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

November 2, 2026 4pm

Agenda items

1. Call to Order

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

Excused: Commissioner Judy Guggenhime

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

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Health Commission Meeting of October 5, 2026

Mr. Morewitz noted that at the bottom of page six Commissioner Guillermo is misgendered in one sentence.

Public Comment:
Anna Robert, Chief Executive Officer of Mission Neighborhood Health Center, stated that issues discussed at the October 5 meeting regarding Medi-Cal coverage losses, equity, language access, and outreach remain significant concerns for safety-net providers and patients. She noted that community health centers serve a substantial portion of San Francisco's Medi-Cal population and may face increased demand as coverage losses occur. She encouraged continued collaboration among healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and City agencies to maintain access to care for vulnerable populations. She also supported future discussion between the Health Commission and the Immigrant Rights Commission regarding these issues

Commissioner Comments:
There were no Commissioner comments on this item.

3. General Public Comment

Jessica Pessecow expressed concern regarding delays in the recruitment and hiring of nursing staff within the Department of Public Health. She stated that recruiter vacancies may be contributing to prolonged hiring timelines and urged the department to prioritize filling those positions. Ms. Pessecow also raised concerns about lengthy waits for oral surgery and other specialty services, noting the potential impact on patient health outcomes. She requested additional resources and staffing to improve timely access to care.

4. Directors Report

Daniel Tsai, DPH Director of Health, presented the Director's Report. Dr. Susannah Graves, Director of TB Control and Prevention, gave a presentation on TB prevention and treatment.

Public Comment:
There was no public comment for this item.

Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Chow asked about the pathways by which newly arriving immigrants are referred to TB Clinic services, challenges in reducing TB incidence in high-prevalence communities, the operation of directly observed therapy programs, use of community-based treatment sites, and the ability of private providers to administer latent tuberculosis treatment. He also expressed interest in stronger monitoring systems and annual provider education regarding TB prevention and treatment. Dr. Graves, explained screening pathways for immigrant populations, discussed limitations associated with latent TB treatment uptake, described community partnerships and provider education efforts, confirmed that private providers are encouraged to provide latent TB treatment, and stated that the program is exploring improved monitoring through reportable data systems and pharmacy data-sharing mechanisms

5. Resolution to Recommend to the BOS to Authorize the DPH to Accept and Expend a Gift of $94,320 from Baby2Baby

James Glik, Senior Administrative Analyst for Grants and Gifts at ZSFG, presented the resolution.

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 resolution. (See attachment)

6. H.R.1: San Francisco Human Service Agency's Action Plan

Susie Smith, SFHSA Deputy Director, Policy Planning, and Public Affairs, presented the item.

Public Comment:
Anna Robert, Chief Executive Officer of Mission Neighborhood Health Center, stated that implementation of recent federal and state policy changes will require a coordinated response across the healthcare safety net. She emphasized the importance of including community clinics and community-based organizations as full partners in planning and implementation efforts. Ms. Robert noted that clinics currently lack access to certain eligibility and renewal information and requested improved data sharing, communication, and coordination. She also encouraged collaboration between the Health Commission and the Immigrant Rights Commission to address the anticipated effects on immigrant communities and healthcare access.

Deena Lahn, San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium Vice President, Policy and External Affairs, discussed recent declines in Medi-Cal enrollment and expressed concern that additional coverage losses may occur under new eligibility requirements. She stated that many residents who lose Medi-Cal coverage may not successfully transition to alternative coverage programs. Ms. Lahn emphasized the need for strong partnerships between clinics and the Human Services Agency to support renewals and eligibility determinations. She requested consideration of dedicated support resources and increased co-location of eligibility workers within community clinics.

Rosa Aragon, Patient Services Manager at Mission Neighborhood Health Center, described successful enrollment and renewal events conducted in partnership with the Human Services Agency. She stated that patients benefited from receiving healthcare services and benefits assistance in a trusted community setting. Ms. Aragon reported that onsite support helped patients complete renewals and resolve eligibility issues more efficiently. She encouraged expansion of clinic-based enrollment assistance and community-centered service models.

