

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

Transcription by Patrick Monette-Shaw

Note: Comments in square brackets are added for clarification; footnotes have been added to provide context and interpretation. Any errors in transcription by the transcriptionist are unintended.

#	Speaker	Verbatim Speech
1.	Commissioner Steven Tierney	<p>We'll move to our next [agenda] item. We are delighted ... Vice President [Sonia] Melara and I had an opportunity to meet with Louise Renne and Derek Parker, the president and vice president of the board of the Laguna Honda Foundation. We talked about our shared hopes and ideas for the Laguna Honda Hospital. And we invited Louise Renne and Mr. Parker to come [to the Health Commission] and share with us their ideas, and plans, and thoughts, and answer any questions Commissioners might have, and move forward. So we're delighted to have you. Welcome back.</p>
2.	Louise Renne, President of the Laguna Honda Foundation	<p>Thank you very much. Actually, Mr. Parker just had — am I allowed to say — just some knee surgery, so he's taking it a little easy right now. He is obviously Vice-Chair [of the Laguna Honda Foundation] and a very important part of our role. I think the Commissioners, I hope, all received a copy of the letter that we had prepared last December in anticipation of our meeting with Commissioner Melara and Commissioner Tierney. And I think as that letter indicates, we set up the Laguna Honda Foundation right after Proposition A was voted on by the voters to rebuild Laguna Honda Hospital.</p> <p>And at the time, we anticipated that the Foundation would be required to raise \$45 million — naïve as we were at that time — for the furniture, fixtures [and equipment] ... the FFE for a new hospital because, as you will recall, with the bond issue, bond money can only be used for construction, not FF&E. However, with the turn of events ... um ... the City actually ended up paying for the FF&E over a period of time.</p> <p>And we debated whether to continue the Foundation, but working with the [hospital] Administration at that time and the City, and because our initial purposes for forming the Foundation had been very broad in the sense that we would be able to do whatever the City couldn't do to help the residents, the staff, and further the mission of the hospital, we remained. And in the interim, since then, as the letter outlines, we started off, of course ... In the course of the hospital being constructed, we helped defray the expenses and costs of hospital staff working with other ... the Center for Health and Design ... to incorporate features that would enhance the quality of life for residents.</p> <p>For example, it seems obvious to us now, that light and plants help to retard the progression of dementia. Well, that wasn't always the case that that fact had been so recognized. And there were other features of the hospital ... for example in bathing patients there were new kinds of bath tubs, basically, that were designed for the patients and lift apparatus for the staff to be able to lift patients when they needed that kind of assistance without hurting their backs. So we helped fund that sort of endeavor. We helped fund a research project that is still going on with the UCSF School of Nursing, which, again, is studying the patients in the old facility as compared to the new facility, and</p>

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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		<p>how even better care and treatment can be provided.</p> <p>There was money that we helped to provide for training and consultation, and working with staff and residents as they moved to the new facility. And those kinds of expenditures.</p> <p>And then, as the hospital was about to be opened, we were asked, along with the [Laguna Honda] Volunteers [Inc. — a separate non-profit organization now renamed “Friends of Laguna Honda] and the City, to help fund the Ribbon Cutting [ceremony], and the opening festivities for the new hospital, which we did.</p> <p>And since then, there have been other kinds of projects we have funded. For example, until ... I guess it was two years ago now ... there was one gardener for all 64 acres of the Laguna Honda site, and we helped fund some Community College students that are in their horticultural department, as well as some high school youth to work with the gardeners. There are now two [gardeners], I'm happy to say, one of which is a Community College graduate.</p> <p>And so we worked on those kinds of things, and also with Mr. Slavin and others at the hospital to try to engage the community, to make the community aware of what a treasure it has in Laguna Honda. Today, for example, I was just at the hospital with some people that are going to be building a new hospital elsewhere, and they were just shaking their heads in amazement. They said “Do you realize what a joy we have in this hospital?” And if I might add, Mr. Parker was the primary architect at Anshen + Allen in building that hospital. So we're very happy to have him on our Board and his continued presence.</p> <p>So going forward ... um ... when the Environmental Impact Report was prepared, it anticipated that the Laguna Honda project would include not only the new facility, which of course we have now up and running, but four other components that had always part of the continuum of care provided at Laguna Honda.</p> <p>First, there had always been an Adult Day Care Center at Laguna Honda. For a very long time, there had been an Assisted Living project at Laguna Honda. And frankly, we still have on our agenda the possibility of moving forward on those projects. Now, that may not happen, because the State has cut back on Adult Day Care even though just this past week there was a very interesting report by the State of New York demonstrating how Adult Day Care actually saves money. But, we'll see.</p> <p>And with Assisted Living, there's always the contemplation that the old buildings [the so-called “finger wings” at the back of the hospital long slated for demolition] that are no longer ... and cannot be used for hospital care, could be converted and turned into Assisted Living¹. Again, I understand that there were Federal cutbacks; maybe that's not possible any more.</p>

