

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

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

**Cecilia Chung**  
Commissioner

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

**Belle Taylor-McGhee**  
Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN  
FRANCISCO**

**Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Department of Public Health**



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

**HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 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, MSW, President  
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.  
Commissioner Cecilia Chung  
Commissioner David J. Sanchez Jr., Ph.D.  
Commissioner Belle Taylor-McGhee

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm.

**2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2013.**

Commissioner Chow noted that his amendment to the resolution honoring Tangerine Brigham should have added the term "physician groups" as written below:

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the Department launched the Healthy San Francisco program in 2007, successfully partnering with San Francisco's community clinics, non-profit hospitals, **physician groups** and the San Francisco Health Plan to launch and sustain a nationally-recognized health access program for San Francisco's uninsured; and

Action Taken: The minutes of the March 5, 2013 Health Commission meeting were unanimously approved with the correction noted above.

**3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Barbara Garcia, Director of Health, gave the report. The full report can be viewed at:  
<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

**Public Health Week, April 1-7, 2013**

In 1995, former President Clinton proclaimed the first full week of April as National Public Health Week (NPHW). Each year since then, the public health community has celebrated this observance by focusing on an issue that is important to improving the public's health. The theme of this year's National Public Health Week, "Public Health is Return on Investment: Save Lives, Save Money" focuses on ways evidence-based public health programs will result in healthier communities and reduced cost in treating diseases. Each day has a different theme.

### **New Prevention Integration Practice and Science Leadership Group**

Building on the concept of “Return on Investment: Saving Moneys, Saving Lives” theme of Public Health Week 2013, the Population Health Division is pleased to announce the launch of a new Prevention Integration Practice and Science (PIPS) Leadership Group to strengthen the science of prevention practice and recognize the impact of prevention. PIPS Leadership Group membership will be open to all staff from across DPH who are interested in strengthening existing or engaging in prevention efforts. This is an exciting time for prevention efforts. To join, learn more or share thoughts about this Leadership Group, contact Gary Najarian at [gary.najarian@sfdph.org](mailto:gary.najarian@sfdph.org) or Patricia Erwin at [patricia.erwin@sfdph.org](mailto:patricia.erwin@sfdph.org).

### **Shape Up with the Annual Walking Challenge: April 1 - June 7**

Perhaps as part of your own observance of Public Health Week, the Commissioners may wish to consider participating in the Shape Up Walking Challenge. It's not too late to sign up. All San Francisco Commissioners, residents and workers, are welcome to join us as we walk the coastline of California (1016 miles). Whether you choose to walk, bike, run, swim, skate, skip, or square dance for exercise, it all counts. As of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 90 teams with over 950 participants are ready to compete for the most miles. Visit <http://shapeupsfwalkingchallenge.org> for more information and to register.

### **Tier 1 Grants for Direct Access to Housing Program**

On March 13<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department announced the award of \$1.5 billion in grants to fund the operation of 7,000 state and local homeless, housing, and service programs across the country. These grants are referred to as Tier 1, or high priority grants. San Francisco received \$19,624,008 in Tier 1 grants which will support 50 existing housing and services programs, including two Supportive Housing Program grants for the Housing and Urban Health Section Direct Access to Housing program.

### **Laguna Honda Gift Fund Accepts Major Gift from Knight Trust**

I am pleased to report that the Laguna Honda Gift Fund is the recipient of a \$500,000 gift from the trust of the late Dolorous Knight. Mrs. Knight, a resident of San Francisco's Excelsior District, died in 2012 at the age of 98. She was a longtime supporter of community projects and public works. The Gift Fund will use the money to support the quality of life and independence of Laguna Honda residents that cannot be addressed through public funding such as tickets for concerts, movies, cultural celebrations and sporting events. We are deeply grateful to the Knight Trust for their contribution to the LHH Gift Fund.

### **Adolescent Health Working Group to Address Trauma**

The San Francisco Adolescent Health Working Group, in collaboration with the Department's Community Behavioral Health Services division, invites the Commissioners and any others who are interested in learning about and discussing how to design programs and services for people who have suffered trauma in their lives to join them for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen/Young Adult Provider Gathering, Friday, May 10, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at the San Francisco State Building, 445 Golden Gate Avenue. This annual provider's gathering will draw nearly 250 attendees from health, juvenile justice, education, and workforce and youth development programs who share an eagerness to improve citywide coordination of services to individuals and families for whom trauma has played a major and significant role in their lives. Online registration is open at <https://www.ahwg.net/onevent/events.php>. Early registration is encouraged as the provider gathering is always a sell-out.

