

## SF JAIL HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE: Prop J Hearing Scheduled for June 17

Jail Health Services Alert: Jail Health Services (JHS) in San Francisco employs about 140 City employees, including FTE equivalent of 59 RNs, 25 LVNs, 7 NPs, and 13 Per Diem RNs, and provides services to a highly acute population in six facilities. JHS been a target of contracting out proposals in past years...and we have yet another one facing us this year. This service cannot be legally contracted out unless approved by the SF Board of Supervisors in a Prop J Hearing on June 17, at City Hall. In past years, we've successfully defended JHS by organizing community advocacy and winning support from a majority of the BOS members.

A for-profit contractor would provide services "on the cheap", by cutting wages and benefits, reducing nurse staffing, and reducing services. The result: higher staff turnover, reduced quality of care, and increased illness throughout the community. The City's proposal inflates the projected savings by exaggerating current costs AND "low-balling" the anticipated contractor costs....and the City's proposal fails to account for the hidden costs resulting from lower quality care.

If JHS were sub-contracted, there would be an insufficient number of vacant positions to absorb dislocated JHS staff. So, RNs, LVNs, and others could be laid off throughout the DPH, as JHS staff would have transfer/bumping rights. Therefore, we have filed a grievance under the SEIU RN Contract (Section II.C) and the SEIU City Wide Contract, since we maintain that the City's proposal to subcontract JHS is a clear violation of "Subcontracting of Work" provisions.

THANKS to JHS Stewards and Members for participating in advocacy at City Hall on Wednesday, May 26, at a meeting with the Mayor's Chief of Staff, and for testifying before the BOS Budget Committee. As a result, four of the five members of the BOS Budget Committee have declared opposition to the scheme, including David Campos, John Avalos, Ross Mirkarimi, and Sophie Maxwell. But this fight is NOT over, as a proposal to sub-contract JHS is included in the Mayor's proposed budget. Please contact SF Supervisors to express your views, and attend the Prop J Hearing on June 17.