

City and County of San Francisco

Department of Public Health



Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH
Health Officer

DATE: October 28, 2015

TO: Health Commissioners

THROUGH: Barbara A. Garcia, MPA, Director of Health

FROM: Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH, Health Officer, City & County of San Francisco
Director, Population Health Division (PHD)

RE: Endorsing the Principles of Ethical Practices of Public Health, Resolution 15-5

This Resolution supports and promotes a framework for organizational ethical decision making which is required to achieve Public Health Accreditation. While we have always assessed ethical ramifications of the various decisions that our public health officials must make, as well as many of our day to day decisions that directly affect our patients, clients and staff, it is now time to formalize our process and communicate it to all stakeholders. This Resolution supports the "Public Health Code of Ethics" that is a set of 12 ethical principles developed by public health officials in the Public Health Leadership Society, with input from many professional organizations, including the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and the National Association of County & City Health Officials, and the American Public Health Association. The Public Health Accreditation Board recommends adoption of the Code in its Standards and Measures. Within the Population Health Division, our leaders, including deputy and assistant health officers, meet regularly to discuss ethical considerations. This Resolution will formalize our process and comply with national standards.