

Meeting Minutes



City and County of San Francisco
Daniel Lurie, Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health
San Francisco Health Commission
Daniel Tsai, Director of Health

President

Laurie Green, MD

Commissioners

- Edward A. Chow, MD
- Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
- Suzanne Giraudo, ED.D
- Tessie Guillermo, Vice President
- Judy Guggenhime
- Karim Salgado

DPH Director of Health

Daniel Tsai

Health Commission Secretary

Mark Morewitz, MSW

Minutes for Health Commission Community and Public Health Committee

Date and Time

July 20, 2026 2pm

Agenda items

1. Call to Order

Present: Commissioner Judy Guggenhime
Commissioner Karim Salgado

Excused: Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D., Chair

Commissioner Guggenhime called the meeting to order at 2.03pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Health Commission Community and Public Health Committee Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the June 15, 2026 meeting minutes.

3. Turning the Tide on Overdose Through Collaborative Outpatient Care

Joanna Eveland, MD, Chief Medical Officer, SFHN Whole Person Integrated Care; and Elizabeth Abbs, MD, Primary Care Provider & Addiction Specialist, SFHN Primary Care, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guggenhime asked how the department defines individual success for patients in addiction treatment. She also asked whether the current system has the capacity to serve all individuals in need of these services. She emphasized the importance of retaining people in care and understanding metrics beyond medication adherence. Dr. Eveland explained that success is measured through retention on evidence-based medications and ongoing engagement in care. She added that the department has strong resources and achieves greatest impact through integrated collaboration across teams.

Commissioner Salgado asked what could be done to prevent individuals from beginning drug use and what resources could help the public avoid substance initiation. She also asked how gaps in treatment access could be closed and what additional tools staff need to ensure no clients fall through service gaps. Finally, she asked whether information is shared nationally with other programs. Dr. Eveland stated that trauma is a common driver of substance use and discussed upstream prevention challenges. She added that national collaboration occurs through UCSF partnerships and conference participation, and noted emerging national substance-use trends are monitored closely.

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Commissioner Salgado asked whether medications used in treatment apply broadly across drugs, including fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine, noting rising stimulant use among youth. She also asked what resources are available for nightlife businesses to obtain Narcan. Dr. Abbs described medication categories for opioid, alcohol, and stimulant use disorders and emphasized contingency management as the gold-standard for stimulant treatment. She confirmed Narcan is widely available and the department can supply it free to nightlife businesses.

Commissioner Guggenhime asked which populations may be underserved and whether changing patterns in substance use will require program changes over time. Dr. Abbs described existing racial inequities in overdose outcomes and stated efforts are underway to expand services in neighborhoods such as Bayview and Fillmore. She also highlighted increasing integration with behavioral health services.

Commissioner Guggenhime asked whether the department bills for the services described and if any are not reimbursable. Dr. Eveland confirmed that nearly all services are billable and supported through Medi-Cal (CalAIM), FQHC reimbursement, and other funding mechanisms.

4. San Francisco Climate Health Program

Matt Worlf, Manager, Climate Health Program, DPH Population Health Division, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Jessica Pessacow requested that the climate program include URLs to climate plans in presentations. She suggested partnerships to improve water quality, collaborate with ADA for vulnerable residents' home cooling needs, and expand weatherization assistance for seniors.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guggenhime asked whether heat is the primary climate-related challenge facing San Francisco. She also asked about simple community cooling strategies. Mr. Worlfe stated heat represents a growing and under-developed area of planning and acknowledged other hazards such as flooding and storms. He noted emergency guidance includes access to water and cooling.

Commissioner Salgado asked how AI data centers, which generate heat and consume water, impact southeastern neighborhoods already facing inequitable environmental burdens. She also asked whether federal funding risks could affect the program. Mr. Worlfe agreed the built environment contributes to heat. He noted state climate programs provide funding even if federal sources decline.

Commissioner Guggenhime asked which city departments receive climate-health information and whether those departments act on that information. Mr. Worlfe stated information is shared through ClimateSF, a multi-agency collaboration including Environment, Public Works, Planning, Port, and PUC. Staff said the partnership supports integrating health and equity into citywide climate planning.

5. General Public Comment

Amelia Harmon provided updates on the impending removal of peer counselors from the Street Crisis Response Team. She stated the change lacked public process, evaluation mechanisms, or communication with stakeholders. She urged the committee to request the full Commission calendar an informational report and to recommend pausing implementation until evaluation procedures exist

Jessica Pessacow supported increasing peer-counselor crisis response capacity. She stated that psychiatric emergencies often require specialized teams rather than police and emphasized benefits to emergency departments, police workload reduction, and community safety. They asked the Commission to uphold commitments to mental-health crisis response

6. Other Business

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm.