Three weeks later, on September 28, more of the initial whistleblower complaints appear to be being substantiated by the City's now on-going audit of the patient gift fund, according to preliminary comments made by city officials and City Controller staff during last Tuesday's LHH Joint Conference Committee meeting on September 28.

As this Examiner previously reported, web pages for Laguna Honda Hospital's patient gift fund disappeared between September 7 and September 9.

Suddenly, Internet web pages for Louise Renne's Laguna Honda Foundation have also suddenly disappeared since the audit began on September 1.

This Examiner wonders why this happened, in this sequence, during the midst of an audit of the patient gift fund.

Could it have anything to do with improper expenditures, robbed from benefitting actual patients?

For a printer-friendly version of this article's slide show, go to www.stopLHHdownsize.com, and click on the examiner.com icon in the upper left-hand corner.

Feedback: monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