Jesus Martell Gonzalez, Chief Operating Officer of Mission Neighborhood Health Center, reported that multiple eligibility events had served hundreds of patients and demonstrated the value of in-clinic enrollment assistance. He noted that transportation, work schedules, and language barriers often make it difficult for patients to access centralized government offices. He stated that co-located eligibility workers improve both patient access and operational efficiency. He urged continued investment in clinic-based eligibility services as coverage renewal requirements expand.

Matt McCormick, Northeast Medical Services, stated that six-month eligibility reviews and work requirements will create significant administrative challenges for many patients. He reported that health centers are preparing multilingual outreach materials, reminders, and educational efforts to help patients maintain coverage. He emphasized that community health centers are trusted messengers with strong relationships in the communities they serve. He encouraged continued collaboration and information sharing between providers and the Human Services Agency.

Willie Ramirez, Mission Neighborhood Chief Strategy and HR Officer, encouraged the Health Commission and the Immigrant Rights Commission to work together on issues affecting immigrant communities. He stated that immigration-related policy changes affect both healthcare consumers and members of the healthcare workforce. Mr. Ramirez expressed concern regarding access to legal support and immigration assistance services. He urged City leaders to continue investing in resources that help residents navigate immigration-related challenges while maintaining access to healthcare.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow stated that the City appears to be mounting a coordinated effort to mitigate the effects of federal and state policy changes. He expressed support for collaboration among Human Services Agency, community clinics, and healthcare providers, and emphasized the importance of locating enrollment and eligibility resources in community settings where patients already receive care. Ms. Smith acknowledged the importance of these partnerships and described ongoing efforts to coordinate and expand access points across the city.

Vice President Giraudo expressed concern that Medi-Cal renewal procedures could be overly complex for patients with limited literacy or technology skills. She recommended that all enrollment materials be simplified to approximately a fourth-grade reading level and suggested testing materials with educators to ensure comprehension. Ms. Smith responded that Human Services Agency communications staff prioritize accessible language, multilingual outreach, instructional videos, and ongoing revisions based on community feedback. She acknowledged continuing challenges presented by state-mandated systems and forms.

Commissioner Chow raised concerns regarding existing gaps between Medi-Cal disenrollment and Healthy San Francisco enrollment and questioned whether affected patients fully understand available alternatives. He also encouraged stronger coordination among healthcare systems, providers, schools, parent organizations, health plans, and medical societies to improve outreach and consistency of

messaging. Ms. Smith described extensive interagency coordination efforts, workforce development partnerships, and ongoing outreach activities. Director Tsai added that the Mayor's Office, providers, hospitals, health plans, and community organizations meet regularly to address emerging issues collaboratively and coordinate citywide response efforts.

Commissioner Christian supported expanded outreach through schools and student networks, noting that students frequently assist family members with navigating public systems. She also asked about neighborhood-level outreach models and physical community presence. Ms. Smith described planned community outreach efforts, including neighborhood-based care coordinators, community partnerships, and integration with existing trusted institutions. She emphasized the importance of leveraging relationships among city departments and community organizations to reach eligible residents.

Commissioner Christian also asked whether broader data-sharing agreements were being explored with community clinics. Ms. Smith stated that discussions with the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium regarding renewal data sharing are underway and that existing state systems will continue to provide many exemption determinations automatically. Director Tsai explained that the City is providing certain local exemption information while the state simultaneously handles many exemption processes through claims-based systems.

Commissioner Salgado asked whether evening and weekend enrollment opportunities would be available for working individuals required to complete more frequent renewals. She also inquired about outreach through ethnic media and radio stations. Ms. Smith responded that Human Services Agency has conducted evening and weekend outreach events in the past and intends to continue those efforts. She also noted that upcoming outreach campaigns will utilize radio, television, print, bus advertisements, multilingual media, and community-based messaging channels.

President Green asked about enrollment barriers and fears experienced by undocumented residents who may be reluctant to participate in government programs because of immigration enforcement concerns. She also asked how free clinics fit into outreach efforts for uninsured individuals. Ms. Smith reported that approximately 25 to 30 percent of recent enrollment declines appear related either to eligibility changes or fear of government interaction. She stated that Human Services Agency remains available to partner with any community clinic or organization requesting support while seeking to balance community deployment with the demands of serving over 3,000 daily clients through existing service centers.

7. FY2025-26 SFDPH Fourth Quarter Financial Report

This item was postponed due to the length of this meeting. The item has been rescheduled for the November 16, 2026 meeting.

8. SFDPH Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Update

Hillary Kunins, MD, MPH, MS, Director of BHS and Mental Health SF, presented the item.

Public Comment:
There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:
President Green thanked Dr. Hillary Kunins and Behavioral Health Services staff for the update and acknowledged progress across the behavioral health system. She requested clarification on recent state findings related to network adequacy and timely access standards, along with corrective actions being implemented. She emphasized the importance of timely treatment access, particularly amid the overdose crisis, and the need for continued accountability and performance monitoring. Dr. Kunins responded that buprenorphine initiation can be affected by staffing, operational issues, medication availability, and coordination of follow-up care. She noted that Behavioral Health Services is working with emergency departments, the Bridge Clinic, and community partners to expand access and strengthen continuity of care. Dr. Kunins added that state findings involved reporting, monitoring, and performance issues that have been addressed through corrective action plans and ongoing oversight efforts.

Commissioner Chow asked about efforts to expand access to medications for opioid use disorder and barriers that may prevent individuals from entering or remaining in treatment. He also sought information on how Behavioral Health Services measures program effectiveness, patient engagement, and treatment outcomes. Commissioner Chow inquired about the department's response to issues identified through state reviews and how those findings have shaped quality-improvement efforts. He emphasized the importance of using performance data to guide investments and improve outcomes for patients and communities. Dr. Kunins stated that Behavioral Health Services continues to expand medication treatment through multiple care settings and delivery models. She explained that the department tracks engagement, retention, and outcomes through a range of quality-improvement and performance-monitoring tools. Dr. Kunins noted that several state findings involved administrative and reporting processes rather than service gaps and reported that corrective actions have been completed while ongoing monitoring continues.

Commissioner Christian expressed interest in a future discussion focused on behavioral health services for justice-involved individuals. She described challenges faced by clinicians working with participants in treatment courts, diversion programs, and reentry settings, including difficulty navigating referral pathways for detoxification, residential treatment, and other behavioral health services. She asked whether additional support could be provided for licensed community providers who lack access to DPH systems and encounter barriers when seeking services for clients. She also raised concerns regarding implementation of California's mental health diversion requirements and the need for specialized forensic evaluations. She emphasized the importance of dedicated forensic behavioral health resources and stronger interagency coordination. Dr. Kunins responded that providers do not need Epic access to make referrals and noted that the Office of Coordinated Care can assist community partners in navigating the system. She offered to follow up regarding specific referral barriers and acknowledged that mental health diversion implementation has been complicated by workforce and funding limitations. Dr. Kunins agreed that additional discussion and planning are needed to address forensic evaluation needs and diversion requirements.