¹ Ms. Renne ignores — and cannot possibly **not** know about — the fact that in 2006 when the proposed Laguna Honda Assisted Living component options were presented to the Health Commission, assisted living advocates in the community roundly rejected placing

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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		<p>But, I surely think that would be unfortunate, because as you know, the goal of Laguna Honda is to complete rehabilitation and to complete care, so that people can move out, [and] into assisted living. And ... but ... you know, time will tell whether or not that is possible. But it is still on our project list.</p> <p>Two more immediate projects concern, first of all, the Theater at Laguna Honda. You may recall from ... I mean — well, if you are as old as I am — you might recall when Bing Crosby did the Christmas Show, but others might have to look back in their history book.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[gap on tape that sounded erased]</p> <p>There is a great opportunity ... ah ... to re-do the Theater, and make it not only for the residents, but to engage the community. And so this afternoon, we actually ... ah ... met with several people who are interested in helping us, not only re-activate the theater, but make it really something that will be good not only for residents but for the community, as well.</p> <p>And then, also, we have the question of what to do with the [Laguna Honda Hospital] gift shop. In the past, the Gift Shop has been operated by Volunteers [volunteers from Laguna Honda Volunteers, Inc.]. In the new hospital, there's a question in regard to how and if that can continue.</p> <p>We actually commissioned some focus groups with residents asking them what they would like to have in a Gift Shop. And we got some very interesting responses. One thing that came through loud and clear was personal care products.</p> <p>You know, you get shampoo. You get soap. But the hospital ... [another brief gap on tape] They would like some special brands, maybe with a few different fragrances [unintelligible] ... that sort of thing.</p> <p>So we have given our report to the Hospital Administration, as well as an Economic Report, on how the Theater can be run in the future. And we're awaiting responses from the Hospital as to ... and the [Health] Commission, of course ... as to how, or when, we go forward with the Theater.</p> <p>So those are a few of the things that we have been doing. And Derek [Parker], did I forget anything? [Off microphone: garbled; then ... "He always says that."]</p> <p>But anyhow, the Board Members are, obviously, Derek and I. We have the Honorable Harry Low, a former Court of Appeals judge, who actually lives near the hospital. We have Claire Murphy, the retired Executive Director the [San Francisco] Employees Retirement Board, who actually lives near the</p>

assisted living units on the Laguna Honda Hospital campus at all. Those advocates even more roundly rejected any and all proposals to convert the old "finger wings" at LHH into assisted living housing, by strenuously objecting, in part, to placing frail patients needing assisted living services into rehabilitated housing that has not been seismically retrofitted, arguing that frail seniors should be entitled to seismically-safe housing like any other population would expect. To date, all proposals to convert LHH's old "finger wings" into assisted living facilities have been soundly rejected by both community-living advocates, and by the full Health Commission.