### **Free EPA Lead Certification Training for Spanish Speakers**

The Children's Environmental Health Promotion Program and community partner, LEAD FREE, have teamed up to reach contractors who do renovation and repair work to buildings built before 1978 to offer their Spanish-speaking workers a free training that meets USEPA's [Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule \(RRP Rule\)](#) requirements. 91% of San Francisco's housing is covered by the RRP Rule.

USEPA requires this RRP certification training because common renovation, repair, and painting activities that disturb lead-based paint, such as sanding, scraping, cutting, replacing windows, at the same time create hazardous lead dust and chips which are harmful to children, adults and pets. Having trained and certified workers lower the risk of lead poisoning from home renovation activities to both residents and workers.

### **COPC-QI Wins Challenge Grant**

Congratulations to Community Oriented Primary Care Quality Improvement (COPC-QI) which was awarded a Safety Net Innovation Challenge Grant by the Center for Care Innovations, in partnership with the Blue Shield of California Foundation. COPC was one of 12 recipients statewide who were funded to support new ideas for improving access in primary care.

### **Department to Observe Nurses Week in May**

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. As in year's past, the nursing leadership groups throughout the Department are planning a series of activities to celebrate nurses and their contribution to our healthcare system, our nation, and our lives. I hope the Commissioners will make time in their schedules to attend one of the many observances being planned. Here is a partial list of events.

#### Laguna Honda Hospital & Rehabilitation Center

May 6 - Nursing High Five's ( Nursing Leadership meets and greets each staff all shifts)

May 7 - Nursing Fair 11 am – 2 p.m. (Posters, Wellness, Neighborhood Best Practices, etc)

May 10 - Keynote Speaker TBD and Reception

#### San Francisco General Hospital

May 9 –Nurses Week Reception & Awards Ceremony, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

#### Community Oriented Primary Care

To kick off Nurses Week, COPC and SFGH primary care nurses will participate in the first session of a year-long Primary Care Nursing Leadership Academy the last week in April. The Academy spans 12 months and offers four in-person sessions. It will focus on leadership training and development, quality improvement and clinical excellence. The Academy is a unique opportunity for community and hospital-based primary care nursing to come together to learn, share best practices, and engage in strategizing how the nursing role can develop in the climate of health care reform.

### **Women Making History Award**

Please join me in congratulating Stephanie Felder, Director of CBHS Comprehensive Crisis Services, as a recipient of the prestigious "Women Making History" Award. Each year, in celebration of National Women's History Month, the SF Commission and Department on the Status of Women, in partnership with the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, recognize the exceptional contributions of women in the community. Ms. Felder was recognized on March 19<sup>th</sup> at a ceremony hosted by the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor John Avalos honored her for her exceptional team leadership in providing mental health services in the community, particularly for those families impacted by incidents of violence or suicide.

#### Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Commissioner Melara noted that violence and trauma of children were not included in any of the Public Health Week activity categories. Director Garcia stated that the categories were created by the federal government.

#### Public Comment:

Francisco Da Costa stated that we just heard the DPH Director paint a picture that everything is fine. However, the public needs to get a report on each of the issues in the report. The Commissioners should make sure the report is posted on the internet.

Steve Zeltzer, United Public Workers for Action, stated that he thinks the Health Commission meetings should be video-taped. He stated that the retaliation against the two Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) doctors is outrageous. He noted that the DPH staff members who “perpetrated” the retaliation are still on the payroll. He called for an end to a culture of bullying whistleblowers.

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

Patrick Monette-Shaw stated that in his upcoming article in the Westside Observer, he will use the following quotes from Kerr’s lawyers Kochan and Stephenson: “In our experience, negotiating non-monetary terms as part of a settlement is relatively rare. But here, we believed it very important that LHH’s administration publicly acknowledge the lies they told about Drs. Kerr and Rivero, as well as acknowledge the extraordinary service the two MD’s provided to the community during their long and distinguished careers at LHH.” “The deceitfulness and small-mindedness exhibited by members of LHH’s administration and its Human Resources Department was, at times, breathtaking.” “The City was boxed in by the inconsistent accounts of its own witnesses and the absolute nonsense of some of their testimony on critical issues.”

