

Laurie Green, M.D.
President

Tessie M. Guillermo
Vice President

Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner

Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner

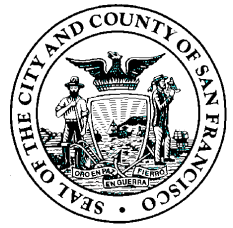
Suzanne Giraudo ED.D
Commissioner

Judy Guggenhime
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

TEL (628) 754-6539

MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Monday October 6, 2025 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
Vice President Tessie Guillermo
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D
Commissioner Judy Guggenhime
Commissioner Karim Salgado

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm.

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

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments on this item.

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

3) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Ward Kline stated that vaccinations are used to put people on health surveillance to influence voting at home or mail in ballots. He looks forward to getting a call that his health records have been corrected.

Dave Sanchez, former San Francisco Deputy City Attorney, stated that San Francisco Ordinance 272-18 requires residents practicing massage to obtain certification from the California Massage Therapy Council. This

organization is accused of denying Asian students certification and weaponizing their authority against massage professionals who complain about illegal activity in their workplace. He urged the City to review their relationship with the Council.

Dr. Teresa Palmer stated she attempted to advocate for a woman who was transferred to a skilled nursing facility in the East Bay because the San Francisco Health Services system would not allow the retired city worker to go to Laguna Honda (LHH). She died due to poor care. She noted that Medicare PPOs and HMOs do not have contracts with LHH. LHH Admissions staff told her that they will only accept Medi-Cal patients. Even when the LHH Admissions staff were told the woman could spend down her savings to be eligible for Medi-Cal, she was denied. LHH stated that they would not accept her Medicare plan. LHH did not offer any assistance. She noted that there are some one-time contracts available for Kaiser patients.

Patrick Monette-Shaw made comments and submitted the following written summary:

As shown on my overhead chart, as of 9/12/2025 LHH's total census was 545 patients, with only 538 residents on the 13 SNF Units. The chart illustrates that of LHH's current 649 SNF beds, 111 remain empty. The hospital's census has remained flat for two months. Significantly, that was the same number of vacant SNF beds a month earlier on 8/22/2025, and six more empty SNF beds than on 7/22/2025. This suggests that despite any admissions over the past three months, LHH has lost a significant number of patients due to planned and unplanned discharges, AWOL's, and patients who died. LHH isn't going to reach having a full census by December, as you have wrongly assumed. Why are admissions taking so long? How many more elderly San Franciscans unable to get admitted to LHH will be forced into out-of-county facilities, also known as patient dumping? What's the problem with admissions?

4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Daniel Tsai, DPH Director of Health, presented the item. He began by acknowledging the death of Jay Alexander, an Urban Alchemy worker who was shot while on duty. He noted the dedication and hard work of all members of street teams in San Francisco. He noted that several DPH staff have been attacked in the last few weeks. He added that the safety of all DPH staff is a priority and DPH leaders continue to meet to develop strategies.

In terms of the budget, Director Tsai stated that over the last few years, the DPH has grown at a more rapid rate than the City, which is an important factor to consider for future budget submissions.

DPH RELEASES 2024 HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT

DPH released the 2024 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report that provides a comprehensive overview of the state of HIV in San Francisco. The report shows that 146 new HIV diagnoses were reported in San Francisco in 2024, a 4.3% increase from the record low 140 diagnoses reported in 2023. The total number of people living with HIV with a known current San Francisco address was 11,552 by the end of 2024.

Among racial/ethnic groups in the City, the increase in new HIV diagnoses was highest among Black/African Americans, with 40 reported in 2024 compared to 27 in 2023. In addition, new diagnoses among cis women increased from 14 in 2023 to 26 in 2024. Nearly half (46%) of new diagnoses among cis women in 2024 were Black/African American.