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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		<p>hospital. We have Jack Knight, who is at First Republic Bank. We have Tim Tosta on our Board, who is an attorney, but as importantly Tim serves as a coach at the Hospice at Laguna Honda when people are dying. And so every Friday night he is out at the hospital, and on an as-needed basis, to work with people as they are dying and their families. It's a very ... you have to be a special person to do that, and Tim has been doing that faithfully.</p> <p>Then we have [unintelligible] Whitfield, who maybe some of you know ... she is a singer, and sings from her wheelchair, and has been on Oprah, and really famous in signing circles. So those are our [Board] members.</p> <p>So I'm elated to answer any questions you might have, and ... you know ... if you'd like us to come by periodically to let you know what we're doing, we're happy to do so.</p>
3.	Steven Tierney, then-President, Health Commission	<p>That's funny. Just before we start with questions from the Commission, I point out that ... um ... we did not have any requests for public comment at this meeting today. If anybody wants to have comment, turn in a [speaker's] card to Mr. Morewitz [the Commission's secretary] and we will get to you in good order.</p> <p>But first, thank you [Ms. Renne] very much for coming, and for that report. We appreciate it. And Commissioners, any questions? Commissioner Illig?</p>
4	Jim Illig, Health Commissioner	Miss Renne ...
5.	Louise Renne	Yes?
6.	Jim Illig	<p>Thank you for coming to the Commission. I believe that we wouldn't have Laguna Honda in its present state, without you. I believe that your insight into getting the tobacco tax settlement is what convinced the voters to pass Prop "A" years ago. And thank you, Mr. Allen², for designing a beautiful hospital.</p> <p>I was very interested to see your [December] letter, and the list of all of the things you have been doing over the years — before and after the hospital opened ... because as a member of the [Health] Commission, I wasn't even aware of half of these things, and I sit on the Joint Conference Committee at Laguna Honda.</p> <p>And then I realized, you know one of the reasons I wasn't aware, is ... as you know, we're a Charter Commission.</p>
7.	Louise Renne	Mmm-hmm.
8.	Jim Illig	<p>And we have a Charter responsibility to get a report every year on the gifts to this Department. And I think a copy is right in front of you, of the latest one. Mr. Morewitz, I believe you have a copy of that?</p> <p>We get a report of the gifts that come from [sic: <i>to</i>] the San Francisco General [Hospital] Foundation ...</p>
9.	Louise Renne	Mmm-hmm.
10.	Jim Illig	... and the Public Health Foundation, and the Friends of Laguna Honda [formerly, Laguna Honda Volunteers, Inc.] ...
11.	Louise Renne	Mmm-hmm.

² Mr. Illig inadvertently referred to architect Derek Parker as "Mr. Allen," confusing Anshen + Allen with one of its staff.

