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Hospital Building Safety Board Codes and Processes Committee

**Wednesday, September 11, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

2020 West El Camino Ave, Conference Room 930, Sacramento, CA 95833
355 South Grand Avenue, Conference Room 2000, Los Angeles, CA 90071
Teams Meeting Access; Meeting ID: 240 626 346 370; Passcode: VF4Gf8
Call in: (916) 535-0978; Phone Conference ID: 393 556 817#

Committee Members Present

Michael O'Connor, Committee Chair
Teresa Endres, Committee Vice-Chair
Cody Bartley
Michael L. Davis
Gary Dunger
Scott Mackey
Carl Newth

HCAI Staff Present

Richard Tannahill
Brett Beekman
Larry Enright
Mia Marvelli
Diana Navarro
Nanci Timmins
Andia Farzaneh

Consulting Members Present

Mark Hershberg
Kelly Martinez

HBSB Staff Present

Veronica Yuke, Executive Director
Marcus Palmer
Evelt Torres

- 1 **1. Call to Order and Welcome**
- 2 **Facilitator:** Michael O'Connor, Principal, Nichols, Melburg & Rossetto; Committee Chair
- 3 Michael O'Connor called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed the
- 4 participants. The agenda was introduced, and a roll call was initiated.

2. Roll Call and Meeting Advisories/Expectations

Facilitator: Veronica Yuke, Supervisor, HCAI; Executive Director

Veronica Yuke conducted the roll call, confirming a quorum, and outlined meeting expectations and rules of engagement for both in-person and virtual attendees.

3. Triennial Code Cycle update and timeline

Facilitator: Mia Marvelli, Architect, Supervisor, HCAI

Mia Marvelli provided an update on the ongoing Triennial Code Cycle. She explained that the pre-cycle work had been completed, and they were in the 45-day public comment period for plumbing, electrical, and mechanical codes. Additionally, a 15-day review was conducted for the mechanical code, and the final documents were submitted to the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) for review.

- In December 2024, CBSC will convene for a three-day meeting to vote on the proposed code changes for plumbing, electrical, and mechanical.
- January 2025 will focus on changes to Parts 1, 2, and 10.

Discussion:

- Michael O'Connor inquired whether there were any immediate action items for the committee at this time.
- Mia Marvelli mentioned that while there was no immediate action needed, the committee should begin considering code changes for the next cycle based on industry trends and stakeholder feedback.
- Jim Malley emphasized that the committee could benefit from conducting a post-review of the previous cycle to identify opportunities for improvement, particularly around energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Cody Bartley proposed starting an informal review of potential areas for code improvement based on recent stakeholder feedback. He recommended compiling suggestions in preparation for the next cycle.
- Scott Mackey suggested leveraging past feedback to identify where the regulatory process can be streamlined, helping avoid bottlenecks in future cycles.

Action:

- The committee agreed to begin informal discussions on potential code changes for the next cycle, with a formal review beginning after the December 2024 meeting.

4. Update on Electronic Test, Inspection, and Observation (eTIO) Development

Facilitator: Chris Davis, SE, District Structural Engineer, HCAI

Chris Davis reported that beta testing for the eTIO system was progressing as planned, with public testing expected by the end of the year. He highlighted the addition of a change log feature, which will help streamline communication between design professionals and inspectors. The system remains on track to replace paper-based reporting, aiming to enhance real-time tracking of inspections.

Discussion:

- Michael O'Connor expressed interest in participating in the public testing phase of the eTIO system.
- Chris Davis responded by explaining the steps for public testing and noted the potential for expanding the system to other agencies, such as the Division of State Architect.
- Gary Dunger raised concerns about the user interface and asked whether training would be provided for professionals unfamiliar with digital inspection systems.
- Chris Davis confirmed that a training component was being developed alongside the system rollout, which would include video tutorials and live support sessions.
- Jim Malley emphasized the importance of thorough training modules, especially for design professionals working on complex healthcare projects. He recommended adding interactive simulation tools to the training materials.
- Scott Mackey supported the idea of simulations to improve user adoption and ensure design teams are comfortable using the system from the start.

