

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

Date and Time

September 21, 2026 4pm

Agenda items

1. Call to Order

Present: President Laurie Green, MD, President
Vice President Suzanne Giraudo, ED.D
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo
Commissioner Judy Guggenhime
Commissioner Karim Salgado

Excused: Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

President Green called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Health Commission Meeting of August 17, 2026

Mr. Morewitz announced that on item eight, “Review of Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center and Proposed Replacement Hospital,” two unintended sentences were pasted at the end of the paragraph with Commissioner Guillermo’s questions, should be removed.

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 August 17, 2026 meeting minutes with the correction noted.

3. General Public Comment

Amellia Harmon provided public comment and submitted this written summary:

In my individual capacity, I have provided both the physical and now digital invitation and charter for the Crisis Response Standards Working Group. The Working Group is a way to honor the daily work of our providers across our system of care including our first responders, and to leave behind something durable: linked data pathways. Deliverables are listed in the charter. The first meeting is October 28, 2026, and I respectfully ask this Commission and our Health Director name representatives from OCC, BHS, HOT, and the Business Office to be seated. I would also recommend attendance from interested parties within PES. I hope to draft an attendance roster by October 2, 2026. As we strive to best represent everyday work in numbers, I am linking the study I quoted today: “The nonclinical behavioral health role tied to a 43% reduction in inpatient services.”

Geoffrey Grier urged continued efforts to confront anti-Blackness in behavioral health systems, noting this work requires sustained commitment. He stated homeless programs should not be blamed for the city's financial challenges and encouraged the Commission to raise these concerns to the Mayor.

4. Resolution Honoring Jenny Louie

Daniel Tsai, DPH Director of Health, introduced the item, noting that Ms. Louie excelled at translating complex material into actionable information and provided critical leadership during major initiatives such as EPIC implementation and the DPH COVID-19 response. He thanked Ms. Louie's for her strong commitment to public service and her calm, effective leadership during periods of crisis.

Public Comment:

Gigi Whitley, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, thanked the Commission for recognizing Ms. Louie and described her as a mentor to CFOs and analysts across the city.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guggenhime praised Ms. Louie's intelligence and commitment to service, highlighting her strong grasp of systems and budgetary processes. She thanked her for contributions at San Francisco General Hospital and her leadership during complex transitions.

Commissioner Guillermo expressed gratitude for Ms. Louie's decades of leadership and service within the Finance Committee. She noted Ms. Louie's ability to manage demanding departmental responsibilities with clarity and professionalism.

Vice President Giraudo thanked Ms. Louie for providing accessible explanations of budget materials to commissioners. She recalled her guidance when she joined the Commission and suggested she would be an excellent educator.

Commissioner Chow reflected on 18 years of working with Ms. Louie, praising her transparency, reliability, and compassion. He noted her integrity in financial reporting and her commitment to departmental mission.

Mr. Morewitz expressed personal appreciation for Ms. Louie's kindness and humanity within a challenging bureaucracy. He noted Ms. Louie's ability to maintain compassion while navigating complex work.

President Green stated that Ms. Louie demonstrated remarkable talent identified early in her career. She advanced through increasingly complex leadership roles during periods of major uncertainty, such as the EPIC implementation, the pandemic, and budget challenges. She remained unflappable, highly respected, and skilled at translating complex information so that others could make clear decisions. President Green emphasized Ms. Louie's dedication, long hours, and exceptional contribution to the City.

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

5. Directors Report

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

Public Comment:

Amelia Harmon expressed appreciation for improved care connection metrics but urged development of better data to understand long-term engagement. She cited national research demonstrating the value of peer specialists and encouraged continued inclusion of peers in crisis response.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Salgado asked about the newly detected synthetic opioid involved in the overdose death of a 16-year-old and expressed concern about youth exposure. She also asked about the impact of data centers in southeastern neighborhoods and their environmental footprint. Director Tsai responded that the opioid, medetomidine, is highly potent and has appeared in counterfeit pills; he noted outreach to parents and youth. He stated the department would follow up regarding environmental health concerns.

Commissioner Chow requested clearer guidance for providers on seasonal COVID-19 vaccination, noting ongoing confusion about vaccine schedules. He emphasized the need for provider guidance and advisories. Director Tsai responded that the department follows Western States Health Alliance guidance and agreed to explore additional communication to providers.

