

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

August 17, 2026 2pm

Agenda items

1. Call to Order

Present: Commissioner Judy Guggenhime
Commissioner Karim Salgado

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

Commissioner Salgado called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Health Commission Community and Public Health Committee Meeting Minutes 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 June 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

3. San Francisco Community Health Improvement Plan

Priscilla Chu, DrPH, MPH, and Lucia Angel, M.A., Population Health Division, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Roberto Vargas, speaking for the Chicano/Latino/Indigena Health Equity Coalition, urged the Commission to evaluate how the City invests in chronic disease prevention. He expressed concern that soda tax revenues are no longer directed based on expert advisory recommendations and are instead filling budget gaps. He emphasized the importance of investing in environments that promote physical activity, healthy food access, and preventive dental health. He encouraged re-engagement with the Soda Tax Advisory Committee to strengthen long-term prevention strategies

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Salgado asked for clarification regarding the origin of data used in the Community Health Assessment. She expressed concern that Latino identity is often miscategorized across disparate data systems, which can obscure key health priorities for this community. She noted that categorization inconsistencies could undermine accurate representation of chronic disease trends. She also asked which communities reported feeling left out and whether future revisions could better capture health conditions affecting Asian communities. Lucia Angel stated that the assessment draws on diverse sources including national datasets, statewide hospitalization records, surveillance data, community focus groups, and third-party reports. She acknowledged that not all communities saw their priorities reflected and agreed that improvements could ensure everyone “sees themselves” in the assessment. She added that Asian community partners specifically reported that Hepatitis B and Tuberculosis were insufficiently highlighted.

Commissioner Guggenhime asked how the current CHIP process differed from earlier cycles, particularly those conducted during COVID. She noted that previous community engagement had been limited due

to emergency response conditions. She also inquired whether federal policy or budget constraints influenced the prioritization or planning process. Finally, she asked whether funding limitations shaped the type or scale of projects that partner organizations were able to submit. Ms. Angel explained that the current process was far more collaborative and intentionally broadened to bring in more community voices than the COVID-era cycle. She stated that although federal policy changes did not significantly alter the process, lack of funding limited implementation options for community partners. She noted that partners aligned plans with existing initiatives because starting new programs was fiscally difficult.

Commissioner Salgado asked whether the Commission could assist in improving future CHA/CHIP development, particularly early in the process. She raised concerns that data relevant to Asian communities had not been included despite availability, and asked what type of Commission involvement could ensure more comprehensive representation. She emphasized the need to maintain institutional memory even as Commission membership changes over time. She further asked whether additional reporting by race, ethnicity, neighborhood, or age might help ensure all communities appear in the next CHA. Dr. Chu stated that Commission engagement early in the assessment process would be helpful, allowing concerns to be voiced before data selection is finalized. She agreed that future CHA versions should include expanded pages reflecting hospitalization trends and causes of death across demographic groups. She noted that staff intend to allocate more resources to enhance comprehensiveness in future cycles.

4. Regulation of Massage Businesses and Practitioners

Michelle Vega, Danny Lee, Ivy Phan, and Albert Felipe, Environmental Health Branch, Population Health Division, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guggenhime asked whether all individuals performing massage are required to be licensed and how inspectors identify unlicensed practitioners. She sought clarity on differences between business permits and individual practitioner licenses. She questioned whether illicit operations generally lack licenses and how inspectors discover unpermitted establishments. She asked whether advertising without a permit triggers enforcement actions. Mr. Lee explained that all massage practitioners must hold either a California Massage Therapy Council license or a DPH practitioner license. He noted that inspectors monitor both permitted and unpermitted locations and may act when massage services are advertised without valid permits. He confirmed that unlicensed operations commonly violate multiple sections of the health code.

Commissioner Salgado asked why illicit massage business activity appears to be increasing compared to the prior year, referencing the substantial rise in online customer reviews. She asked whether large events, such as the Super Bowl, influence spikes in activity. She also asked how the City detects unpermitted operations and whether human trafficking trends might explain the increase. Ms. Phan stated that illicit activity dropped significantly during COVID but has steadily increased as normal operations returned. She noted that online reviews indicate both more customers and more unlawful establishments opening. She added that large events can temporarily increase activity, but the overall trend reflects a broader rise in illegal operations.

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Commissioner Salgado asked what the City is doing across agencies to address human trafficking associated with illicit massage businesses. She noted that other regulated industries must post signage and asked whether similar requirements or broader public education could help. She shared concerns about neighborhood impacts and asked what tools residents have to report suspicious activity. She emphasized the need for coordinated response among DPH, SFPD, DBI, and other agencies. Ms. Vega explained that cross-departmental coordination is one of the most significant challenges, as trafficking cases require participation from multiple agencies. She noted that community complaints are welcomed and often critical to initiating an investigation. She stated that 311 is the appropriate reporting channel for residents and confirmed that city agencies collaborate on enforcement when trafficking indicators are present.

Commissioner Guggenhime asked how undocumented trafficking victims are supported when discovered during inspections or enforcement operations. She asked whether lack of identification prevents victims from accessing services and whether police or immigration authorities become involved. She noted that willingness to accept assistance varies and asked how DPH can improve rapport with potential victims. Mr. Lee stated that workers often lack identification because it is withheld by traffickers, which serves as a trafficking indicator. He explained that DPH attempts to refer individuals to supportive services, but many decline assistance. He emphasized the program's goal of improving communication and trust-building to increase successful referrals.

Commissioner Salgado asked about distinguishing between sex trafficking and voluntary sex work, noting that both appear in online reviews. She asked how inspectors determine whether massage services are being performed in addition to sexual services, and whether different enforcement paths exist. She also asked whether brothel activity falls under DPH jurisdiction or only SFPD enforcement. Ms. Vega stated that DPH's jurisdiction applies only when massage, as defined in code, is being performed. She noted that many brothels operate without offering legitimate massage, and in those cases SFPD's vice unit leads enforcement. She added that online reviews help inspectors determine when massage and sexual services are both occurring, thereby triggering DPH involvement.

Commissioner Salgado asked about landlords who knowingly allow illicit massage or trafficking operations, particularly when spaces are altered illegally. She asked how property owners are held accountable and whether penalties apply to both permitted and unpermitted locations. She also asked whether landlords may be barred from leasing to massage businesses after enforcement actions. Mr. Lee stated that landlords can be held responsible under public nuisance violations and may face penalties as part of enforcement settlements. He noted that in one case, a settlement prohibited future massage-related use of the property for ten years. He confirmed that penalties apply whether or not the business had a valid permit.

5. General Public Comment

Amelia Harmon provided comment regarding the restructuring of the Street Crisis Response model in the Fire Department. She stated that peer counselors no longer participate on crisis teams, which she believes contradicts priorities identified in the CHIP. She reported that Fire Commissioners expressed concern over loss of the peer model and highlighted that the City did not capture baseline outcome data before restructuring. She asked the Director of Health to report on available baseline data, planned outcome measures, and implementation timelines.

Roberto Vargas offered additional general public comment, reiterating concerns about chronic disease inequities. He emphasized the importance of environmental health investments funded through soda

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tax revenue, including breastfeeding support, dental care, healthy food access, and physical activity programs. He expressed concern that current budgeting practices divert prevention funding away from its intended uses. He urged the Commission to re-engage with the Soda Tax Advisory Committee to strengthen prevention infrastructure

6. Other Business

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12pm.