Peter Warfield stated that keeping public comment to two minutes is unfair; the Sunshine Ordinance specifies that public comment should be three minutes. He added that the “LHH Update” agenda item does not clearly indicate anything regarding Dr. Kerr’s settlement.

#### **5) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Chung, Chair, stated that the Committee reviewed the 5-Year Budget Evaluation Tool and heard that it has been useful but still needs some fine tuning. The Committee also reviewed and recommended the April Contracts Report, containing the revised Sole-Source Contractor list, and the new contract with Asian Week Foundation.

Commissioner Chow noted that because he is a Board member of NICOS, a DPH contractor, he will abstain from the vote on the Contracts Report which lists NICOS on the revised Sole-Source Contractor list.

#### **6) CONSENT CALENDAR**

Action Taken: The following were unanimously approved:

- APRIL CONTRACTS REPORT (Commissioner Chow abstained from this vote)
- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH ASIAN WEEK FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$192,723, WHICH INCLUDES A 12% CONTINGENCY, TO PROVIDE FISCAL INTERMEDIARY SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE HEAL SF B: HEPATITIS B IDENTIFICATION AND LINKAGE TO CARE PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN-BORN PERSONS WITH HEPATITIS B, FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2013 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2013 (7 MONTHS).

#### **7) LHH UPDATE**

Mivic Hirose, LHH Chief Executive Administrator, read a memo regarding the contributions of Dr. Derek Kerr to LHH’s Hospice and Palliative Care Program from 1989-2010; the 2013 Leadership Award from the California Coalition for Compassionate Care; and the announcement of a donation from The Friends of LHH which will enable a new gazebo to be built in the LHH Hospice and Palliative Care garden area. (See Attachment 1)

Public Comment:

Dr. Derek Kerr was critical of the DPH decisions concerning his employment and submitted the following written comment:

Three years ago today, we reported Laguna Honda's looting of the patient gift fund. Today's settlement was not awarded by an emotional jury. It came from hard-nosed City attorneys who tested every pretext, every lie, and every smear used by the defendants to deny their whistleblower retaliation. Even our budget conscious Board of Supervisors approved \$750,000 unanimously. That's because the depositions were disastrous for the City; full of untruths, hubris, amnesia and pitiful contradictions. This retaliation was more than one blunder by one clueless administrator. It was orchestrated-over 3 months-by a perpetrator, her enablers, and carefully chosen lackies. Tolerating such reprisals promotes a culture of dishonesty and corruption. To date, neither Health Director Barbara Garcia nor Health Commission President Sonia Melara have issued any statement affirming whistleblower rights. Silence signals that you accept incompetence and misconduct. Please try to restore public trust.

Dr. Maria Rivero was critical of the Department of Public Health's (DPH) decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment and submitted the following written comment:

Dr. Derek Kerr and I blew the whistle on misappropriations from the Laguna Honda Gift fund and tainted DPH contracts. Then after 20 years at Laguna Honda I was bullied and forced out. Dr. Kerr was terminated. Mivic Hirose, Laguna Honda's CEO, has admitted that she made the decision to terminate Dr. Kerr's employment. What is the message you send when a CEO who retaliated against a whistleblower is still in office? It shows that you condone WB retaliation and violations of Laws that protect WB. It shows that you will accept executives that pilfer public funds donated to the poor. It shows you support a culture of dishonesty and incompetence at Laguna Honda Hospital. Mivic Hirose stands by her decision to terminate Dr. Kerr Attending Physician of the renowned Laguna Honda Hospice, and a whistleblower. Mivic Hirose obviously doesn't "get it" please consider this.

Ashley Beyer was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment and submitted the following written statement from Jeannie Kayser-Jones, UCSF School of Nursing Professor Emeritus:

I remember how Dr. Kerr was so involved in every aspect of the hospice. He would come in on the weekends to plant flowers in the garden, he was involved in choosing the color of the paint in the main lounge, and how wonderful it was to come in on the Friday evenings when they had food and wine, and Dr. Kerr would be there in a tuxedo coat serving the residents and their visitors. I had never in all the years that I have been in health care met a physician who cared so much for his patients. I have often said that if I were dying and could not be cared for at home, I would want to be on the LHH hospice with Dr. Kerr and Nahid taking care of me.

Ruth Tubbs, UCSF nursing student, stated that she has the utmost dedication and respect for Dr. Kerr and Dr. Rivero. She is sad that these talented physicians are no longer seeing patients at LHH. She was critical of the DPH decisions concerning the employment of Dr. Kerr.

Lynn Carman, Coalition to Save Public Health, supported the recognition of Dr. Kerr but reminded the Commission that the theft from the Gift Fund was not punished. He thinks it would be fitting if the LHH CEO on duty during the time of the theft to resign or to discharge her.

Vivian Imperiale, supported the recognition given to Dr. Derek Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment. She submitted the following written comment:

This was a situation in which everyone at Laguna Honda suffered: doctors, patients, demoralized staff, and well-intentioned, but deceived, donors. Dr. Derek Kerr set an international model by masterminding innovative programming and treating hospice patients with dignity. Dr. Maria Rivero was revered by patients for the homelike, caring setting she created and nourished. It was stunning to see the system's lackadaisical response to the unearthed facts and the subsequent retaliation against the doctors. They should have been lauded for their due diligence, not removed. They sought help to no avail. The system set them up and betrayed them and us, as well. No City employee should have to go to court to seek justice. San Franciscans want honesty and transparency. Instead, we witnessed a

see-no-evil, speak-no-evil service system that protected the status quo over professional ethics. That is simply unacceptable.

George Wooding, West of Twin Peaks Central Council and Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, stated that the manner in which this situation was dealt with has resulted in LHH being isolated from the neighbors who were repulsed at the “looting” of the LHH Patient Gift Fund and the firing of the two doctors. He was supportive of the recognition of Dr. Kerr but was critical of the decisions made by the DPH regarding Dr. Kerr’s employment.

September Williams, physician and bioethicist, was supportive of the recognition of Dr. Kerr but was critical of the decisions made by the DPH regarding Dr. Kerr’s employment. She submitted written comment:

For the years from 2005-2011 it was my honor to serve the sickest and poorest people in the City and County of San Francisco at LHH. It is the nature of human progress that moral intuition does not strike all people at the same moment. Dr. Derek Kerr’s moral intuition is highly tooled. This is probably the result of 21 years of working intimately with dying people who through their vulnerability push the boundaries of ethics daily. It is my hope that the City and County of San Francisco Health Commission will work diligently to make it possible for ethical conflicts to be explored and best moral action without repeated recourse to legal measures. My suggestion would be through establishing a truth and reconciliation processes which expand moral intuition, and advance the progress to more ethical institutions good governance and as it happens better patient and community care.(The original comment has been shortened to fit the 150 word maximum.)

Nahid, retired LHH Hospice Manager, stated that during her tenure, she witnessed more corruption at LHH then in her home country of Iran. She was supportive of the recognition of Dr. Kerr but critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr’s employment.

Patrick Monk, former LHH hospice volunteer, was supportive of the recognition of Dr. Kerr but was critical of the decisions made by the DPH regarding Dr. Kerr’s employment. He submitted written comment:

The lives and deaths of tens of thousands of people have been touched by the work of this remarkable man. He established an approach of bring respect, care, compassion and laughter into the lives of those approaching death, both patients and their loved ones, especially the “less fortunate.” The early days of the AIDS epidemic were particularly challenging as a younger generation were confronted by their mortality. Dr. Kerr was one of the first medical professionals to open the door to that dark and scary room and step inside. True heroes are those who lead by example. Dr. Kerr is one of those. This city lost one of it’s treasures when Dr. Kerr “retired from public service, unfortunately the same cannot be said of those who orchestrated his departure. I thank the City for finally acknowledging the rightness of his cause and the debt we owe him.

Peter Buxtun, resident of SF, stated that he is an outsider to all that has gone on but was supportive of the recognition of Dr. Kerr.

Mathew Stephenson, one of the attorneys that represented Dr. Kerr in his suit against CCSF, was supportive of the recognition of Dr. Kerr but critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr’s employment. He urged the Commissioners to review the testimony of the DPH staff involved in the case.

Laura Stillman, hospice volunteer, stated that love and community was so inclusive within the whole hospice team; it was a loving environment that enabled people to die with dignity. She was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr’s employment.

