

FILE NO. 081008

ORDINANCE NO.

1 [Residential mental health treatment for youth in foster care.]

2
3 **Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding sections 5.400**
4 **and 5.405 creating the San Francisco Task Force on Residential Treatment for Youth in**
5 **Foster Care and providing for its expiration absent reauthorization by the Board of**
6 **Supervisors.**

7
8 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;
9 deletions are *strikethrough italics Times New Roman*.
10 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
11 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

12 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

13 Section 1. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding
14 Sections 5.400 and 5.405 to read as follows:

15 **Sec. 4.500 ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF SAN FRANCISCO TASK**
16 **FORCE ON RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE.**

17 *(a) Task Force on Residential Treatment for Youth in Foster Care. There is hereby established the*
18 *San Francisco Task Force on Residential Treatment for Youth in Foster Care ("Task Force"), which*
19 *shall address care for San Francisco's higher need children and youth in the foster care system. The*
20 *Task Force's specific focus shall be to address the need for: 1) a vision and transition plan for a new*
21 *baseline system of agency coordination that will improve San Francisco's out-of-home placement*
22 *system and ensure the best possible out-of-home treatment and outcomes for San Francisco children*
23 *and youth; and 2) development of a staged implementation plan that will improve the out-of-home*
24 *placement system through coordination among the Juvenile Probation Department ("Juvenile*
25 *Probation"), the Department of Public Health ("DPH"), the Human Services Agency ("HSA"), and the*
agencies that provide residential treatment services for youth. In addressing these needs, the Task

1 Force shall recognize the demand for specialized out-of-home treatment, including therapeutic foster
2 care homes, short-term residential group home care, hospital diversion, and group homes to serve
3 children and youth with higher-needs problems, including mental illness and debilitating emotional
4 distress. The Task Force shall also recognize that the ultimate goal for all San Francisco out-of-home
5 placements is to ensure that children and youth, wherever possible, are placed within their own
6 community, that placements are individualized, family and youth guided, least restrictive, family and
7 community based, clinically appropriate, and culturally and linguistically relevant, that family
8 reunification and return to a home-like setting as soon as possible is the goal, and that adequate
9 support is provided to foster care parents and other foster care providers.

10 (b) **Task Force Membership.** The Task Force shall consist of the following 13 members:

- 11 (1) The Director of Juvenile Probation, or his or her designee;
12 (2) The Director of the HSA, or his or her designee;
13 (3) The Director of DPH, or his or her designee;
14 (4) The Director of the City's Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
15 ("DCYF"), or his or her designee;
16 (5) The San Francisco Public Defender, or his or her designee;
17 (6) Six community members, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the
18 Board of Supervisors. Four of the community members shall be Executive Directors of San Francisco
19 mental health service providers, with an emphasis on providers that serve youth designated level 12 or
20 14 in a residential setting. Two of the community members shall be former foster children, current or
21 former foster parents, or the parents or guardians of current or former foster children.
22 (7) The Board of Supervisors shall invite the Superintendent of the San Francisco Unified
23 School District ("SFUSD"), or his or her designee; and the Supervising Judge of the Unified Family
24 Court of the San Francisco Superior Court, or his or her designee, to participate as full voting
25

1 members of the Task Force. If either or both of these officials shall decline or fail to participate, the
2 Board of Supervisors shall appoint another individual(s) with expertise in the relevant area – the
3 operations of the SFUSD and/or the operations of the Unified Family Court -- as necessary to fill the
4 vacant sea(s) on the Task Force.

5 (c) **Duties of the Task Force.** The Task Force shall develop the following documents for review and
6 possible adoption by the Board of Supervisors:

7 (1) Within six months of the effective date of this Ordinance, a report on an interim plan to
8 coordinate all foster care ~~placement system~~ improvement plans among Juvenile Probation, DPH,
9 and HSA, a report on an interim plan to coordinate all placements made by Juvenile Probation, DPH
10 and HSA for San Francisco children and youth in need of high-end residential treatment, and a
11 progress report in order to inform the 2009-2010 budget process;

12 (2) Within nine months of the effective date of this Ordinance, a transition plan to bring San
13 Francisco's higher need children and youth currently in higher level placements outside San
14 Francisco back to their home communities whenever possible; and

15 (3) Within one year of the effective date of this Ordinance, a plan to coordinate existing
16 placement system improvements in the foster care system, a permanent plan to coordinate all
17 placements made by Juvenile Probation, DPH and HSA for San Francisco children and youth in need
18 of high-end residential treatment for mental illness and severe emotional distress, and a permanent
19 maintenance plan for the new coordinated system of placement services for San Francisco youth.

20 (d) **Administrative Provisions.** The Human Services Agency shall provide all administrative support
21 required by the Task Force, including, but not limited to, provision of necessary supplies, meeting
22 space and staff support. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting within 30 days of the effective date
23

1 of this Ordinance, shall meet at least monthly, and shall elect a Chair and a Vice-chair from among its
2 members.

3 **Sec. 4.505 SUNSET PROVISION.**

4 One year after the effective date of this Ordinance, the Task Force shall submit a recommendation to
5 the Board of Supervisors whether this Task Force should continue in operation. Unless the measure
6 creating the Task Force is reauthorized and extended by the Board by resolution prior to November 1,
7 2009, Sections 5.400 and 5.405 shall expire by operation of law and the City Attorney shall cause those
8 sections to be removed from the future editions of this Code.

10
11 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
12 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

13 By: _____
14 Mariam Morley
15 Deputy City Attorney