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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12.	Jim Illig	... which is the volunteer group, but we've never received anything that says anything about the Laguna Honda Foundation.
13.	Louise Renne	Mmm-hmm.
14.	Jim Illig	So I guess one of my asks, would be ... if we could ... it's 'cause ... I know ... Uh ... it was set up to for the specific purpose of raising money for Laguna Honda. And it comes through DPH to Laguna Honda ...
15.	Louise Renne	No, it does not.
16.	Jim Illig	It does not?
17.	Louise Renne	No.
18.	Jim Illig	So these are not gifts to DPH or to Laguna Honda?
19.	Louise Renne	<p>Here ... here ... here is the difference. I don't know about the other Foundations. But we are a ... actually, we are a "project" of the Community Initiatives. And we are a completely independent project and 501(c)(3). We absolutely receive not a penny of City money, we have — despite some allegations to the contrary — we have never received one penny of tobacco money, not one [penny].</p> <p>All — all! — of our contributions come from private individuals. And consequently, there is no public money. We have ... we have no staff; we are purely volunteers. And ... ah ... when we do get money, as I say, it is purely private. Not a penny, ever, of public money; not a penny, ever, of tobacco money.</p>
20.	Jim Illig	Well, but that is very similar to the San Francisco General Foundation and the Public Health Foundation. Both [are] 501(c)(3)'s totally independent of this Department, with their own Boards.
21.	Louise Renne	Mmm-hmm.
22.	Jim Illig	<p>But they do report, through this Commission report, to the Commission of what they've raised, what went to the Department ... And it's an important, I think, aspect of your Foundation's purpose, which is to support Laguna Honda. Let the public be aware, through the Commission, of when you are raising money, how much is raised, and where it's going.</p> <p>So I would like to ask, if your Board would simply accepts this, if you could [unitelligible] return the gift fund report so that we are aware of all of this wonderful work that you are doing.</p> <p>And, as you said, the Community Initiatives is the umbrella group that was originally founded by, I think, the San Francisco Foundation ...</p>
23.	Louise Renne	That's correct ...
24.	Jim Illig	That it ... uh ... it sponsors a lot of non-profit ... groups.
25.	Louise Renne	Mmm-hmm.
26.	Jim Illig	<p>But ... the problem is, when you go to the IRS web site, there is no recording of any individual group [a sponsored sub-project]. All you get is the revenue and expense of the entire Community Initiatives project, and there's a list of probably 75 different groups like the Laguna Honda Foundation that they are the holding ... fiscal agent for, but there is no way of the public knowing how much you've raised, and how much you've spent, or granted to the Public Health Department.</p> <p>So I guess that's my question. If that's acceptable, then we'd like to request that you turn in your funding, or at least report it through our gift report every year, so that the public is aware of all of the wonderful work that you're doing</p>

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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		for Laguna Honda.
27.	Louise Renne	Well, I will certainly take that request back to the Board, Commissioner, but I will tell you, one ... as I say, we have no staff. None. And so, I guess you are actually asking <u>me</u> to take the time to write a report to the Commission.
28.	Jim Illig	Not at all. Not at all. The Commission [unintelligible] ...
20.	Louise Renne	<p>[Sputters: "That ... What? Well ..."] One of the things that I think we have tried — at least I have tried — to avoid, frankly, is to stay out of the political realm, totally.</p> <p>I am happy to come to the Commission, I am happy to give you ... you know ... we've raised up to a hundred-thousand-dollars this year. Happy to do that.</p> <p>But I'm really ... really ... really ... And let me be frank. I know it has stuck in the craw of some Commissioners in the past that we haven't had a [Health] Commissioner on our [Laguna Honda Foundation] Board [of Directors]. But that was a very conscious decision. Because a) Commissioners come and go, and b) Maybe one person's on the Board, and that's going to make another person unhappy, and we <u>just</u> didn't want to get into that. We have a very clear mission.</p> <p>All of the money that we spend as requested by the Hospital or the City. And if the Hospital makes a request, it goes through them. All the gifts go through <u>them</u>. So we can sit and we report any gifts; that's not a problem — that's already a matter of public record.</p> <p>That's ... you know, we pay for gardeners. That's a grant. Many of our grants go directly to the hospital.</p>
30.	Jim Illig	Ms. ... um ... I don't mean to disagree with you. [Long stretch unintelligible] We have no record of grants that have come to Laguna Honda, because it would have been reported to us, as the Health Commission.
31.	Louise Renne	Well ... all I can tell you, is that any money that we spend at Laguna Honda certainly is a matter of public record. Ah ... but ... I'll certainly take that request back to the Board, Commissioner Illig. But, as I say, please understand ... we're doing this as volunteers. And ... I just don't want to get into the political fray. And that's where we're coming from.
32.	Jim Illig	Are you open to [having] a [Health] Commissioner on your Board [of directors]?
33.	Louise Renne	No.
34.	Jim Illig	Well ...
35.	Louise Renne	That has been a conscious decision. No. No. I ... my ... my ... for the very reason; being small, don't want to get into the political realm. I've seen it too often. [Long pause.]
36.	Jim Illig	Well ... I guess ... I don't understand. But I know Commissioner Melara sits on the Public Health Foundation Board. And Commissioner Sanchez sits on the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation Board. I don't believe there's any politics involved, but I may be wrong.
37.	Louise Renne	No. We. We ... We don't want to start it.
38.	Steven Tierney	Other Commissioners? Questions? Comments?
39.	[Unknown Commissioner]	I'd prefer to do the public testimony first.
40.	Steven Tierney	OK.
41.	David Sanchez, Commissioner	I would just like to state that, regarding ... uh ... and being involved in a number of public [unintelligible] and Commissions ... uh ... [unintelligible]