Patrick Monnette Shaw was supportive of the recognition of Dr. Kerr but was critical of the decisions made by the DPH regarding Dr. Kerr’s employment. He submitted the following written comment:

I'm Patrick Monette-Shaw, here on my own time — as a Civic Duty to exercise First Amendment Rights to free speech. The very free speech that LHH has used twice to fire Dr. Ulrich in 1998, and 22 years later, Dr. Derek Kerr in 2010. First Amendment lightning has struck LHH twice —resulting in wrongful termination and retaliation against two physicians, costing over \$2 million between both cases. Laughably, the City argued Kerr's speech wasn't protected by the First Amendment because it "didn't address matters of public concern," as if the raid of patient funds didn't concern public donors. Much of the City's defense regarding Kerr's termination were pretexts manufactured to justify his termination, but were actually pretexts for Hirose's retaliation against Kerr. During the LHH-JCC's subcommittee meeting last Tuesday, Hirose openly smirked while Kerr was testifying about Ethics training. Hirose clearly doesn't get the gravity. Barbara Garcia should terminate Hirose.

Sherrie Matza was supportive of the recognition of Dr. Kerr but was critical of the decisions made by the DPH regarding Dr. Kerr's employment. She submitted written comment:

Every action I take is measured against whether I am meeting or being consistent with, that objective. Dr. Kerr did that too; his objective was to provide the best care for the residents of LHH, in all respects. This objective should have been the focus for all of the LHH administrators, but it alas, appeared not to be the case. The retaliation taken by such LHH administrators-to dismiss Dr. Kerr-only occurred after he brought to light certain improprieties in the management of the LHH Gift Fund-a Fund that was to be for the benefit of the residents but was instead used for other purposes. If City bureaucrats only did this one simple thing...focus on the core objective-this could have been avoided. Can we please have this case as a reminder to "do the right thing" in the future? (The original comment has been shortened to fit the 150 word maximum.)

Betty Carmack, School of USF nursing, stated that she knows Dr. Kerr to be a man of compassion and integrity. She was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment.

Hulda Garfalo, former member of the 2010 Civil Grand Jury, was supportive of the recognition given at the meeting to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment.

Paul Kelly, LHH Hospice social worker, stated that Dr. Kerr touched him deeply and he is sad that there was not a chance to say a proper good-bye. He was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment.

Jeanine Bray stated that she was privileged to work at LHH as recreational therapist and to work with Dr. Kerr who had the most integrity. She was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment.

Francisco Da Costa was critical of the DPH decisions Dr. Kerr's employment and was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr.

James Kenneth Terry, current DPH Behavioral Health Center (BHC) employee, was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment. He encouraged the Health Commission to take a stance on the culture of bullying within the DPH.

Sarah Larson, current DPH BHC employee, was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment. She stated that the BHC is treated like a "back" ward and does not have access to necessary resources.

Teresa Palmer, who worked as a geriatric physician at LHH, was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr's employment.

Michael Lyon, Gray Panthers, was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning his employment. He encouraged the DPH and the Health Commission to stop the bullying culture.

Anonymous #4223 was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning his employment. He stated that this case reveals the poverty of the whistleblower protections. He added that management supposed to be able to address internal issues and that whistleblowing is a “back stop” which indicates management problems.

Nancy Wuerfel , a UCSF SFGH employee for 22 years, was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr’s employment. She holds the Commission responsible to have integrity.

Tony Hall, former Supervisor from San Francisco District 7, was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning his employment. He stated that he holds the Health Commission responsible for not stopping the situation.

Ray Hartz Jr., Director of San Francisco Open Government, stated that members of the public do not have to identify themselves; all speaker cards are voluntary; and someone wishing to make a comment does not need a speaker card. He added that Dr. Kerr and Dr. Rivero knew that retaliation may be involved when they chose to speak up. This situation gives the example to other City employees that if someone speaks up, their career will be ruined. He was critical of the DPH decisions concerning the Dr. Kerr’s employment.

Howard Chabner, stated that when his mother was a patient at LHH, he got to know both Dr. Rivero and Dr. Kerr. He was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr’s employment.

Douglass Yep was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr’s employment. He suggested that Dr. Kerr investigate the 1999 suspicious disappearance of a gay man which he believes the City actively tried to cover up.

Peter Warfield was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr’s employment. He stated that every day the Health Commission does not take actions to improve matters, its members send a signal to the public that there is no protection for whistleblowers.

