

Please Support Healthcare in the Mission and Tenderloin
Come to a Joint Meeting of SF Planning and Health Commissions
on CPMC's compliance with their Development Agreement
Thursday, December 3, 10 AM, City Hall, Room 400

The joint meeting of the Planning Commission and the Health Commission is to determine whether CPMC has lived up to its promises in the Development Agreement that it and the City signed that granted CPMC permission to build a large new hospital at Van Ness and Geary.

Although the Development Agreement covered healthcare, housing, hiring, and transportation, our emphasis will be on healthcare deficiencies in the St. Luke's area and the Tenderloin areas.

For Tenderloin, the problems are

(1) questionable progress in setting up the clinic structures by which the new hospital would take care of its new Medi-Cal patients, particularly in the Tenderloin.

(2) CPMC's current lack of providing charity care. (They'd need 1800 more charity care cases to bring themselves up to where they should be.) This makes it look like the new hospital won't supply the charity care needed for the Tenderloin.

Another issue that wasn't written into the Development Agreement, but is still something the community wants and needs. is psych beds in the new hospital. CPMC is licensed to have 30 more beds than they're planning to staff, and haven't indicated any willingness to staff the extra beds as psych beds. San Francisco has an acute shortage of psych beds.

For St. Luke's, the issues covered by the Development Agreement have to do with culturally competent care which they're pretty poor on (see below), but there are other concerns we want to bring up:

(1) They're planning not to have a Pediatrics inpatient unit, so patients over the whole South-East sector would have to travel to the Van Ness/Geary hospital to see their hospitalized kids.

(2) They're planning to locate associated doctors at a distance from the hospital, partly to reach a richer clientele and partly to reduce admissions of lesser-paying Medicare/Medi-Cal patients.

(3) They've already gotten rid of Spanish-speaking nurses and appointment clerks in the diabetes center, which is of special concern because diabetes in pregnancy is more common in low-income South-East San Francisco, and new St. Luke's is supposed to have a specialty in women's and reproductive health. CPMC says they have solved this problem, but their solution is dubious.

(4) There are holes in the primary and preventive care for seniors that would require patients going to the Van Ness/Geary campus, and they're not providing adequate transportation.

(5) Their community outreach is almost non-existent. Their so-called community information event was not publicized to community groups and was scheduled during daytime working hours.

So we'd like to have the subject matter of the hearing go beyond its strictly defined purpose (has CPMC complied with the Development Agreement) and talk about how CPMC is working against our health needs. Please come.