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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		<p>Public Health Foundation There were a number of San Franciscans who have consistently volunteered and provided funding for special requests of Laguna Honda. [Long stretch unintelligible.] I guess what is coming up right at this point</p> <p>[Lengthy section totally unintelligible; speaker spoke very “breathy” into microphone.]</p>
42.	Louise Renne	<p>You know, we have nothing to hide, Commissioner Sanchez. I just wanted ... I don't want — personally, speaking for myself — I would personally be very resistant to having to file lengthy reports. We already file [unintelligible] reports with Community Initiatives, one thing and another. And we have no problem in saying, “This is what we did here, this is what we did there.”</p> <p>But I will be very resistant that [if] you want list all of the people who have made a contribution. I mean we get, sometimes, money from people who want to be anonymous. They just want to give money for the purpose of helping Laguna Honda, and they would prefer to be anonymous. And I ... I would rather [that] we have a feel ... open communication ... any time you have a question ... I mean, you want to come to one of our Board meetings, anybody is welcome to come, just let me know. Any member of the [Health] Commission is welcome to come.</p> <p>But as I said, we have no staff. And we don't have the wherewithal to file lengthy reports.</p>
43.	Steven Tierney	<p>Thank you. I think we'll go to public comment now, so we thank you again for coming, and we look forward to seeing you annually. Um ... on this item we have only one request for public comment: Community member and award-winning journalist, Patrick Monette-Shaw.</p>
44.	Patrick Monette-Shaw	<p>Good afternoon, Commissioners. Thank you. Next week I'll be receiving a Society of Professional Journalist's award for my coverage of the Laguna Honda [Hospital] patient gift fund scandal.</p> <p>I would like to publicly thank Ms. Renne, Mr. [Marc] Slavin, Ms. [Eileen] Shields, Ms. [Mivic] Hirose, and a few other people, who have given me such great material to have worked with.</p> <p>Mr. Morwitz has distributed to you a handout from me. Ms. Renne's Foundation has gotten at least \$766,000 in public money. She's claiming that not one dime has been spent of public money, but the funding sources to her [foundation] <i>is</i> public funding sources. There's no way around it.</p> <p>Melanie Beene, CEO of CI [Community Initiatives] was prepared to give me — or was prepared to go to her Board [of Directors] — to ask for permission to give me a subset of Ms. Renne's [Foundation financial] data. After all, Ms. Renne's Foundation has 501(c)(3 [non-profit status] designation from the IRS, and she is required to file her own [IRS] Form 990 [annual tax returns].</p> <p>Those Form 990's [Renne's Foundation has submitted to the IRS] list big goose eggs: Zero for Management and General, zero for Fundraising, and zero on Program expenses [Program Services] for Laguna Honda patients and support of Laguna Honda. You don't get IRS designation to report goose eggs.</p>

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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		Ms. Beene was told by Ms. Renne that she could not go to her own Board [of Directors] to get permission to hand me the subset of that data, because Ms. Renne was adamant ...
45.	Steven Tierney	Thank you, Mr. Monette-Shaw.
46.	Patrick Monette-Shaw	<p>... that she is not going to do quote-unquote "busy work." The IRS does not hand out non-profit designation to people who don't want to do the "busy work." I can't get adequate financial statements out of her Foundation, and it's time that you [the Health Commission] insist on [establishing] an MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] with her Foundation.</p> <p>And she shouldn't be using the City's good name. She shouldn't be using Laguna Honda's good name, without a formal MOU in place, such as the one that exists for SFGH's Foundation.</p>
47.	Steven Tierney	Your time has expired, Patrick. Thank you.
48.	Patrick Monette-Shaw	Any grants to the City [from Renne's Foundation] have to go through the Board of Supervisors, and this Health Commission. How can we find out what she is spending at least \$800,000 on? [Unintelligible] You [the Health Commission] need to take action on this.
49.	Steven Tierney	Thank you.
50.	Unknown speaker	Commissioner Tierney?
51.	Commissioner Edward Chow	I do want to thank Ms. Renne for the many years of devotion to San ... uh ... to Laguna Honda. Like Commissioner Illig said, there is no question that there would not be a Laguna Honda without her steering it through. And you know, her work and leadership, along with [former Health Commissioner] Lee Ann Monfredini [unintelligible] who worked so hard on Proposition ["A" in 1999] to find the money ...
52.	Steven Tierney	You're out of order, Patrick.
53.	Edward Chow	<p>So ... so ... I think that there is no question that Ms. Renne's whole heart is really devoted to Laguna [Honda]. I think that the results are just absolutely amazing, something we've ... none of us probably thought about when we began the pursuit [unintelligible]. [Unintelligible; speaking too breathily into microphone.]</p> <p>Do we want to take up the offer that at ... at periodic intervals, the recognition that the work of the Foundation is doing, really should be ... uh ... before the public, and that this type of information ... I mean, what you just told us today, is really being acknowledged.</p> <p>The way in which ... when we have had our disagreements ... was how structures should be set up. And that's ... uh ... for some of us, it's an institutional issue. [Unintelligible.] In our own period of time that we might either sit on a Commission or sit on a Foundation [Board of Directors], looking towards the future and the responsibilities for that future. We had that long discussion also with these San Francisco General [Hospital] Foundation, and formally, it became ... at that time done ... [Unintelligible] And I think we can wait. We can wait to say that recognizing the sensitivities that ... uh ... that a long-time public servant heartfelt.</p> <p>Yet, in fact it was a Commission [unintelligible] ... and we can continue to discuss that. As long as we can have, I believe the ... you know, and this is</p>

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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		<p>my own personal call ... the type of public disclosure that you provided us in the December letter [from Renne to the Health Commission]. And I think that the December letter does represent a very nice summary [unintelligible] leaving out the exact amounts of money without disclosing necessarily who or where it came from because that's in your [unintelligible passage]</p> <p>.... in terms of ability to assist with a number of the projects that have occurred. I think our own problem ... Do you disclose for the public the great, great work that your Foundation is able to do, is going to continue to add to our needs. There's no question that the public ...</p> <p>The public [unintelligible] is unable to really fund a number of these initiatives that you're talking about, and how best to use the [Gerald Simon] Theater. How to be able to really move the whole assisted living ... the creativity that you're showing [unintelligible] in order to do that. So ... so ...</p> <p>I know people have spoken about the issue to the Commission. I'll grant that ... uh ... I recognize your position at this point. And I am willing to wait, as long as we are able to get to full disclosure. Because of the wonderful work that you are doing, it really is important that we can all recognize it and know it.</p> <p>And so I would ask that on an annual basis a report [unintelligible], if possible, in terms of the total dollars being spent on all [your] efforts is appropriate to submit it to the Commission, and this can be ... we can work on how to do it, we don't need to take up your time at your own Board meetings at all. But that, presenting something like this before the Commission, I think, represents to all of us a really important aspect of understanding the work that you're [Foundation is] doing. And so those are my comments for believing that Laguna Honda's Foundation has brought about a number of good things for us, and yet I believe that we can achieve the public accountability at this point in time by getting a report from them on a regular basis. Thank you.</p>
54.	Steven Tierney	Mrs. Renne? Ms. Renne.
55.	Louise Renne	<p>Actually, Commissioner Chow, and I think what some of you have said. I think you do notice a very important point, that ... I think sometimes we assume that you all might know what we are doing, because ... I mean some of you have been to some of our events up at Laguna Honda ... And so, maybe the assumption that you know what we are doing is wrong, because you have so many things that you are doing.</p> <p>So, if in the spirit, I ... I'm confident that our Board would feel very comfortable in providing ... you know ... a regular annual report [about] "this is what we have been doing." That ... I don't think that's going to be a bit of a problem, just as long as there's no rigid rule or something like that, because ... I don't ... I don't ... I don't think it's necessary, because what ... looking forward, the <i>only</i> way we're ever going to get an Adult Day [Health] Care Center back at Laguna Honda — if it's even possible — or an Assisted Living project, if that's even possible, is by working together. Because, those tasks, particularly in this climate, are daunting. And I know [inaudible] our Foundation cannot do it by ourselves. We know that. But we're willing to be of assistance.</p>