Hal Smith, member of the 2010 Civil Grand Jury, stated that the only positive outcome of the situation is that current and future whistleblowers will have a role model who can help them navigate the systems in San Francisco. He was supportive of the recognition given to Dr. Kerr but was critical of the DPH decisions concerning Dr. Kerr’s employment.

Commissioner Melara thanked the speakers for attending the meeting and for their comments.

#### **8) PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK: RESOLUTION**

Patricia Erwin, Acting Director, Community Health Promotion and Prevention Section, gave the presentation of the resolution.

Action Taken: The Resolution Honoring Public Health Week, April 1-7, 2013, was unanimously approved. (See Attachment 2)

#### **9) 2012 AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE UPDATE**



Patricia Erwin, Acting Director, Community Health Promotion and Prevention Section, Jodi Stookey, PhD, Epidemiologist, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health; Christina Goette, MPH, Sr. Health Program Planner-Chronic Disease Prevention, Community Health Promotion and Prevention Section; Carol Chapman, Health Program Coordinator, Community Programs; and Monica R. McLemore RN, MPH, PhD, Charge Nurse, Women's Options Center, Co-Chair, Research Council San Francisco General Hospital, gave the presentation.

Commissioner Comments/Follow-Up:

Regarding data on individuals who are homeless in San Francisco, Commissioner Chow asked what percent of clients seen by the DPH are considered homeless. Ms. Chapman stated that approximately 20-40% of clients seen by DPH providers are considered homeless.

Commissioner Chow asked the expected timeline for the development of the homeless report. Ms. Chapman stated it will take approximately 6 to 12 months.

Commissioner Chung asked how homelessness is defined for the purpose of the report. Ms. Chapman stated that for the purpose of the report, the definition of homeless is living outdoors, in a car, abandoned building or stabilization rooms in single residence occupancy hotels. She added that it is very difficult to measure data on those individuals who are "couch surfing" or living in substandard housing.

Commissioner Chung stated that getting an accurate number of homeless people is important when designing and maintaining the service system. She added that there are people who are transient who will not be staying in San Francisco but there are other homeless individuals who permanently reside here.

Commissioner Melara asked if the numbers of homeless people being discussed are unduplicated and whether data shows the number of transient versus those people who live here on a more permanent basis. Ms. White stated that the data of homeless people is for unduplicated clients. Director Garcia stated that the analysis is of existing DPH data which is limited to the existing DPH data systems.

Commissioner Taylor-McGhee stated that the mortality rate of African American mothers in California is four times that of other ethnic groups. She asked if the DPH has data on mortality rates of African American mothers in San Francisco. Dr. Stookey stated that she can send this data to the Health Commission through Mr. Morewitz at a later time.

Commissioner Melara requested that whenever possible, to include data on health disparities within the African American communities in San Francisco, in presentations made to Health Commission.

Commissioner Melara stated that she understood that San Francisco has the lowest rate of teen pregnancies but highest rate of African American teen death rates. Mary Hansell, MD, Director of Maternal Child Health Section, stated that DPH has data on the birth rate of teenagers in San Francisco. This data does not give pregnancy rate because it does not include pregnancy termination data.

Commissioner Chow asked if the DPH sends staff to present at the APHA conference when it is not located in San Francisco. Director Garcia stated that, as part of an effort to save money, she has limited the amount of General Funds spent on conferences. Many of the Sections receive grant funds which cover conference costs.

Commissioner Melara noted that none of the Public Health Week activity categories include mention of anti-violence programs for children. Ms. Erwin stated that within the DPH African American health disparity efforts, the DPH will be focusing on the impact of trauma and violence on this population. Director Garcia stated that the Mayor's Office has recently initiated an Office on Violence Prevention and suggested that the Community and Public Health Committee hear a presentation on this initiative.

**10) OTHER BUSINESS**

### **JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Chow, who chaired the March 26, 2013 LHH JCC meeting, stated that the Committee heard an update on the Gift Fund and approved a pilot project of Weight Watchers for residents which had been recommended by the LHH Resident Committee. The Committee also heard updates on Health at Home and a neuro-behavioral pilot program. The Committee reviewed and approved policies and requested that SFGH and LHH work together to develop a uniform procedure and format for sharing draft policies with the JCC members.

### **COMMITTEE AGENDA SETTING**

Mr. Morewitz noted that the next full Health Commission meeting will be on April 23, 2013 at 4pm.