Vice President Giraudo requested clarification regarding youth substance use disorder treatment services and recent network adequacy findings affecting adolescent behavioral health care. She asked whether cited deficiencies reflected actual service shortages or administrative and reporting issues. She

also sought information about available outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential treatment programs, current system capacity, and how the City addresses residential treatment needs when local options are limited. He stressed the importance of ensuring that youth have timely access to a full continuum of care. Dr. Kunins explained that the discussion pertained specifically to adolescent substance use disorder services and noted that outpatient and intensive outpatient treatment are available through providers including Homeless Children's Network. She stated that several state findings were related to credentialing and reporting requirements rather than a lack of clinical services and have since been corrected. Dr. Kunins acknowledged that youth residential treatment capacity remains limited but reported that the City maintains placement options and expects additional capacity through a new residential treatment program operated by the Latino Commission

9. Joint Conference Committee Update

Commissioner Edward A. Chow, MD, ZSFG JCC Chair, stated that at the October 26, 2026 meeting, the Regulatory Affairs Report highlighted successful survey outcomes, including a deficiency-free residential care facility review and a mammography inspection with no findings. Regulatory Affairs reported that ZSFG is preparing for an upcoming Joint Commission survey while monitoring corrective action plans and facility-reported incidents.

The Hiring and Vacancy Report showed continued recruitment progress, with hospital vacancies just above 10%, nurse vacancies below 6%, and 25 new hires in September. Commissioners praised the report’s transparency and progress in filling key positions.

In her CEO report, Dr. Susan Ehrlich highlighted accomplishments in cancer research, diagnostic imaging, equity initiatives, and process improvement. Commissioners focused on the significant reduction in MRI wait times achieved through expanded overnight staffing. Discussion also addressed emergency department crowding, psychiatric bed capacity, workplace safety reporting, and efforts to expand treatment for opioid use disorder. Commissioners supported ongoing safety initiatives and emphasized monitoring emergency department demand and staffing pressures.

The committee reviewed and provided feedback on the draft ZSFG Annual Report. During the Medical Staff Report, commissioners discussed expanding adolescent psychiatric services and reviewed clinical privileges and ambulatory care protocols. A significant discussion focused on diabetes screening guidelines for Asian populations, noting that diabetes risk may occur at lower BMI thresholds than in other populations. Commissioners emphasized the importance of ensuring screening protocols reflect current evidence and do not miss opportunities for early detection. Staff agreed to revisit the issue and consider potential revisions to screening practices. Additional discussion addressed vaccination practices, postpartum follow-up, and tuberculosis screening. The committee recommended approval of the Consent Calendar policies by the full Commission. 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. Finance and Planning Committee Update

Commissioner Edward A. Chow, MD, Chair, stated that the Finance and Planning Committee reviewed contract modifications, including pharmacy staffing support, the Degree Project shelter program, Public Health Foundation Enterprises contracts, and equipment replacement contracts for Baxter infusion-monitoring systems. The Committee also reviewed the annual sole-source contracting report and discussed implementation of a new electronic contract-management system intended to increase transparency, improve access to contract records, and streamline business processes. The Committee recommended approval of the consent calendar items.

Public Comment:
There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:
There were no commissioner comments on this item.

11. 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:

- **November 2026 Contracts Report**
- **Request for approval of a new Agreement with Baxter Healthcare Corporation to supply, deliver and implement 777 IV Pumps. The total proposed contract amount is $2,854,601 which includes a 12% contingency for the term of November 1, 2026 through October 31, 2033 (7 years).**
- **ZSFG Policies**
  - Psychiatry rules and regulations
  - New privilege in surgery
  - Revised vascular surgery privilege list
  - Updated SFHN Ambulatory SOP, with the exception of the Diabetes Screening Protocol for SFHN Adult Primary Care

12. Other Business

Public Comment:
There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:
There were no commissioner comments on this item.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

Attachment

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

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND A GIFT OF $94,320 FROM BABY2BABY

WHEREAS, Baby2Baby has agreed to donate to the Department of Public Health an in-kind gift in the amount of $94,320 for the Baby2Baby program; and

WHEREAS, Baby2Baby 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 diapers to be distributed to families in need; and

WHEREAS, Baby2Baby is a national nonprofit that provides children in need with diapers, clothing and all the basic necessities that every child deserves; 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 ninety-four thousand three hundred twenty dollars ($94,320) to help families in need; 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 November 2, 2026, adopted the foregoing resolution.

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Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary