

Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) Gift Fund Resolution

Whereas, Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) maintains a Patient Gift Fund that receives public donations for the use of LHH residents, and San Francisco's Administrative Code Section 10.100-201 clearly states that LHH's Gift Fund is a public trust intended exclusively for LHH patients' general benefit and comfort; and

Whereas, In 2005, LHH staff sub-accounts were created within LHH's Patient Gift Fund which were used for the benefit of LHH's staff, using funds donated for the benefit of LHH residents without apparent foreknowledge of Gift Fund donors; and

Whereas, The Gift Fund money used for LHH's staff has contributed to depleting the Gift Fund and reducing amenities for LHH's residents; and

Whereas, On May 21, 2010 the San Francisco Controller's Office ordered the Department of Public Health to separate the staff sub-accounts from the LHH Patient Gift Fund; and

Whereas, The San Francisco Controller's office has only conducted a "review" of the LHH Patient Gift Fund, but has not performed an independent audit to determine the amount of Gift Fund money spent on LHH's staff; and

Whereas, LHH previously had a Gift Fund Management Committee that monitored LHH Gift Fund expenditures, but this oversight committee was abolished, along with eliminating required quarterly reports of Gift Fund activity to the Health Commission, when LHH revised its Gift Fund policy on April 15, 2010 and on December 2, 2004, respectively; and

Whereas, The West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WTPCC) would like to both help residents of LHH, and help restore donor confidence in LHH's Patient Gift Fund,

Therefore, Be it Resolved that the WTPCC:

- Recommends that the city of San Francisco conduct a thorough, independent audit of LHH's Patient Gift Fund.
- Believes that any Patient Gift Fund money determined to have been misspent must be returned to the Gift Fund sub-accounts that directly benefit patients in order to provide restitution.
- Desires that a LHH Gift Fund Management Committee be re-established, consisting of LHH residents, community members, and health professionals.
- Requests that LHH's policy #45-01 governing the Patient Gift Fund be restored to its pre-December 2004 version to restore safeguards removed in the April 15, 2010 and December 2, 2004 revisions to the policy.
- Urges that a quarterly Gift Fund donations and expenditures report be developed and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee for public review.
- Calls for the Controller's Office and the Department of Public Health to restore a mission statement describing the intended uses, and "restricted purposes" for each sub-account, and post it on LHH's web site appealing for Gift Fund donations.
- Respectfully requests that in an effort to maintain a constructive working relationship with LHH, a member(s) of the WTPCC be reinstated on LHH's advisory Board.