

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 6, 1998  
3:00 p.m.  
at  
101 Grove Street, Room #300  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Health Commission was called to order by Vice President. Lee Ann Monfredini, at 3:10 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Debra A. Barnes  
Commissioner Edward A. Chow, M.D.  
Commissioner Roma P. Guy, M.S.W.  
Commissioner Lee Ann Monfredini  
Commissioner Harrison Parker, Sr., D.D.S.  
Commissioner David J. Sanchez, Jr., Ph.D.

Absent: Commissioner Ron Hill

**2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 1997**

Action Taken: The Commission unanimously adopted the minutes of December 16, 1997.

**3) CONSENT CALENDAR OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

(Commissioner Lee Ann Monfredini)

- (3.1)** Status report on California Pacific Medical Center's compliance to Health Commission policy on ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation of staff and Board.

Commissioner Monfredini abstained on this item due to conflict of interest.

Sara Kelly of CPMC provided a copy of a CPMC Board resolution approving changes to the bylaws. This resolution is expected to be approved by the corporate Sutter Health Board. Additionally, she reported the formation of an internal CPMC Diversity Task Force.

Commissioner Barnes commended CPMC for its concrete action plan.

Commissioner Sanchez supported the concept of the Diversity Task Force.

- (3.2) Status report on Seneca's compliance to Health Commission policy on ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation of staff and Board.

The Seneca Director reported the progress on staff diversity and its plans to add a minority to its Board.

Commissioner Monfredini encouraged the agency to consider increasing its Board membership by changing its bylaws.

Commissioner Barnes encouraged the possibility of term limits for Board members. Commissioner Barnes noted that this contract expires on June 30, 1998 and encouraged the Department to bring the renewal of the contract in a timely fashion.

- (3.3) **PH-CHP & P - Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health** - Request for approval of a resolution authorizing the Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health, to accept and expend a new three year grant in the amount of \$941,008 from the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, for the period of January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2000, to improve the health and developmental outcomes for African American infants and families in the Southeast sector of San Francisco, and sole source approval for three new contracts, one with C.A.H.E.E.D. in the amount of \$428,425; one with Jelani House in the amount of \$65,000; and one with Polaris in the amount of \$133,350, to provide outreach, education, child care and substance abuse treatment services for the period of January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2000.

Commissioner Monfredini requested C.A.H.E.E.D. consider increasing its Board membership.

- (3.4) **PH-CHP & P - AIDS Office** - Retroactive modification to a contract with Stop AIDS Project in the amount of \$135,000, for the provision of condom distribution services for the period of July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998. This modification will bring the total contract amount to \$150,000. (DPH contracted with Stop AIDS Project for services totaling \$937,172 during FY 1996-97).

- (3.5) **CHN** - New contract with Asereth Medical Services, Inc. for the provision of temporary pharmacy personnel services, in an amount not to exceed \$165,000 per year for the period of February 1, 1998 through January 31, 2000.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the Consent Calendar of the Budget Committee, with Commissioner Monfredini abstaining on #3.1.

- 4) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (Provides information on activities and operations of the Dept.).

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Prenatal Care for Undocumented Residents**

On December 19, 1997, an Alameda County Superior Court judge ruled in the Yvette Doe v. Belshe case that the State cannot implement its regulations terminating funds for prenatal care to "not qualified" immigrants until the U.S. Attorney General instructs States on how to verify immigration status. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires the Attorney General to issue regulations with procedures for verifying eligibility for State public benefits. The Court held that the State cannot make up its own procedures, but must wait for the Federal regulations to be issued. The Court also found that the State's regulations were flawed because they did not examine the potential impact of the regulations on small businesses such as health clinics.

This ruling could delay the implementation of State funding cuts for several months or longer. The implementation of cuts had been scheduled to take effect January 1, 1998 for new applicants and February 1, 1998 for current recipients. The Governor is expected to appeal the ruling.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK**

### **Resignation**

I regret to announce that Peter Praetz has resigned from his position as Chief Finance Officer for SFGH effective January 9, 1998. Peter began his tenure as the Hospital Controller in 1991 and for the past five years has provided outstanding leadership and dedication as CFO with oversight for Human Resources, Information Systems, Medical Records, Materials Management, Business Office, Budget and Finance. We wish him the best in his new position as the Chief Financial Officer for Alameda County Medical Center.

### **New Director of Rehabilitation Named at SFGH**

Dr. Ward Gypson comes to SFGH from Kaiser Foundation Rehabilitation Center in Vallejo, where he was previously the Medical Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He was also Medical Director of Rehabilitation Services at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, and an Associate Clinical Professor at UC Davis Medical Center. Dr. Gypson received his medical training at New York Medical College. He came to California for his internship and residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of California Irvine Medical Center. Dr. Gypson has a special interest in alternative medicine and chronic pain management. As the Rehabilitation Medical Director, Dr. Gypson will direct and coordinate rehabilitation activities and is responsible for the medical care of patients and patient care programs in the Rehabilitation Department.

### **Investigation into Outpatient Physician Billing Practices**

On December 4, 1997, SFGH was informed that it is being investigated for billing practices as they relate to State and Federal health care programs, such as Medicare and Medi-Cal. Of particular interest is whether the outpatient physician services were reasonable, allowable, and documented. The investigation is being conducted by the Attorney General of the State of California, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. The investigators already know that the billing practices are complicated by the involvement of multiple entities, namely CCSF, UCSF, and the CPG. Their first step has been a document request dating back to 1994 to enable them to gain a better understanding of the complex nature of the relationship between these entities.