Commissioner Chow noted that frequent COVID-19 vaccine updates may confuse the public and providers. He encouraged messaging that frames COVID-19 vaccination as a seasonal norm. Director Tsai agreed this clarification would help align public expectations and stated the department would work with provider networks on messaging.

6. Resolution Honoring 20 Years of Impact: Shape Up San Francisco Coalition

Marianne Szeto, Acting Deputy Director of Community Wellness, Chronic Disease Prevention Programs Manager; and Laura Vollmer, Shape Up SF Coalition Co-Chair and Community Nutrition and Health Advisor with UC Cooperative Extension, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

President Green expressed appreciation for the coalition's longstanding work supporting health equity, chronic disease prevention, healthy retail initiatives, Sunday Streets, and sugary-drink policy. Staff highlighted major accomplishments and requested approval of the resolution.

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

7. Resolution to Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to Authorize the DPH to Accept and Expend a Gift of \$118,00 from Welcome Baby USA, Inc.

Carol Taniguchi, Community Health Programs for Youth, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

President Green supported the donation of newborn care boxes, noting its importance for low-income families. She asked about distribution points and service integration. Ms. Taniguchi responded that the donation includes 660 newborn care packages valued at \$118,800 and confirmed distribution through Zuckerberg San Francisco General's nursery and DPH clinics.

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

8. Resolution Authorizing the DPH to Apply for a License to Operate a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly at 624 Laguna Street and to Appoint an Administrator for the Facility

Angela Almeida, ZSFG Chief Integrative Officer, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Amelia Harmon emphasized the value of peer counselors during crisis response with vulnerable individuals like those who will live in the facility planned for 624 Laguna Street and referenced letters from multiple program directors supporting their role.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guillermo asked whether reducing capacity from 59 beds to 45–49 beds would displace current residents and requested details on admission criteria. Dr. Almeida responded that no residents will be displaced because capacity has been reduced in advance; referrals will continue through the Behavioral Health Services residential system of care.

Vice President Giraudo asked how complex care services would be supported and how residents would be evaluated for placement. Dr. Almeida stated that the new site allows expanded medical and dementia care and affirmed continued coordination through Behavioral Health Services.

Commissioner Chow asked how dementia care would be safely integrated. Dr. Almeida responded that dedicated floors at the new facility will support non-ambulatory residents and dementia care needs.

President Green asked about turnover rates, admission prioritization, and coordination with Laguna Honda Hospital. Dr. Almeida responded that turnover is low and future placement decisions will maximize complex care capacity; transitions to skilled nursing facilities will occur as needed.

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

9. FY 26-27 Approval Request for the Administration Of the Laguna Honda Hospital Gift Fund

Leo Palacios, LHH Gift Fund Program Manager, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment for this item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow asked for clarification on how the proposed Gift Fund budget increases, particularly activity therapy, arts engagement, and medical clowning, would affect the daily experience of Laguna Honda residents and whether the expanded programming could be sustained financially over time. In response, staff explained that the increased allocations would enhance resident programming while still preserving long-term fund stability. He also noted that some expenses were being shifted to the hospital's operating budget to ensure the Gift Fund remains viable

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the LHH Gift Fund budget.

10. Joint Conference Committee Update

Commissioner Tessie Guillermo, LHH JCC Chair, stated that at the September 14th LHH JCC meeting, the Executive Team reported major progress in medication-safety improvements, noting six months with no expired-medication administrations following a multi-department effort. The recent DEA audit resulted in only one minor documentation finding. Leadership also outlined plans to deploy the Evolv weapons-detection system at three entrances in October, prompting commission questions about accuracy, sensitivity, and expected operational impacts. She stated that Quality updates highlighted continued 95%+ compliance with daily care-plan reviews and the success of the North 3 pilot neighborhood, which is implementing improved interdisciplinary processes, medication simplification, and efforts to reduce clinic no-show rates. She added that the Behavioral Response Team presented its proactive long-term-care model, emphasizing early identification of behavioral triggers, rounding, care-plan integration, and staff coaching. The Annual Security Report detailed expanded security leadership, rising threat-management reporting, and increased visitor contraband confiscation driven by higher visitor volumes. She also stated that additional updates noted several new RN hires, continued delays in union verification for the nursing bid, and regulatory activity including fire-life-safety deficiencies that were later reversed. In closed session, the committee approved the credentials report and PIPS minutes.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

11. 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:

