

1 [Resolution approving and officially adopting the recommendations of the Healthcare Action
2 Team regarding the 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 no discharges on Fridays.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, The HealthCare Action Team (HAT) has produced an information sheet
25 entitled “Preparing to Leave the Hospital” that has been vetted by the community and

1 approved by the Hospital Council; this information sheet is on file with the Clerk of the Board
2 of Supervisors in File No. _____, which is hereby declared to be a part of this
3 resolution as if set forth fully herein; and,

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

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

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

16 RESOLVED, That In the absence of affordable housing there need to be more
17 accessible and appropriate respite beds in the shelter system available for homeless patients;
18 and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That these respite beds need to be accessible to all homeless
20 patients, there needs to be a streamlined referral procedure from all hospitals and skilled
21 nursing facilities; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That transitional care case management programs like the
23 Homecoming Services Network need to be included in the discharge planning process for
24 patients without homes; and, be it

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

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

6 FINALLY RESOLVED, That there will be no discharge of homeless patients, housed or
7 otherwise on Fridays unless the patient specifically agrees to this in writing.

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