HIV Prevention Efforts

Getting tested is the only way for people to know their HIV status. DPH helps people access testing through a variety of community-based programs. The Department's Take Me Home program allows people to order an HIV test and have it delivered directly to their home. Participation in the

program has increased from 249 orders in 2021 to 1,670 orders in 2024. The program is promoted by the DPH-led Have Good Sex and PrEP Supports campaigns that aim to reduce stigma in the Black/African American and Latine/x communities.

DPH funds seven Health Access Points (HAP) that are designed to reduce disparities by providing equity-focused, stigma-free, and low barrier HIV prevention, care and treatment services. While everyone is welcome at the HAPs, each HAP is designed to address the specific health needs of priority populations, including Black/African Americans and Latine/x, and people who use drugs. Over 9,400 HIV tests were administered at the HAPs between July 2023 and June 2024, their first year of operation.

In addition, DPH has also been proactive in promoting and enrolling people on HIV PrEP, a highly effective medication that prevents HIV. From 2015 through 2024, PrEP use among men who have sex with men (MSM) without HIV increased from 21% to 63% among San Francisco City Clinic patients who were San Francisco residents. DPH is also part of Getting to Zero San Francisco, a consortium of over 300 members focused on supporting access to PrEP and other efforts to eliminate new HIV infections, preventable deaths, and HIV stigma and discrimination.

Linkage to Care

Quickly linking people to care and effective treatment makes it less likely for HIV to spread and improves health outcomes. In 2023 and 2024, 94% of people were linked to care within one month of diagnosis. Viral suppression within 12 months of diagnosis increased to 87% for 2023 diagnoses from 79% in 2020.

The full 2024 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report can be read in full [here](#).

HIV Prevention and Treatment Resources:

San Francisco City Clinic: sfcityclinic.org

Health Access Points: sf.gov/information--health-access-point-hap

Take Me Home: takemehome.org

PHEPR UPDATES

Strategic Planning Project Grant

The Visitacion Valley & Sunnyside Community Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (PHEPR) Strategic Planning Grant Project was officially launched with its first meeting on July 16. Eight community-based organizations (CBOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) are participating grantees working together with our Community Resilience Section to draft their Emergency Preparedness Strategic Plans. Plans are drafted in bi-weekly working sessions where the Community Resilience Section facilitates and coordinates speaking engagements with subject matter experts. PHEPR's Community Resilience will continue to facilitate workshops until October 8th to support the CBOs and FBOs to build stronger community networks for emergency preparedness.

Listening Sessions

Eight Community Listening Sessions were organized and facilitated by the Community Section in vulnerable neighborhoods. The listening sessions gave PHEPR the opportunity to gain information regarding assets and needs in communities in South of Market near the Tenderloin, Bayview/Hunter's Point, the Mission, and Western Addition neighborhoods. Each session was adapted from the previous to iterate upon participant input and improve accessibility and one of the listening sessions was conducted in Spanish. Attendees of the listening sessions provided a diverse array of input and information, and their post-session evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. The needs identified in the sessions will be incorporated into existing and future DPH emergency plans.

Needs Assessments

Community Communications Needs Assessments were conducted and completed by our contractor, Civic Edge. The communication needs of vulnerable communities in Visitacion Valley and Sunnydale were assessed via over 100 interviews and eight focus groups. Civic Edge will produce a comprehensive report with their findings and a communications toolkit and the findings will be utilized by PHEPR and DPH to improve risk communications and information sharing during emergency incidents and special events.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER LICENSING SURVEY

The Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing surveyors conducted a one-day annual licensing survey of the Behavioral Health Center's Residential Care for the Elderly (RCFE) facility with no deficiencies identified. Congratulations to Charisse Li and the entire RCFE team for their outstanding preparation and dedication, which contributed to a smooth and successful survey process. As always, thanks to our Regulatory Affairs team for supporting our teams during surveys throughout the year.

PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM HOSTS SUCCESSFUL SURVEY

In September, the ZSFG Pharmacy Residency Program underwent a robust survey by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists, a national accrediting body. They earned the maximum possible duration of 8 years. This rare distinction reinforces the high quality of care, teaching, mentorship and clinical preceptors within the department, with the surveyors praising the program as rigorous and vital to train the next generation of clinical pharmacists in a public health setting. This is a huge accomplishment that highlights the key role pharmacists play in DPH. Congratulations to the entire pharmacy team.

ZSFG SHOWCASES CONSTRUCTION AND SEISMIC IMPROVEMENTS

Health Director Dan Tsai toured ZSFG on September 26th to see the progress of seismic safety upgrades and ongoing construction projects on campus, many of which are part of ZSFG's goal of creating an Ambulatory Center of Excellence in Building 5. Dr. Susan Ehrlich led the tour with Chief Operating Officer Sabrina Robinson, Deputy Chief Operations Officer Chauncey Jackson and Chief Communications Officer Christine Falvey. Dan was joined by DPH Chief Operating Officer Jenny Louie to visit the Urgent Care Clinic and see the improvements in staff and patient experience since their renovation and move; the new Psychiatric Emergency Services to view the progress of ongoing construction; the Clinical Lab Track Replacement and Renovation Project to observe how we are getting lab results faster; and the Family Health Center and Specialty Clinics to see what is envisioned for the future. Gratitude to the staff who helped showcase these important projects including, Amy Lee, Dr. Angelica Almeida, Joan Torres, Dr. Mark Leary, Andrea Chon, Dr. Barbara Haller, and Chi Prijoles.

STAFF HONORED BY AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

In September, two ZSFG staff earned prestigious awards from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). ACEP selected Dr. Starr Knight as the 2024-2025 Outstanding Speaker of the Year. The award recognizes a faculty member who consistently demonstrated teaching excellence through performance, versatility and dependability during ACEP educational meetings throughout the year. Janis Farnholtz Provinse, RN, received the Honorary Membership Award, which is presented to an individual who has rendered outstanding service to the College or to the specialty of emergency medicine. Congratulations to our ZSFG staff.

MCAH NEOP PROGRAM

With deep regret, we share that the Maternal Child Adolescent Health Nutrition Equity, Opportunity, and Physical Activity (NEOP) program will officially sunset on September 30, 2025, following the elimination of its federal funding. For more than two decades in San Francisco, NEOP has advanced nutrition and physical activity equity by making healthy choices more accessible through policies, systems, and environmental changes.

Among its many accomplishments, last year NEOP's SPARK policy helped over 2,300 students at Recreation and Park sites eat healthier and be more active; its Pick a Better Snack lessons reached nearly 800 students directly and supported healthy eating policies for more than 55,000 students across SFUSD; and its free summer walking program engaged 1,600+ residents in building healthier, more active lives. To learn more about NEOP's impactful programs, please visit www.sf.gov/neop

While the program is ending, its impact and partnerships will continue to shape healthier communities across San Francisco.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 10/1:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 3.9%.
- Thirty-two 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 on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

President Green thanked Director Tsai for the report. She extended condolences to Jay Alexander's family for this sad loss.

Commissioner Chow noted concern that the City does not have a coordinated emergency plan for neighborhoods. He is concerned about how this may impact effective disaster response. Mr. Morewitz noted that Dr. Andi Tenner, Director of the DPH Public Health Preparedness and Response, will be providing an update at the October 20th Community and Public Health committee.

5) STATE VACCINE LAWS: IMPACT ON SAN FRANCISCO

Dr. Susan Philip, MD, MPH, Health Officer, City and County of San Francisco, and Director of Population Health Division; and Seema Jain, MD, FIDSA, Deputy Health Officer, Deputy Director for Public Health Services, Population Health Division, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Dr. Teresa Palmer thanked the presenters for their work during this stressful time.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Guggenheim is excited to see the DPH's work in this important realm. She asked if there are additional changes expected in the vaccine arena. Dr. Jain stated that it is not possible to predict additional changes at the federal level. However, the DPH will continue working with the state and other partners to provide continued guidance to San Franciscans.

