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May 24, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Shamann Walton, Board President
The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, District 2
The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3
The Honorable Gordon Mar, Supervisor, District 4
The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Supervisor, District 7
The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8
The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, District 9
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Supervisor, District 11
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Laguna Honda Hospital Closure and Patient Relocation Plan**
(Agenda Item 48, File #220618)

Dear President Walton and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Given the potential closure of Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH), public disclosure of patient outcomes is critically important, and must be as transparent as possible. It's incumbent on the Board of Supervisors to ensure members of the public receive timely updates about the progress of the potential closure of LHH.

San Franciscans deserved to have the San Francisco Department of Public Health post daily updates on its web site about the number of new COVID cases and deaths daily during the COVID-19 pandemic. That public health data disclosure was greatly appreciated.

Similarly, San Franciscans deserve to have Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) and/or San Francisco's Department of Public Health (SFDPH) post on-line daily on their respective web sites the number of patients discharged each day from LHH and the remaining patient census at the facility during the process playing out on the potential closure of Laguna Honda Hospital by September 13, in part because LHH is a citywide hospital, not just a facility that happens to be located in Supervisorial District 7.

The Board of Supervisors June 14 Committee of the Whole hearing on the potential closure of LHH includes a 37-page background file "*Laguna Honda Hospital's Strategy for Recertification and the Submission of a Closure and Patient Transfer and Relocation Plan*" LHH apparently completed and submitted to the California DPH on May 13.

Page 13 of the *Closure Plan* says LHH plans to discharge all 686 patients by September 13, 2022, and LHH will provide **daily updates** to California DPH (CDPH) of the number of discharges and the corresponding remaining patient census. And Page 16 of the *Closure Plan* says:

"Laguna Honda will keep the CMS [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services] and CDPH informed of the progress of the closure on a daily basis. As a part of keeping both regulatory bodies informed, Laguna Honda will **submit reports every week**, beginning immediately after the approval of this Closure Plan by CMS, detailing the status of each patient's discharge or transfer."

SF DPH and LHH need to publicly report this "de-identified" data weekly to the Board of Supervisors so we can track just how many patients are being discharged, how quickly, and to where (e.g., out-of-county).

Since SF DPH is already required to prepare and submit both daily and weekly reporting to CDPH and CMS about the number of LHH patient discharges and the remaining patient census, it would not require any additional work, or a

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burden, on SFDPH staff to have to post on-line on the LHH and SFDPH websites the same data, and provide it to the Board of Supervisors via a report for inclusion in the “*Petitions and Communications*” section of the weekly full Board of Supes meeting agendas in order to keep both the Board of Supes and members of the public informed in real-time about the looming discharges occurring from Laguna Honda.

Additionally, Page 14 of the *Closure Plan* asserts LHH will complete patient discharge summaries, and LHH’s Information Systems Division will create electronic files of each patient’s medical records to provide to the receiving facility a patient is discharged to, along with the patient’s Minimum Data Set (MDS) records prior to discharge and transfer.

[**Note:** The Minimum Data Set (MDS) is part of the federally mandated process for clinical assessment of all residents in Medicare- and Medi-Cal-/Medicaid-certified nursing homes. The MDS provides a comprehensive assessment of each resident’s functional capabilities and helps nursing home staff identify health problems.]

Page 16 states LHH’s “*Records Storage Site*” is it’s electronic health record (EHR) system, named Epic. But SFDPH has recently asserted in response to several public records requests that Epic is not capable of tracking the cities and types of facilities SFGH and LHH patients are discharged to out-of-county.

Since DPH has asserted the Epic database isn’t capable of capturing out-of-county discharge data easily, SFDPH and LHH should be required to maintain an Excel spreadsheet to track the types of facilities and names of the cities the LHH patients are discharged to, so members of the public are fully informed about where these patients are being dispersed to.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Columnist,

Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board