

1 [Resolution endorsing the recommendations of the Healthcare Action Team regarding the  
2 discharge of homeless patients in San Francisco.]

3 **Resolution endorsing the Healthcare Action Team’s recommendations for procedures**  
4 **on homeless patients hospital discharge, including more respite beds, a streamlined**  
5 **discharge process, distribution of information sheets, utilization of transitional care**  
6 **programs, expansion of the Ombudsman office, and providing written discharge**  
7 **verification.**

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9 WHEREAS, There are several hundred seniors and persons with disabilities who are  
10 currently homeless and living on the street or in shelters in San Francisco; and

11 WHEREAS, There are currently 60 respite beds available for homeless people who  
12 are recovering from acute illness or surgical procedures; and,

13 WHEREAS, These respite beds are accessible only to patients who are inpatient at  
14 San Francisco General Hospital; and,

15 WHEREAS, Discharge planners in hospitals other than San Francisco General have  
16 problems accessing services for their patients due to the absence of a streamlined referral  
17 process; and,

18 WHEREAS, Homeless persons are often discharged to shelters or resource centers  
19 that do not have the capacity to provide the level of care these patients require; and,

20 WHEREAS, Transitional care programs such as the Homecoming Services Network  
21 exist that can help housed as well as homeless persons with transitions out of the hospital,  
22 including access to services; and,

23 WHEREAS, Patients are not always aware of their legal rights including right to appeal  
24 plan of care and discharge plan; and,

1           WHEREAS, The HealthCare Action Team (HAT) has produced an information sheet  
2 entitled “Preparing to Leave the Hospital” that has been vetted by the community and  
3 approved by the Hospital Council; this information sheet is on file with the Clerk of the Board  
4 of Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_, which is hereby declared to be a part of this  
5 resolution as if set forth fully herein; and,

6           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Long Term Care Ombudsman Office currently  
7 monitors only nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities, but that office endorses an  
8 expansion to include acute care hospitals as well; and,

9           WHEREAS, Patients who are discharged from acute care hospitals on Fridays have a  
10 greater chance of death or readmission than patients discharged on other days of the week; a  
11 study indicating this is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.  
12 \_\_\_\_\_, which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully  
13 herein; and,

14           WHEREAS, These issues have been identified and documented by the Hospital  
15 Council of Northern and Central California, hospital administrators, discharge planners, social  
16 workers, shelter operators, police, advocates for the homeless, homeless persons, and  
17 others; now, therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, That in the absence of affordable housing there should be more  
19 accessible and appropriate respite beds in the shelter system available for homeless patients;  
20 and, be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That respite beds should be accessible to all homeless  
22 patients who are in need of respite, should be a streamlined referral procedure from all  
23 hospitals and skilled nursing facilities; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That transitional care case management programs like the  
2 Homecoming Services Network should be included in the discharge planning process for  
3 patients without homes; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That hospitals should include a resource directory informing  
5 homeless patients of the resources available to them in the community and informing patients  
6 of their legal rights regarding the procedures to appeal their plan of care; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Long Term Care Ombudsman Office  
8 should be expanded to include acute care hospitals; and, be it

9 FINALLY RESOLVED, That ~~there will be no discharge of homeless patients, housed or~~  
10 ~~otherwise on Fridays unless the patient specifically agrees to this in writing.~~ hospital  
11 discharge planners should insure in writing that all aftercare services including (but not limited  
12 to) homecare, durable medical equipment, medication refills, and follow up appointments are  
13 arranged for all patients, housed or otherwise, prior to discharge and patients should be  
14 provided with written verification of this that should include a staff contact and phone number.  
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