Commissioner Chow noted that it is his understanding that the RSV vaccine is not given annually. Dr. Jain stated that the DPH has corrected this information. The DPH recommends that the RSV vaccine be given once in a lifetime, with the exception of pregnant women, who are advised to get the vaccine with each pregnancy.

President Green stated that she has heard the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is under threat. Dr. Jain stated that she will look into this and will send any information she finds to Mr. Morewitz.

President Green recommended that the DPH reach out to hospital OB/GYN medical staff, in addition to private providers to update them on the DPH vaccine guidance. She also recommended that the DPH reach out to pharmacies to education them too.

President Green asked how the DPH is tracking the vaccination rate in San Francisco. Dr. Jain stated that all vaccines are put into a state registry so it is possible to track vaccination rates by neighborhood.

6) HUNTERS POINT NAVAL SHIPYARD UPDATES

Dr. Susan Philip, MD, MPH, Health Officer, City and County of San Francisco, and Director of Population Health Division; and Nnenna Okoye, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Climate Health and Chronic Disease Prevention, Population Health Division, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Dr. Teresa Palmer stated that the Bayview has the best weather and is one of the more affordable neighborhoods in San Francisco. People who live there may have little choice to move elsewhere. Chemicals from the breakdown of ship contaminated material may show up in blood tests. Insurance companies may not cover the cost of these tests. She asked if the DPH will provide testing.

Barbara Ockel, President of Shipyard Trust for the Arts, stated that the organization obtained funding to educate the community about navy cleanup of shipyard. Artists have been there since 1984 and have not been overly concerned about toxins due to lack of outbreak in artists. She has lived there since 1993 and raised a child there. She doubts very much these elements are present today. Shipyard is a wasteland occupied by cleanup contractors. As a resident, she thinks there the severe problems are not from shipyard but from a lack of healthy food options and the stress of poverty and racism.

Commissioner Comments:

President Green thanked the presenters and noted that it is clear that the DPH has committed necessary resources, brought stakeholders to the table, and is doing its best for the community.

Commissioner Christian noted that the Health Commission remains deeply interested in the work at the shipyard. She noted that in the verbal presentation, the word “Advocacy” was used but it was not included in the written materials. She encouraged use of this term in future written materials to give the DPH credit for the work it is doing. She is pleased with the development of the Environmental Health Clinic at Southeast Health Center and the community advisory board and patient advocacy council.

Commissioner Chow thanked the presenters and noted this one of the first positive presentations on this topic during his tenure on the Commission. He is pleased with the work being done with the community.

7) DPH KAIZEN PROMOTION OFFICE UPDATE

William Huen, MD, MS, MPH, Chief of Strategic and Performance Innovation, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Dr. Teresa Palmer suggested that a Kaizen group be developed to include the LHH admitting team and a subset of frail elderly San Franciscans, including city retirees, that are not getting into LHH, to work with the Health Service System, and insurance companies to look into processes that lead to out-of-county transfers of frail elderly people to skilled nursing facilities. She noted that obstacles could be fixed.

Commissioner Comments:

President Green thanked Dr. Huen for the presentation and noted how impressive how much Lean management has done for the DPH in so many areas.

Commissioner Chow is glad that Dr. Huen has moved to the DPH to lend his skills in this important area.

Commissioner Christian noted that Lean is an exciting tool designed for the business world but that has been an effective change-management strategy at the DPH.

Vice President Guillermo stated that the scope of Lean work at the DPH is impressive.

8) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Edward Chow, Member, stated that the committee reviewed all contract-related items on the Consent Calendar and recommended that the full Health Commission approve them all.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments on this item.

9) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Edward A. Chow, ZSFG JCC Chair, stated that at the September 22nd ZSFG JCC meeting, the committee discussed a ZSFG Revenue Cycle Update which included information on improving appropriate coding to gain the maximum revenue available for services provided. The complexity of the ZSFG and UCSF partnership was discussed in the context of how ZSFG bills for hospital services and UCSF bills for medical professional fees.