ZSFG Policies

- Neurology rules and regulations
- Acupuncture standardized procedures
- MERT standardized procedures
- CNM privilege list
- Urology standardized procedures and credentialing criteria

12. Community and Public Health Committee Update

Commissioner Guggenhime, member who chaired the meeting, stated that the committee reviewed and discussed two thorough presentations. The first was on the DPH TB Program, which has a mission to control, prevent, and eliminate tuberculosis in San Francisco by providing compassionate, equitable, and supportive care of the highest quality to all person. Of note is that the TB case rate has increased from 6.8 per 100,000 people to 9.3 per 100,000 people in San Francisco. A possible explanation for this rise is

Meeting Minutes

that during the COVID pandemic, people stayed home more often and TB was not spread as actively. People were also not accessing medical care as much and so case detection may have been lower for this reason too. The presentation included a map with incidence rate of TB by San Francisco neighborhood. Chinatown has the most cases. The presenters also gave an update on the TB Outbreak at Riordan High School. 97% of the total school population was evaluated. Eight cases of active TB were diagnosed; 244 cases of latent TB infection were found and 96% of those individuals initiated treatment.

Commissioner Guggenhime noted that the second presentation was a Hepatitis C Update. Hepatitis C is easily cured with a course of medicine for 6 to 8 weeks. It is recommended that every adult be tested once in a lifetime. If someone has risk factors, they are encouraged to seek guidance from their primary care provider regarding the cadence of testing. Many people who test positive do not seek or complete treatment. The US Department of Health and Human Services set a goal of 58% of people with Hepatitis C to complete treatment and cure. In San Francisco, there is racial disparity in regard to these treatment and cure rate. For example, 54.2% of reported chronic case were White, compared to only 37.5 of the San Francisco population; 22.5 of reported chronic cases were Black/African American, compared to 4.8% of the San Francisco population, nearly a 5-fold increase. The presenters discussed efforts to decrease this disparity.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Salgado emphasized new school-entry TB testing requirements and recommended more frequent testing intervals. She asked about impacts from syringe exchange program budget changes. Director Tsai responded that cleanup contract adjustments reflect reduced syringe volume and do not represent syringe exchange service reductions.

Commissioner Chow urged targeted interventions in high-incidence neighborhoods and inquired about budget pressures on HCV or TB screening. Director Tsai reaffirmed commitment to clear vaccination messaging and agreed to return with updated program analysis.

President Green expressed concern that national and state budget cuts could negatively affect essential public-health programs, specifically tuberculosis and Hepatitis C screening, and noted that advocates have already reported reduced access among vulnerable communities. She emphasized the importance of understanding how these financial pressures may impact data collection and treatment capacity. Director Tsai responded by clarifying that the DPH did not cut TB, Hep C, or syringe-related budgets locally, explaining that any federal grant reductions may affect community providers rather than DPH-funded services. He added that the department reinvested dollars from any site changes and offered to bring back a detailed update once federal changes fully take effect.

13. Other Business

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

14. Closed Session

- A) Public comments on all matters pertaining to the Closed Session. (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.15).

There was no public comment on this item.

- B) Vote on whether to hold a Closed Session.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to go into closed session.

- C) Closed Session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(b) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(b):

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

MARK MOREWITZ, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH COMMISSION AFFAIRS

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

1. 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 Charter, or Non-Waivable Privilege (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a).) (Action item)
2. 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 voted unanimously to not disclose discussions held in closed session.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Attachment A

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 26-23**

HONORING JENNY LOUIE

WHEREAS, Jenny Louie has served the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF), and the Department of Public Health as an exceptional leader; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Louie began her City and County of San Francisco tenure at the San Francisco Arts Commission as a Program Manager in 2000 and then transitioned to a Fiscal and Policy Analyst position in 2006, serving in this role under Mayor Gavin Newsom; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Louie joined the Department of Public Health (DPH) in 2008; and held a succession of managerial positions with increased responsibility, including the DPH Budget Manager; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Louie was appointed as the DPH Chief Financial Officer in 2021. During her tenure in this position, Ms. Louie led the development of DPH's annual budget as well as supported such major initiatives as the transition to the Affordable Care Act; the rollout of EPIC, the DPH electronic health record system; Mental Health SF; and implementation of major Medi-Cal Programs including Whole Person Care and CalAIM, and the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, After being appointed Chief Operating Officer of DPH in 2024, Ms. Louie oversaw the finances and administrative operations of the City's largest department, including Zuckerberg San Francisco General and Laguna Honda Hospitals, and a citywide network of primary care, mental health, and substance use programs, in addition to the many Population Health Division programs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Louie has ensured the prioritization of the department's true north pillars of health impact, workforce investment, safety and security, financial stewardship, equity and service experience; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Louie is known for her generosity of time, support, problem-solving and leadership while moving her staff and DPH towards operational excellence; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Louie has built a legacy of service and leadership to support and improve the lives of all San Franciscans. She will be dearly missed by many at the DPH and in the greater San Francisco public health communities.

