

Laurie Green, M.D.
President
Tessie M. Guillermo
Vice President
Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner
Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner
Suzanne Giraudo ED.D
Commissioner
Judy Guggenheim
Commissioner
Karim Salgado
Commissioner

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

Daniel Lurie Mayor
Department of Public Health



Daniel Tsai
Director of Health
Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.
Executive Secretary
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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Monday January 5, 2026 4:00 p.m.

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 408
San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: President Laurie Green, MD, President
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D
Commissioner Karim Salgado

Excused: Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D
Vice President Tessie Guillermo
Commissioner Judy Guggenheim

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2025.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the December 15, 2025 meeting minutes.

3) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

4) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Daniel Tsai, DPH Director of Health, presented the item.

INFLUENZA AWARENESS

Influenza (flu) activity has been increasing in San Francisco in recent weeks. Before the holidays, the Population Health Division and DPH Communications conducted interviews with print, radio, and television media to encourage flu vaccination and promote other steps to stay healthy.

KQED: [Flu Season Returns to San Francisco: Here's Where to Find Vaccines](#)

SFGATE: ['Super flu' risk in Bay Area increasing ahead of holidays](#)

DPH is encouraging people to take the following steps to keep themselves and the community healthy this winter:

- Everyone six months and over should get the latest flu vaccine as soon as they can. While the vaccine does not always prevent infection, it is effective against severe illness and hospitalization. The flu vaccine can also be given at the same time as the COVID vaccine, which is also strongly recommended. Visit [sf.gov/vax](#) for more information.
- If you are in a crowded indoor space such as a train or a plane, wear a well-fitted, high-quality mask like a KN95.
- Wash your hands regularly and cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.
- If you have symptoms of flu, such as a fever, cough, sore throat, or body aches, avoid contact with people by staying home. People with flu are most contagious during the first 3 days of their illness. If you are sick, especially if you are at [higher risk of severe illness](#), you should promptly contact your health care provider to be tested and get treatment.

DISEASE CONTROL AND CONTACT TRACING IN SHELTER HEALTH

A quick-thinking Shelter Health Nurse identified a guest with potentially serious health issues and sent him to the Emergency Department the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The patient was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis, a contagious and potentially deadly disease. WPIC Shelter Health, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Urban Alchemy, and Communicable Diseases pulled staff together to create a plan that included prescribing and dispensing prophylaxis to close contacts, disseminating information around bacterial meningitis to onsite staff for their information and to post on site, and planning for close contact follow-ups over the Thanksgiving holiday.

This was a quick collaborative effort in disease control and prevention, a core public health tenet. Special thanks to the Shelter Health team who completed contract tracing and provided post-exposure prophylaxis to close contacts within three hours of the initial report.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 12/305:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 0.9%.
- Twenty-one percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo asked if CDPH will be putting out guidelines for California since the recent Center for Disease Control vaccine schedule eliminates some vaccines. Director Tsai stated that it is so important for parents to continue vaccine their children. He added that California passed legislation last year that requires insurers to pay for vaccines on the existing list of required vaccines.

Commissioner Giraudo noted that she is concerned that Medi-Cal participants understand that vaccines are still available and covered by Medi-Cal. Director Tsai agreed that messaging around this issue is very important.

Commissioner Christian stated that she hopes that decision makers keep in mind the need for effective and substantial behavioral health. She added that if justice-involved mental health services are reduced due to budget issues, it impacts the safety of the community.

President Green requested that Director Tsai and DPH staff update the Health Commission as more details regarding health disparities that will be prioritized by the DPH and community.

**5) RESOLUTION TO RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND A GIFT OF \$480,000 FROM BREAKING THE CYCLE THROUGH
THE HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS FUND LLC, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND**

Todd Barrett, San Francisco Health Network Chief Medical Officer, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

6) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE

Hillary Kunins, MD, MPH, MS Director, Behavioral Health Services and Mental Health SF, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

Regarding slide 11, Commissioner Giraudo asked for an estimated timeline of when this initiative will begin increasing care delivery. Dr. Kunins stated that the planning for this initiative is happening now. The Health Commission will be updated when the timeline is developed.

Commissioner Giraudo asked if there is data from community-based organizations regarding individuals who refuse services. Dr. Kunins stated that this data is not universally collected, and she feels it's important to get feedback to improve the system.

Commissioner Christian requested that the information on client refusal of services be presented to the Health Commission annually to inform them of gaps in the system. Dr. Kunins stated that currently focus groups, needs assessments, and frontline staff interviews have been used to gather this data. She will take this request to the BHS team and will report back to the Commission.

President Green asked if the state is developing best practices as part of the new Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). Dr. Kunins stated that part of BHSA reform is insistence on using evidence-based practices.

7) DPH BUDGET FY2026-27 and FY2027-28

Drew Murrell, DPH Chief Financial Officer, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Christian thanked the presenters for their impactful work on the DPH budget.

President Green stated that the Health Commission look forward to seeing the next budget presentation for fiscal years 2026-2028.

8) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

President Green noted that the Finance and Planning Committee meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum of Health Commission members.

9) CONSENT CALENDAR

[President Green stated that the Consent Calendar item will be postponed due to the cancellation of the 1/5/26 Finance and Planning Committee meeting.](#)

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments

[Action Taken: The following item was unanimously approved by the Health Commission:](#)

- [January 2026 Contracts Report](#)

10) OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments

11) CLOSED SESSION

- a. Public comments on all matters pertaining to the closed session.
There was no public comment on this item.

- b. Vote on whether to hold a Closed Session.

[Action taken: The Health Commission voted unanimously to go into closed session.](#)

- c. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Existing and Anticipated Litigation. Closed session for the Health Commission to convene pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9 and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d), for the purpose of conferring with, or receiving

advice from, legal counsel regarding the following existing litigation matters in which the City is a party, and regarding anticipated litigation as plaintiff and/or defendant:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - SETTLEMENT OF EXISTING LITIGATION

Lan Pham, Quyen Jennifer Pham, Mai Pham, Ly Pham Rivera, Henry Pham, and Linda Pham, Individually and Successors-in-Interest to the Estate of Quy Pham v. City and County of San Francisco; San Francisco Department of Public Health; Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center; AHMC Seton Medical Center, LLC dba AMHC Seton Medical Center Coastsde d/p SNF; AMHC Healthcare Inc.; Phong Pham and Hoa Phamly as nominal defendants; and Does 1-100, inclusive.

The lawsuit was filed on September 28, 2023, in San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-23-609384. The lawsuit involves alleged elder abuse, patients' rights violations, medical negligence, and wrongful death, with the City to pay \$500,000.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - SETTLEMENT OF EXISTING LITIGATION

Taylor Wall v. City and County of San Francisco, and Does 1-10, inclusive, San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-24-618348.

The lawsuit was filed on September 23, 2024, in San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-24-618348. The lawsuit involves an employment dispute, with the City to pay \$52,000.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

- i. Discussion and vote to elect whether to disclose any portion of the closed session discussion that is not confidential under Federal or State law, the San Francisco Charter, or non-waivable privilege.
(San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a))
- ii. Possible report on action taken in closed session.
(Government Code Sections 54957.1(a) and 54957.7(b) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(b))

Action Taken: The Health Commission approved both legal settlements listed in the closed session agenda and voted to not disclose discussions held in closed session.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm.