

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, Vice President
- Tessie Guillermo
- Judy Guggenhime
- Karim Salgado

DPH Director of Health

Daniel Tsai

Health Commission Secretary

Mark Morewitz, MSW

Minutes for Health Commission

Date and Time

August 3, 2026 4pm

Agenda items

1. Call to Order

Present: President Laurie Green, MD, President
Vice President Suzanne Giraudo, ED.D
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Karim Salgado

Excused: Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D
Commissioner Judy Guggenhime

President Green called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Health Commission Meeting of July 20, 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 July 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

3. General Public Comment

Amelia Harmon provided verbal comment and submitted the following written summary:

Good afternoon, President Green and Commissioners. My name is Amelia Harmon, District 9, speaking in my individual capacity. In the last three weeks I walked over twenty-three miles across our system of care — crisis centers, shelters, rehabs, drop-in centers, food distribution sites, supportive housing. I had to tell them Peer Counselors may be removed from the Street Crisis Response Team on August 14th. No one I spoke to had heard it anywhere else. For five and a half years these organizations have learned to expect non-uniformed peer support, backed by traditional first responders, when they have to call 911 for their people. Today I delivered this Commission a copy of a Collaborative Framework, prepared in my individual capacity. Supervisor Fielder has asked the Fire Commission to pause pending review on August 12th. A policy change of this consequence deserves a public process. Thank you.

Dr. Teresa Palmer supported the prior speaker's concerns and stated that eliminating peer counselors would increase risk, casualties, and mortality among individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. She urged the Commission to raise alarms about the proposed removal

4. Directors Report

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

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

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Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Christian thanked staff for implementing personal duress devices, stating that prior suggestions such as shared cell phones were inadequate. She emphasized that the cost was justified to support staff safety.

Vice President Giraudo asked for follow-up on communications with private schools, preschools, and early childhood education programs regarding vaccine guidance. She requested confirmation on written outreach and coordination with CDPH. Director Tsai stated he would follow up with colleagues in early childhood education and confirm any written materials planned for private and independent schools.

Commissioner Salgado asked whether technology companies receiving tax breaks could donate duress devices to expand staff coverage. She expressed preference for having more devices available to staff who work in higher-risk conditions. Director Tsai stated no donors had offered support for duress devices but confirmed the department prioritized budgeting for all staff working in field conditions.

5. Resolution to Authorize the Department of Public Health to Accept and Expend a Gift of \$81,000 from the EPIC Systems Corporation

Greg Wong introduced the resolution.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo asked whether funds were required to be spent specifically within FQHC clinics and requested confirmation after the meeting if necessary. Mr. Wong stated the funds were unrestricted but intended to support FQHC services and agreed to provide follow-up clarification.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See attachment)

6. Annual Report of Gifts Received by the DPH FY25-26

Lily Conover, DPH Controller, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

7. 2025 Skilled Nursing and Subacute Care Transfer Report

Claire Altman, Senior Health Program Planner, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Dr. Teresa Palmer expressed concern about rising out-of-county skilled nursing placements, especially by Kaiser. She stated out-of-county transfers disrupt family visitation and pose risks for elders requiring close monitoring. She requested updates on the stalled licensing of Chinese Hospital's planned subacute unit.

Patrick Monette-Shaw provided comment and submitted the following written summary:

Tracking this annual data of out-of-county discharges from San Francisco's nine acute care hospitals of patients discharged for skilled nursing facility (SNF) care has now reached a five-year total of at least 4,605 San Franciscans, but more probably 5,269 San Franciscans, if you estimate the number of San Franciscans CPMC claimed it couldn't verify for calendar years 2021 through 2024. Over the five years these reports have documented 74 San Franciscans, at minimum, have been discharged to out-of-county SUB-ACUTE SNF's. As SFDPH's "governing body," this Health Commission has failed to aggressively insist on the completion of any sub-acute SNF's in the City, ever since CPMC shut down new admissions to its St. Luke facility on 10/31/2017, which was the City's then, only remaining sub-acute SNF. The St. Luke closure to new admissions happened 8 years and 9 months ago! Now, the City still has no sub-acute facility admitting new patients.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guillermo asked whether hospitals were working toward consistent data standards for SNF placement reporting. She also inquired about barriers to establishing new subacute beds. Ms. Altman stated hospitals were collaborating to improve data consistency and that she would follow up regarding challenges related to subacute facility licensing.