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission honors Jenny Louie for her outstanding service and effective leadership, and wishes her well in her future endeavors.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of September 21, 2026, adopted the foregoing resolution.

Laurie Green, MD

Laurie Green, MD
Health Commission President

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 26-24**

HONORING 20 YEARS OF IMPACT: SHAPE UP SAN FRANCISCO COALITION

WHEREAS, In 2006, Shape Up SF was convened by Mayor Gavin Newsom as The Mayor's Challenge: Shape Up San Francisco, co-led by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF), to address chronic disease disparities; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the Coalition became Shape Up San Francisco and transitioned to community-based leadership, with backbone support from the Community Health Equity and Promotion Branch in the Population Health Division of DPH; and

WHEREAS, Shape Up SF convenes over 40 community partners spanning nonprofits, academic and medical institutions, government agencies, and funders for collective impact; and

WHEREAS, Shape Up SF's Bayview HEAL Zone Food Guardians laid the foundation for the citywide Healthy Retail SF program, increasing access to healthy food for thousands of San Franciscans; and

WHEREAS, Shape Up SF sponsored the launch of Sunday Streets, now in its 18th season, bringing safe spaces for physical activity and recreation to neighborhoods lacking open space; and

WHEREAS, Shape Up SF laid the groundwork for SF's soda tax by raising awareness of the harms of sugary drinks and industry tactics, supporting healthy beverage policies, and partnering with policymakers to introduce sugary drinks policies. Since 2018, \$85 million in soda tax funds have been invested in the people and places most targeted by the beverage industry; and

WHEREAS, Shape Up SF continues to champion upstream prevention strategies that address chronic disease disparities. Shape Up SF envisions an equitable, thriving community where all who live, work, learn, and play in San Francisco enjoy optimal health. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission honors the Shape Up San Francisco Coalition for 20 years of advancing health equity and chronic disease prevention through systems changes that increase nutrition security and active living.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on September 21, 2026 adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz,
Health Commission Executive Secretary

**Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 26-21**

**RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND A GIFT OF \$118,800 FROM WELCOME BABY USA INC**

WHEREAS, The Welcome Baby USA Inc organization will donate to the Department of Public Health an in-kind gift in the amount of \$118,800 for the Ambulatory Care Team; and

WHEREAS, The Welcome Baby USA Inc organization has notified the Department of Public Health that proceeds from the gift will be distributed; and

WHEREAS, The gift will be in the form of boxes of diapers, wipes and other baby supplies for newborns; and

WHEREAS, The Welcome Baby USA Inc organization provides low-income mothers with one comprehensive package containing everything she and her newborn need in the first four weeks of life; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Health Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department of Public Health to accept and expend an in-kind gift of up to one hundred eighteen thousand eight hundred (\$118,800) to help low-income mothers; 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 10.100-201.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on August 17, 2026, adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 26-24**

**AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO APPLY FOR A LICENSE TO OPERATE A
RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AT 624 LAGUNA STREET AND TO APPOINT AN
ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE FACILITY**

WHEREAS, The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) licenses Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs), which are facilities that provide much-needed care, supervision, and support for older adults; and

WHEREAS, In order to expand the number of RCFE beds in San Francisco, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH) wishes to apply for a state RCFE license; and

WHEREAS, State law requires that applicants for RCFE licenses file an application form with CDSS, and provide verification and documentation as requested; and

WHEREAS, When an applicant for a RCFE license is a government entity, CDSS requires that the applicant submit evidence that it is authorized to apply for the license, such as a resolution from its Governing Body ; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Health Commission of the City and County of San Francisco hereby authorizes SFPDH to submit an application to CDSS for a license to operate an RCFE located at 624 Laguna Street, San Francisco, California; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission of the City and County of San Francisco hereby authorizes SFPDH to appoint an Administrator for this facility.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on September 21, 2026, adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary