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**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday December 15, 2025 3:00 p.m.

**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 408
San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex**

1) Call to Order

Present: Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D, Chair
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

Excused: Commissioner Karim Salgado

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF NOVEMBER 17, 2025

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments on this item.

Action Taken: The Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the November 17 meeting.

3) ADVANCING DIAGNOSTIC AND SURVEILLANCE TESTING: UPDATES FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAB

Dr. Godfred, Masinde, Director, presented the item.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Girardo thanked Dr. Masinde for his thorough overview and noted that the laboratory's adaptability is a critical component of the City's emergency-preparedness infrastructure. She asked about the timeliness of CDC reporting. Dr. Masinde responded that although CDC communication can vary in speed, CDPH provides consistent monthly updates and remains the primary, timely source of actionable information.

Commissioner Girardo commented on national inconsistencies during outbreaks like measles and asked whether reduced CDC staffing issues have affected the reliability of federal information streams. She emphasized the need for predictable national communication during multi-state public-health threats. Dr. Masinde explained that California's APHL-coordinated system ensures continuity regardless of federal delays, with state-level updates shared monthly and emergency information shared immediately.

Commissioner Christian asked for clarification on how data flows from local labs to state and national systems, especially for reportable conditions such as measles. She noted the importance of transparency, so the public understands where disease data originates. Dr. Masinde explained that all positive samples enter California's CalREDIE system automatically, which instantly routes data to CDPH and subsequently to CDC, though national dashboards may lag behind state reporting.

Commissioner Christian highlighted the strong relationship between laboratory and epidemiology teams, referencing the feline H5N1 case as an example of rapid coordination. She commented that the case illustrates how quickly the lab can validate unusual results. Dr. Masinde confirmed that the case originated at a commercial lab and was escalated to SFDPH epidemiology, demonstrating real-time collaboration across local and state systems.

Commissioner Christian asked about the availability of BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs statewide and expressed appreciation for San Francisco's growing biosafety capacity. She noted that advanced biosafety levels are essential for emerging pathogen work. Dr. Masinde clarified that BSL-4 labs are extremely rare, CDC being the primary site, while the new SFDPH BSL-3 facility will significantly expand local capacity for high-risk pathogen testing.

Commissioner Christian sought details about operating two labs in parallel during the transition to the new facility. She emphasized the importance of uninterrupted services during equipment validation. Dr. Masinde explained that equipment must be duplicated, installed, and validated in the new laboratory before Dr. Masinde transition, allowing both labs to operate simultaneously until full certification is completed.

Commissioner Christian noted concern about potential federal or state policy changes that could limit the Public Health Laboratory's ability to fulfill its mission. She urged Dr. Masinde to notify the Commission early if operations become constrained. Dr. Masinde stated that SFDPH is already preparing contingency strategies with CDPH and APHL to ensure continuity even if federal support or communication weakens.

Commissioner

Commissioner Girardo noted that Dr. Masinde had not highlighted his team's national recognition, and she wanted to ensure those achievements were documented in the record. She praised the lab's development of multiplex Mpox assays and rapid validation of evolving clades. Dr. Masinde acknowledged the publication and explained that over 20 public-health laboratories nationwide have adopted methods validated in San Francisco, reflecting the lab's leadership in the field.

4) EMERGING ISSUES

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no Commissioner comments on this item.

5) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

6) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43pm.