



Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA  
Director of Health

**TO:** Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Kenneth Epstein  
Director of Children, Youth, and Family Services

**THROUGH:** Barbara A. Garcia, MPA  
Director of Health

**DATE:** November 20, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution Designating Edgewood Center for Children and Families as an Evaluation and Treatment Facility, pursuant to California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 5151, for Youth Ages 5 to 17

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The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is requesting approval to allow Edgewood Center for Children and Families to become a receiving center, pursuant to California Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) Section 5151, for youth in psychiatric crisis in the City and County of San Francisco. To approve this designation, the California Department of Health Care Services requires a resolution by the Board of Supervisors.

Designating Edgewood as a 5151 receiving center would allow youth who have been placed on involuntary psychiatric holds because they are a danger to themselves, a danger to others, or gravely disabled, in accordance with WIC Section 5585, to be taken directly to a youth-oriented psychiatric crisis provider. Currently, youth who are placed on involuntary holds are transported to Psychiatric Emergency Services at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) for crisis stabilization services. However, SFGH's Psychiatric Emergency Services primarily cares for adult psychiatric patients. Because Edgewood specializes in children's mental health care, it can provide specialized crisis stabilization services specifically designed for youth. Additionally, avoiding the use of adult psychiatric emergency rooms would decrease the amount of stress and trauma on the youth and their families.

In April 2014, SFDPH was awarded a 4-year, \$16 million Mental Health Triage Grant from the Mental Health Services Act to decrease the use of psychiatric and hospital emergency rooms for people who are experiencing psychiatric crisis. As part of this effort, Edgewood – a large and highly respected local behavioral health agency – was awarded \$800,000 per year to develop a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) for children ages 5 to 17. A CSU ensures that youth with mental disorders are not unnecessarily hospitalized and that they receive services in the least restrictive setting. The primary focus of the CSU is ongoing assessment, crisis intervention and stabilization, safety planning, aftercare, and discharge planning. Upon discharge, youth and their caregivers are referred to their health care provider network for follow-up services. The licensing requirements of the CSU allow youth to stay in the facility up to 23 hours and 59 minutes. If a youth cannot be stabilized within this time frame, they are transferred to a psychiatric hospital for further stabilization and treatment. Edgewood's CSU is anticipated to serve approximately 250 youth and their families per year.

On November 4, 2014, the Health Commission voted unanimously to approve Edgewood Center for Children and Families becoming a 5151 receiving center for youth in San Francisco. This approval came after SFDPH conducted a neighborhood engagement process on the project pursuant to Proposition I of 1998, the Citizen's Right to Know Act. Proposition I allows interested neighbors, property owners, tenants and the public at large the opportunity to have a meaningful voice in City projects in their neighborhoods. SFDPH held two noticed community meetings prior to the Health Commission meeting. These community meetings allowed neighbors to express support as well as to voice their concerns and enter into discussion with Edgewood about possible solutions. The conversation was successful in confirming the importance of this vital program for the vulnerable children and youth it will serve and reassuring concerned community members.