Action:

- The committee will participate in the beta testing of the eTIO system and provide feedback. Training materials, including simulations, will be made available before the public rollout.

5. Standard Details Update

Facilitator: Gary Dunger, Executive Director, Design and Construction, Cedars-Sinai Health System; Committee Member

Gary Dunger presented an update on the Standard Details Project, outlining progress made on intersecting wall assemblies, one-hour ceiling roof assemblies, and the use of fire barriers in wood-frame construction. Gary Dunger highlighted a code change proposal submitted to allow certain fire barriers to terminate at the ceiling assembly, rather than continuing up to the roof deck. This modification aims to improve compliance without compromising safety.

Discussion:

- Michael O'Connor praised the updates and asked whether the proposal had undergone a seismic impact analysis.
- Gary Dunger confirmed that the analysis was underway and that early indications showed that the change would not negatively impact seismic performance.
- Jim Malley expressed concerns about whether the fire barrier change could create complications for retrofit projects in seismic zones. He suggested further review before finalizing the proposal.
- Scott Mackey recommended that any updates to the Standard Details Project be integrated into the training for design professionals to ensure compliance with new standards.
- Michael O'Connor offered to share additional remodeling versions to provide further insights into fire barrier design.

Action:

- The Standard Details Project will continue to be refined, with further studies on seismic compliance. Additional input from committee members will be considered before finalizing the fire barrier proposal.

6. Explore opportunity to create a Subcommittee to develop an advisory on “How to Write a Functional and Operational Program”

Facilitator: Teresa Endres, AIA, ACHA, EDAC, AAH, Senior Associate, Medical Planning Director, Taylor Design; Committee Vice-Chair

Teresa Endres led a discussion on developing an advisory guide to help professionals draft functional and operational programs for healthcare facilities. The guide will offer a step-by-step framework for submissions, addressing the common issues of inconsistency in program scale and level of detail. The guide will also clarify the differences between Program Flex and Alternate Methods of Compliance (AMC).

Clara Wu provided a walkthrough of the draft slide deck. The team had been working on this project, but the advisory guide was not yet ready to be shared.

The guide is intended to assist architects and designers, especially those without medical planning expertise, to understand the purpose of functional programs.

Discussion:

- Michael O'Connor asked what challenges had prompted the development of this advisory.
- Richard Tannahill explained that the wide variation in the quality of program submissions had led to delays and confusion during the review process. The

advisory aims to standardize expectations and improve the quality of submissions, particularly for smaller projects.

- Kelly Martinez pointed out that first-time submitters often struggle with understanding what level of detail is required, resulting in either incomplete or overly detailed submissions.
- Scott Mackey supported the creation of the guide and suggested including real-world examples to illustrate best practices.
- Teresa Endres agreed and confirmed that the guide would include case studies from both large-scale and small-scale projects to provide context for different types of submissions.

Action:

- A subcommittee will be formed to draft the Functional and Operational Program Guide, gathering input from both HCAI staff and industry stakeholders. The guide will be reviewed by the committee before final publication.

7. Comments from the Public/Committee Members on Issues Not on the Agenda

Facilitator: Michael O'Connor, Committee Chair

Committee Comments:

- Scott Mackey proposed adding an educational session focused on infection control and sterile zones in healthcare facilities, following recent discussions around program submissions. He emphasized the importance of addressing infection control in both new and existing facilities.
- Michael O'Connor agreed and suggested that infection control could become a standalone topic for a future webinar series or educational program.

Action:

- The committee agreed to explore the development of an educational program focused on infection control and sterile zones in healthcare settings, with a tentative launch in 2025.

8. Adjournment

Michael O'Connor thanked the participants for their time and valuable contributions. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.