As part of the CEO Report discussion, the Commission committee members had questions regarding security systems and staff badges used for entry throughout the hospital. Most of the campus buildings are run by ZSFG with the exception of Pride Hall, which is run by UCSF.

The committee also discussed a presentation on the CMS star rating of ZSFG, which is one star and expected to remain 1 star. CMS uses a composite of 47 measures in categories of mortality, safety, patient experience, readmissions, and effective care. CMS can use data from up to 5 years ago in its calculation of star ratings. Public hospitals like ZSFG are considered alongside private hospitals with very different patient mixes.

The committee also reviewed the Regulatory Affairs and Human Resources reports. As part of the discussion of the Medical Staff Report, the committee also recommended that the full Commission approve the ZSFG policies listed on the Consent Calendar. In closed session, the committee approved the Credentials Report and PIPS Minutes report.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments on this item.

10) CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments on this item.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the following items:

1. **October 2025 Contracts Report**
2. **Request for approval of a New Professional Services Agreement with the Regents of the University of California (UCSF Health) to provide specialty mental health services to high-risk adolescents. The total proposed agreement amount is \$6,124,619 which includes a 12% contingency for the term of 07/01/2025 through 06/30/2030 (5 years).**
3. **Requesting approval of a new contract with Omnicell Inc. for four pharmacy carousel packagers, twenty anesthesia workstations and associated support services in the total amount of \$3,455,759.79, which includes a 12% contingency, for the term November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2030 (5 years).**
4. **ZSFG Policies and Procedures:**
 - a. Community Primary Care (CPC) Rules and Regulations
 - b. Summary of Changes: Ambulatory Care Standing Order Protocol
 - c. SFHN Ambulatory Care Clinics Combined Standing Order Protocols for Health Care Maintenance (SOP)
 - d. OB/Gyn Standardized Procedure-NP/PA/Certified Nurse Midwife
 - e. Management of Benign and Malignant Breast Condition Standardized Procedure.

11) OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments on this item.

12) CLOSED SESSION:

- A) Public comments on all matters pertaining to the Closed Session

Carey Dall, SEIU 1021, stated he is representing the pharmacist being discussed in closed session. He noted that the process being brought into question is not in alignment with the MOU. Any attempt to discipline the staff members has to be in alignment with the MOU. He added that only other City staff can discipline DPH staff. The FPPE has been executed by UCSF, and is going to be presented to you by UCSF in closed session. He noted that if the Commission votes and approves this action in closed session, it will be a violation of the MOU.

- B) Vote on whether to hold a Closed Session (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.11)

Motion that the Health Commission convene in closed session for the purpose of hearing and deliberating regarding reports of hospital medical audit or quality assurance committees. Health and Safety Code Section 1461, Evidence Code Section 1157, and California Government Code Section 54954.5(h) authorize this closed session.

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

- C) Closed Session pursuant to Evidence Code sections 1156, 1156.1, 1157, 1157.5, and 1157.6: Health and Safety Code section 1461; California Government Code Section 54954.5(h); and California Constitution, Article I, Section 1.

HEARING AND DELIBERATION

Consideration and deliberation regarding recommendation by ZSFG Medical Staff Medical Executive Committee and ZSFG Joint Conference Committee to revoke ZSFG Affiliated Professional clinical pharmacist's standardized procedures. Vote as the Governing Body for ZSFG on whether to revoke clinical pharmacist's standardized procedures.

(Continued from Aug. 4, 2025, meeting)

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

1. Possible report on action taken in closed session (Government Code Section 54957.1(a)2 and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(b)(2).)
2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a).) (Action item)

Action Taken: In closed session, the Health Commission voted unanimously in favor of the ZSFG JCC recommendations to revoke the ZSFG Affiliated clinical pharmacist's standard procedures, and voted not to disclose discussions held in closed session.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.