#### **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

**Personnel Evaluation: Mark Morewitz, Health Commission Executive Secretary**

- D) Reconvene in Open Session

Action Taken: The Health Commission voted not to disclose discussion of the item in Closed Session.

#### **12) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm.

City and County of San Francisco  
Department of Public Health



Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center  
Mivic Hirose, RN, CNS, Executive Administrator

March 29, 2013

TO: President Sonia Melara, MSW  
And Honorable Members of the Health Commission

THROUGH: Barbara Garcia, MPA  
Director of Health

FROM: Mivic Hirose, RN, MS, CNS  
Executive Administrator

RE: Laguna Honda Updates

This memo is to provide updates about Laguna Honda's Hospice and Palliative Care Program.

First, the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday approved a settlement in the lawsuit brought against the City by Dr. Derek Kerr. As part of the settlement, the hospital will install a plaque on the South 3 Hospice and Palliative Care neighborhood. The plaque will say, "In recognition of Derek Kerr, MD, for his contributions to Laguna Honda and its Hospice and Palliative Care Program (1989-2010)." Also, as part of the settlement, Laguna Honda's Medical Director, Dr. Colleen Riley, and Chief of Staff, Dr. Steven Thompson, provided Dr. Kerr a letter stating, "This letter serves to memorialize that (1) Dr. Derek Kerr was respected by his colleagues at Laguna Honda for his skills and accomplishments as a hospice and palliative care physician and for his work in establishing and running the hospital's Hospice and Palliative Care Program; and (2) when Dr. Kerr retired from City service in June 2010, his clinical privileges as a member of the Laguna Honda medical staff expired by operation of the Medical Staff By-Laws and not for reasons related in any way to the quality of medical care he provided to hospital residents."

Second, please join me in congratulating the Laguna Honda Hospice and Palliative Care Program, which received a 2013 Leadership Award from the California Coalition for Compassionate Care. The annual award ceremony will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Airport Hilton in Burlingame. Laguna Honda will be honored for providing hospice and palliative care to an economically disadvantaged and culturally diverse population.

And lastly, the Friends of Laguna Honda has generously provided funds for a gazebo in the South 3 Hospice and Palliative Care garden. Facilities staff is in the process of constructing the gazebo. Families, residents and staff are very much looking forward to using the new gazebo in the coming summer months.

On behalf of Laguna Honda community, I thank the Health Commission and Director Garcia for your support of Laguna Honda in its mission to provide San Franciscans with 5-star rehabilitation and skilled nursing services every day.

Thank you.

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 13-07**

**HONORING PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK, APRIL 1-7, 2013**

WHEREAS, the first week of April is celebrated as “National Public Health Week” each year in states and counties throughout the United States, including California and San Francisco;

WHEREAS, the theme of the 2013 National Public Health Week is “Public Health is Return on Investment: Save Lives, Save Money”; and,

WHEREAS, preventing diseases before they start is critical to helping people live longer, healthier lives while managing health-related costs; and,

WHEREAS, preventable chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes are responsible for millions of premature deaths each year; and,

WHEREAS, chronic diseases cause Americans to miss 2.5 billion days of work each year, resulting in lost productivity totaling more than \$1 trillion; and,

WHEREAS, investing just \$10 per person each year in proven, community-based public health efforts could save the nation more than \$16 billion within five years; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is to “protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans”; and,

WHEREAS, SFDPH meets this mission through the implementation of public health strategies and the provision of health care services; and,

WHEREAS, SFDPH implements programs in various areas of focus of Public Health Week 2013 including the ShapeUp San Francisco Walking Challenge Launch, San Francisco General Hospital’s Working on Wellness (WOW) classes, Bike to School Week, Environmental Health’s Sustainable Communities Index; and,

WHEREAS, SFDPH staff has excelled in developing partnerships to promote health and change environments to create healthier communities in San Francisco; and,

THEREFORE, the Department of Public Health, to demonstrate its commitment to prevention, will launch and sustain a ‘Prevention Integration Practice and Science leadership group’ to strengthen prevention efforts across the Department; be it

RESOLVED, that the Health Commission recognizes the San Francisco Department of Public Health’s excellent programs and the work in prevention and creating a healthier San Francisco, and celebrates those efforts during National Public Health Week, April 1-7, 2013.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of April 2, 2013 adopted the foregoing

resolution.

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Mark Morewitz  
Health Commission Executive Secretary