Vice President Giraudo asked whether hospitals reported decreased in-county bed availability and whether Medicaid/Medi-Cal changes were affecting placement. Ms. Altman stated hospitals had not reported decreased capacity and agreed to follow up regarding potential impacts of Medi-Cal or Medicaid changes.

President Green asked whether the City tracks skilled nursing bed availability and whether hospitals have a shared resource to locate open beds. Ms. Altman stated hospitals rely on individual facility contracts and confirmed she would follow up with current regional bed availability data.

8. Joint Conference Committee Update

Commissioner Susan Christian, ZSFG JCC members, stated that at the July 27th ZSFG JCC meeting, the committee reviewed all standard reports including the Regulatory Affairs Report, Human Resources Report, CEO Report, Medical Staff Report and a presentation on Patient Safety Strategy. During the HR report, the commissioners were concerned about hiring timelines for psychiatric technicians and Anesthetists. Staff indicated that ZSFG is working with City College to develop a psychiatric technician training program to address the problem with having a candidate pool for these positions. Staff assured the committee that there are enough candidates to fill necessary anesthetist positions. Committee members remain concerned about ongoing nursing registry use and will now be getting monthly data on this issue. During the CEO Report, commissioners requested more information at future meetings in regard to the mental health eco-system and how workflow may bottleneck with psychiatrists. Commissioners also requested Medi-Cal and Medicare revenue projections for 2027. The Commissioners appreciated the presentation on patient safety strategies which focused on innovative medical approaches to address issues such as Sepsis and opioid disorder. ZSFG is initiating new data strategies to track and measure the success of these strategies. During the Medical Staff Report, the ZSFG JCC recommended that the full Commission approve the ZSFG policies listed on the Consent Calendar today. In closed session, the committee approved the Credentials Report and PIPS Minutes Report.

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Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

9. Finance and Planning Committee Update

Commissioner Tessie Guillermo, member, stated that the Finance and Planning Committee had a brief meeting because it reviewed only one contract and one professional services agreement. She explained that the committee examined a new contract with the Progress Foundation, noting that although the agreement is new, the services and budget remain unchanged, and she described how the program supports transitional-age youth who need case management and assistance developing independent living skills. She highlighted that the limited agenda allowed the committee to explore the program in greater depth, including referral pathways, client progress tracking, and outcome measurement. She also summarized the committee's review of a laboratory services contract with ARUP Labs, emphasizing that while it is structured as a new agreement, the vendor has long provided complex testing services for the department. Finally, she noted that the committee recommended approval of both items for the full commission's consent calendar.

10. Consent Calendar

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 following items:

- **August 2026 Contracts Report**
- **Request for Approval of a New Professional Services Agreement with ARUP Laboratories Inc. to Perform Reference Laboratory Testing Services. The Proposed Contract Has a Total of Not to-Exceed Amount of \$7,200,000, Including 0% Contingency, For a Three-Year Term Commencing September 1, 2026, and Expiring August 30, 2029.**
- **ZSFG Policies**

11. Other Business

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16pm.

Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 26-20

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND
A GIFT OF \$81,000 FROM THE EPIC SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

WHEREAS, The Epic Systems Corporation provides for the distribution of eighty-one thousand dollars (\$81,000) to the Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, The Epic Safety Net Program comprises hospitals, clinics, emergency medical service treatment providers, and affiliate and contract treatment providers, all of which are under the Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, The Epic Systems Corporation has donated to the Department of Public health in the amount of \$81,000 for the department's role as a Federally Qualified Health Center; and

WHEREAS, The Epic Systems Corporation provides gifts to entities that help low income and at-risk populations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Health Commission authorizes the Department of Public Health to accept and expend a gift of cash of up to eighty-one thousand dollars (\$81,000) to support the goal of helping low income and at-risk populations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the gift will be accepted and expended consistent with San Francisco Administrative Code Sections governing the acceptance of gifts to the City and County of San Francisco, including San Francisco Administrative Code Section 10.100-305.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on August 3, 2026, adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary