

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Medical Services Division

January 24, 2005

To: Editor
San Francisco Chronicle

As the Medical Staff of Laguna Honda Hospital, we repudiate the statement of Dr. Katz, Director of Public Health, that Laguna Honda Hospital has been "prejudiced against AIDS patients and African Americans" (see article, 1/21/2005, "Admission Dispute at Laguna Honda").

Our own staff is formed of a broad cultural spectrum of physicians: African Americans, Latinos, Asians, Indians, and Caucasians, as well as heterosexuals, gay men and lesbians. We serve our diverse San Francisco population with cultural sensitivity. Many of our physicians speak 2 or more languages to accommodate our patients' needs.

Historically, Laguna Honda Hospital's commitment has been to serve the most needy populations of San Francisco, regardless of race, sex, age (except pediatric), diagnosis, and economic or cultural background.

If the Director of Public Health believes his statement, it is his duty to do a formal investigation.

We deeply regret his statement,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Banchem-Hasson".

Monica Banchem-Hasson, M.D.
Chief of Staff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Isakson".

Paul J. Isakson, M.D.
Medical Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Skovrinski".

Timothy Skovrinski, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director