A Physician Billing Compliance Committee will be formed to oversee the response to the investigators and to ensure full compliance. Communication with the investigators and the response to the document request will be coordinated by Kathy Murphy in the City

### Hospital Diversion

Hospital Diversion continued high during the month of December 1997. The Department's EMS Section spoke to the State EMS Authority and was informed other counties experienced similar extreme difficulties with diversion last month. This holiday phenomenon also occurred in Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino, and Imperial Counties. State EMS has agreed to take the lead in working with the impacted Counties and other State agencies to look at this issue from a statewide perspective.

In San Francisco, the system-wide Critical Care (CC) Diversion Rate was 16.52%, an increase from 7.86% the month before. CC Diversion was suspended four times during December. Three hospitals in the system had a greater than 20% Critical Care Diversion Rate for December, and three hospitals had a greater than 10% CC Diversion Rate for the year. The rate of Total Hospital Diversion increased to 5.66% in December from 3.41% the month before. There were two instances when Total Diversion was suspended by the Director because five or more system receiving hospitals were on total diversion.

San Francisco General Hospital's CC Diversion for the month of December was 47.17%, November's CC diversion rate was 5%. CC diversion for 1997 averaged 10% compared to 12.7% for 1996. December's SFGH Emergency Department diversion was 4%, compared to 6% in November. The average for 1997 was 4.23%.

Factors explaining the most recent high diversion rates are listed in the EMS Section Action Plan presented at the December 16, 1997 meeting of the Health Commission. The Section in cooperation with the Hospital Council continues to implement the Action Plan and will report back to the Health Commission on February 17.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### Bayview Hunters Point Fire Emergency Response

On December 13, 1997, a tragic fire broke out at the Bayview Hunters Point Public Housing Project killing one adult and five children. The Bayview Hunters Point Foundation, Comprehensive Child Crisis Services, Foster Care Mental Health Program and CMHS administrative staff provided outreach and crisis counseling services to project residents. The San Francisco Housing Authority staff would like to develop an ongoing relationship with CMHS for the provision of disaster mental health services.

### No Smoking in Bars

As the Commission members are undoubtedly aware, California's no-smoking-in-bars law went into effect on January 1, 1998. The Department's Environmental Health Section has been responding to an onslaught of calls from the media. On a national level, Tom Rivard, Senior Health Inspector, appeared last week on "Good Morning America" and the "Today" show. Closer to home, he has covered "Mornings on 2," "Michael Krasny's KQED Forum" and a variety of other local network stations. The media has focused on the Department's enforcement efforts and the spirit of compliance on the part of patrons and bar owners/managers.

As we experienced when the no-smoking ban first appeared in restaurants, we anticipate good compliance on the part of the public and will work with those establishments who need assistance in preparing their facilities, employees and patrons for this final phase-in of California's smoke-free workplace law.

5) **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION INITIATING A MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK (CHN)**

Richard Cordova, Executive Administrator of the Community Health Network, presented the concept for a management internship program with the following objectives:

- Build a bridge between academic theory and actual practice
- Expose talented individuals to the mission and philosophy of the DPH/CHN
- Provide opportunities for senior managers of the CHN to develop and execute teaching and mentoring skills
- Attract minority managers into the CHN

The structure of the program includes:

- One year structured, preceptor-directed program
- Orientation to the network
- Rotations throughout the network
- The interns will be assigned to senior managers and carry out assignments for specific programs
- Interns will have an opportunity to network with various professional associations
- A stipend of approximately \$25,000 will be provided
- The interns as a group will conduct a major research project for the year
- There is no guarantee of full time employment after the one year fellowship program

Action Taken: The Commission unanimously adopted Resolution #1-98, "Endorsing the Department of Public Health's Initiation of a Management Internship Program at the Community Health Network (CHN,)" (Attachment A).

6) **UPDATE ON THE STATE'S IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTHY FAMILIES AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING PROGRAMMATIC AND OPERATIONAL COMPONENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM**

Tangerine Brigham, Director of Policy and Planning, presented an update on the State's Healthy Families Program. For a copy of full report, contact the Commission Office at 554-2666.

Ms. Brigham also requested the Commission to consider a proposed resolution on certain programmatic, operational, and policy components of the Healthy Families Program.

The California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) is responsible for administering the Healthy Families Program and developing regulations. Ms. Brigham reported the status of the regulations (Attachment B).

Action Taken: The Commission unanimously adopted Resolution #2-98, "Urging Recommendations for Programmatic and Operational Components of the California Healthy Families Program," (Attachment C).

7) **OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

8) **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CLOSED SESSION.**

None.

**B. VOTE ON WHETHER TO HOLD CLOSED SESSION TO CONFER WITH LEGAL COUNSEL. (SAN FRANCISCO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTION 67.11(a).)**

Action Taken: The Commission unanimously voted to hold a Closed Session.

**C. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9 AND SAN FRANCISCO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTION 67.11(b).**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.**

**UNLITIGATED CLAIM BY CLAYTON ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. FOR \$13,742 FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT**

**D. 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 67.14(b)(2).)**

Action Taken: The Commission unanimously approved the settlement of \$13,742 for breach of contract to Clayton Environmental, Inc.

**2. VOTE TO ELECT WHETHER TO DISCLOSE ANY OR ALL DISCUSSIONS HELD IN CLOSED SESSION (SAN FRANCISCO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTION 67.14(a).)**

Action Taken: The Commission unanimously voted not to disclose any discussions held in Closed Session.

Commissioner Guy requested information presented under #3.1 and #3.2.

Commissioner Barnes requested the Deputy City Attorney Jean Fraser to research the question of whether non-profit organizations 501(c)(3) are required to have term limits for Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Sandy Ouye Mori  
Executive Secretary to  
the Health Commission

Attachments (3)