



BHC Staff -

We thank you for your ongoing dedication to the clients at the Behavioral Health Center at Zuckerberg San Francisco General.

Many of you joined us today, Tuesday, May 6, for a staff meeting on proposed changes to the BHC. We are writing this email as a follow-up and to provide information for those unable to attend.

As shared during the meeting, the Department of Public Health is planning for the conversion of the first and second floors of the BHC to locked sub-acute beds to meet the needs of our most complex clients. The converted floors would continue to be operated by SFDPH staff, and we anticipate the conversion would add approximately 20 to 30 SFDPH positions. The conversion will not lead to any layoffs.

As you may know, we are experiencing a significant shortage of mental health treatment beds, particularly at the sub-acute treatment level. A 2021 report estimated a statewide shortfall of nearly 2,800 locked sub-acute beds, including more than 600 in the Bay Area. In response, SFDPH is expanding mental health and substance use residential care and treatment to reduce wait times and meet the needs of our community. Despite this progress, demand continues to exceed capacity. The BHC was built as a locked treatment facility, so it provides a unique opportunity to add more of this much-needed bed type.

Planning for the proposed transition will take place over the next four to five months to ensure a safe and coordinated process for our residents and staff. This timeline also allows us to engage in meaningful discussions with staff and our labor partners.

The potential impact to BHC clients is at the forefront of any decision. Every resident of the ARF and RCFE is guaranteed a place in our system of care that meets their needs. We are meeting with RCFE and ARF residents tomorrow and will work closely with them to make any transition as seamless as possible.

We know there are many questions, and we are working closely with union leadership to keep you informed.

We thank you for your dedicated service to your residents and clients

Sincerely,

Angelica

Angelica Almeida, Ph.D. (she, her, hers)

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