



City and County of San Francisco

Tuesday, May 09, 2023

SFGOV-TV [Videotape](#)

>> Good afternoon and welcome to the May 9, 2023 meeting of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Madam Clerk recollect please call the roll.

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>> **Roland Pickens**, Acting LHH CEO [1:34:10] Thank you for the question. So, I can tell from my perspective, there is a need for laguna to maintain its total licensed capacity of 780 beds. I can recall 7 or 8 years ago DPH did a study on skilled nursing beds and at that point San Francisco was 700 beds short, so you can only imagine that the need has risen sense then. So, from my perspective we are doing everything we can to make sure laguna is in a position to maintain those full 780 beds because San Francisco needs those beds. I think I shared with this group when I was here before, I have been in the healthcare industry here in San Francisco 30 years. I have seen how every [private sector] healthcare system used to operate their own skilled nursing facilities [but] closed [them] down and left the City and County standing [only] with Laguna Honda. And so, that makes it even more important that Laguna maintain all our beds and that ... that is our goal. **Recertification of the current facility that we have is the primary goal, but also getting all those beds filled again is also the goal.**

>> **Supervisor Ahsha Safai** [1:35:00] Can I ask a question on that, because I know one reason why we had to reduce [LHH's beds] was because we had some of the — don't want to say it units — the rooms serving more than two people. I know we were grandfathered in by the Biden Administration, but now through recertification we are no longer ... no longer allowing that in those rooms. So, how do we get back up to 780 patients if some of those rooms have permanently [been] reduced to 2 [residents], in terms of occupancy? If I'm not saying correctly, please correct me.

>> **Pickens** [1:36:00] You are on the right ... in the right lane. Those rooms have not been permanently reduced to only 2 [residents]. We were strategic doing two things: One, that we renewed our license with the State for the full complement of 780 [beds], and that also the modifications we made were of a temporary nature, so that once we do get those beds back into CMS approval, we can quickly turn them back on and use them. That is our strategy. **There is an avenue to regain those beds post-certification. There is a waiver process, and CMS has indicated they are open to that waiver. However, they see recertification of the current beds as the priority, but [have] given every indication they are willing to work with us on the waiver to get those third beds back.**

>> **Safai** [1:37:00] So, at a minimum we are going for reduced number and then we would have to go through a post-certification waiver process that isn't guaranteed?

>> **Pickens** [1:37:10] **The waiver process as I understand it is not a survey itself, it is just a request.** We would have to provide the documentation that shows that we ... we can [document that] because we were safely caring for the three-resident areas [rooms] prior to decertification, so we'll provide the documentation to say we can safely in a hygienic and safe manner care for that third resident in the rooms. **We're confident that we meet the requirements [for the waiver], we just need them to approve it.**