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June 29, 2022

Government Audit and Oversight Committee, Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Dean Preston, Chairperson

The Honorable Connie Chan, Member

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Member

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **GAO File # 220526 Hearing — LHH Accreditation Update**

Dear Chair Preston and Members of the GAO Committee,

I believe the GOA Committee should rapidly schedule a hearing requested by Supervisor Aaron Peskin before the end of July on the situation at Laguna Honda Hospital. After Peskin submitted his hearing request (file # 220526) on May 3, it was then assigned to the GAO Committee. On June 13, the hearing request was then referred to SFDPH the day before the June 14 *Committee of the Whole* hearing. Any 30-day waiting period prior to holding a GAO hearing is now over.

It is important to note that LHH is a citywide hospital that theoretically accepts patients from each of San Francisco's 11 supervisorial Districts. It is not a facility that is the province of a single District — District 7 — and that District should not be allowed to treat LHH as it's own "territorial" turf, nor should D-7 be allowed to thwart a holding a second hearing about LHH's fate before the GAO Committee.

Although DPH's weekly [Dashboard](#) update as of Monday, June 27 has now begun reporting that 25 patients have been discharged (combining community discharges and discharges to facilities) and shows how many of those discharges were to San Francisco and out-of-county discharges, the Dashboard provides no information what types of locations 9 of the 25 were discharged to what types of "community" settings the 9 were discharged to. Were they to shelters, navigation centers, or another community location? Indeed, the Dashboard reports the types of locations for just 5 of the 9 patients presumably discharged to community locations (as opposed to a type of facilities).

The Dashboard numbers don't add up, and clearly don't reflect what happened to all of the 67 patients reduced from the hospital's census at the time CDPH performed its initial survey of LHH on October 14, 2021. DPH is not being as transparent with the public as it could be, even after DPH claims it "*has nothing to hide.*"

Rather than waiting until September 13 for another CoW hearing on LHH, potential topics for the focus of a GAO hearing before the end of July might include:

1. The full Board of Supers authoring a letter to CMS specifically seeking a variance to the relocation plan in order to stop discharge and relocation of LHH's residents during the pendency of completing CMS recertification. Such a letter should not be done simply by individual members of the Board of Supervisors. It should include a letter on behalf of the full Board.
2. Urging Mayor Breed to separately author and submit a request to both CMS and the U.S. DHHS seeking a variance to halt discharge of patients until LHH obtains re-certification.
3. Expanding reporting on the Dashboard to report patient demographics, including data on the gender, race/ethnicity, and age ranges of patients being discharged, and most importantly how many of the discharges are so-called "behavioral health patients, vs. long-term care SNF patients.

I urge the GAO Committee to rapidly schedule a hearing rapidly before the end of July to address these issues and not wait another 10 weeks for a second *Committee of the Whole* hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

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Columnist

Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, District 2
The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3
The Honorable Gordon Mar, District 4
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, District 7
The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, District 9
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Supervisor, District 11
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Jessica Perkinson, Clerk of the GAO Committee