Partial Verbatim Transcript of the San Francisco Health Commission's March 6, 2012 Meeting

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		<p>Similarly, on the [Gerald Simon] Theater [project]. If the Theater is to go forward, there would have to be, I believe, some sort of structure put in place ... ah ... to have the Theater be used. I mean, right now, there's money to build it, although there certainly isn't money for the kinds of lights, or the drapes, or the things that you need for the theater. But if it is to go forward, and end sort of in a meaningful way, there will have to be a structure to do that. Because I think I can say — and maybe I am wrong — but the staff there is <i>so</i> busy that there's no <i>way</i> they can run the theater, I just don't think it's humanly possible [Renne's exaggerated inflection during this speech was pure acting, when not comical].</p> <p>So that ... um ... I would anticipate that we would have to have some sort of cooperative arrangement ... you may not want the [Laguna Honda] Foundation involved ... and you may want to go a different route and ... um ... yeah, we have some ideas on that.</p> <p>So ... um ... if I have made it seem that I am resistant to anything, please accept my apologies. I'm ... I've been beat up a little bit by some people, and I guess ... um ... you know, who claim I get public money and tobacco [settlement revenue] money. And maybe I'm just a little overly-sensitive right now, so bear with me. But that said, there is absolutely every reason for us to <i>want</i> to have you involved, because we know we can't do it ourselves. That's not a problem. Just ... well, a rigid structure could be, but ... but, no.</p> <p>So ... thank you for ... the words that you have said, because I do think that the only way we're gonna' do the things that are needed out there is working cooperatively. So ... that is the message that Derek [Parker] and I will take back [to our Board of Directors].</p>
56.	Steven Tierney	Thank you very much.
57.	Commissioner Margine Sako	Thank you. I just want to say real quick, I work at a hospital foundation and raise money for St. Mary's. And so I know the challenges ... um ... that working with a hospital who has a strategic plan and trying to raise money, and do that cooperatively. And so ... um ... I look forward to working with you, and I think foundations are there to do what is above and beyond what is normally funded, and have the vision and go forward. So thank you very much.
58.	Steven Tierney	OK. Hearing nothing else, we'll move forward on the agenda. At the beginning of the meeting we did not have any public comment, but I'm told that we now do. So we'll ... um ... with the Commissioner's indulgence, we'll go out of order and hear public comment requests. Thank you Ms. Renne and Mr. Parker. First is David Maddux?
59.	Unknown Speaker	Maddow.
60.	Steven Tierney	Followed by Mark ... followed by Terry Thompson. Welcome.
61.	Unknown Speaker	I hate to bother you. I'm a tenant in one of your housing ... Direct Access to Housing programs [Spoke at length on housing problems.]
62.	Steven Tierney	Mark?
63.	Unknown Speaker	I also have problems [spoke at length about housing problems].
64.	Steven Tierney	And the third speaker is Terry Thompson.
65.	Terry Thompson	[A homeowner who lives just behind Laguna Honda spoke about the noise problem, and the lack of noise abatement.]