



Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee Minutes of the February 21, 2012 Meeting

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Diane Alcala, Alex Baty, Angela Perone, Bart Broome, Corrin Buchanan, Cynthia Yeung, Tracy Garza, Sterling Johnson, Amos Lim, Marcelle Million, Bonnie Miluso, Mark Murphy, Matthew Valdez, Mike Van Nguyen, Patrick Pablo, Ray Rudolph, Tom Temprano, Mark Snyder, and Vaughn Villaverde.

Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Todd Mavis, Bill Ambrunn, Amy Whelan, Bianca Polovina, Fayaz Rajani, Mark Dunlop, Neo Veavea, and Paul Klees.

Staff Present: Nadia Babella and Darrick Ing (Intern).

Guests Present: John Meyer-Shen, John Patrick, and Krittika Chaiyanupong.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Commissioner Chung called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Nadia Babella called the roll. There was quorum.

2. **Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:**

John Patrick and Krittika Chaiyanupong, Organizational Psychology PhD Candidates introduced themselves. They were present to observe the meeting for a school project.

3. **Approval of January 17, 2012 Minutes (action item)**

Motion was made by Mike Nguyen to approve the minutes; seconded by Corrin Buchanan with minor adjustments. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Annette Wong – San Francisco Immigrant Legal Education Network (SFILEN) Presentation**

Annette Wong is the program coordinator of SFILEN located at Dolores Street Community Services in the Mission District. SFILEN is a collaboration of 13 community based agencies, funded through the city, that



provide free immigration legal services and community education around immigrant rights to low income immigrant communities throughout San Francisco.

Ms. Wong passed a brochure with names of partner agencies including legal, outreach and education agencies that serve African, Asian, Arab and Latino immigrant communities. These organizations have been working together in SFILEN for approximately six years. SFILEN is a service based collaborative but does get involved with advocacy work when it stems from open cases. Every year a booklet is published featuring stories of clients and family SFILEN has helped through their services.

Service providers recognize that the impact of legal services and education on the community is very limited, so SFILEN began engaging in the SF immigrant integration project. The project was to develop proactive policies to integrate immigrants into our community. SFILEN recognizes that the word "integrate" is loaded and means different things. By integration, SFILEN does not mean everyone should speak English and eat burgers and fries. It's about integration to services in the city without cultural and linguistic barriers. The goal of the SF immigrant integration project is to move beyond just sanctuary into a proactive framework to integrate immigrants civically, socially, and economically. SFILEN recognizes that 40% of businesses owners in San Francisco are foreign born. SFILEN wants to continue to promote the contributions of immigrants beyond just protecting them from law enforcement. The goal is to bring together community members, elected officials, various city departments, groups like the HRC and the Immigrant Rights Commission, to generate a set of policies together.

SFILEN recognizes a lot of the needs to immigrants and LGBT often intersect together; for instance LGBT immigrants seeking asylum and reuniting families that are separated because of federal marriage laws. SFILEN has gone through a few phases. The leadership development project for racially diverse immigrant community leaders conducted 35 interviews among peers to learn about doing community based research. Interviews were conducted to find out about how immigrants feel about SF; whether or not they feel welcome here; what makes them feel welcomed; what are the top 3 needs; what do they bring to SF; and how they are meeting and sustaining the needs of their community. Then leaders were trained to lead focus groups throughout SF for many different communities. Now the project has moved into the survey phase. UCSF has been supporting and backing the technical support for the surveys. They are hoping to survey 1,000 community members. Survey asks about services, language access, sanctuary policies, access to the HRC and various agencies. They hope to distribute the survey in 6 different languages, English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Tigrinya, and Tagalog. They will conduct more in depth focused groups with the Vietnamese, Russian, and Laotian communities. They had a very limited budget to do the surveys and UCSF translated the surveys for free. They hope to use that data to release the analysis and begin holding a set of community gatherings where elected officials, departments and other speakers can engage the community in developing policies together.

Through the interviews, they have already noticed trends in housing and economic concerns. Housing is not affordable and there aren't enough jobs. Lack of documentation is a huge hindrance to accessing services, housing, and economic opportunities. They hear that SF is a welcoming city, but in the past few years it has become less and less so. Many immigrants don't know about the sanctuary city ordinance. When they asked what the impact of the sanctuary ordinance is on their daily lives, they received very few responses.

There was a question on the survey about whether the person identifies as LGBT. Wording of the question was developed by UCSF. Immigrant is defined as "foreign born" although people who are born in US also may have a very immigrant experience, but in order to directly target the immigrant population that is how immigrant was defined. The survey is directed at low income immigrants who are most likely users of city services through different agencies and workshop participants. The survey is done on paper through face to face contact. Community leaders will conduct surveys within their community groups and community

based organizations. The survey didn't incorporate questions about immigrant's access to healthcare, like HIV services.

The survey is tailored to the SF immigrant experience. City services will be heavily impacted by health care reform and a lot of the health care reform has language that excludes access to undocumented immigrants. How can the survey reflect that or collect data to have undocumented access to health care? That is probably a concern that can be addressed through the community forums after the data has been collected. The surveys do not ask about opinions regarding healthcare reform and immigrant documentation, but different immigrant communities have expressed different opinions regarding those issues in the focus groups. The minimum age for the surveys is 18; the needs of the children will be captured by their parents and family members. The survey asks general questions about housing like renting or owning, household size, members living together, income earners. Regarding economic development, immigrant communities survive through informal means, e.g. co-ops, etc. One example of a solution is building policy to support jobs so that they do not have to work under the table and folks can really contribute to the city in a formal way. In the mission there are a lot of mom-and-pop carts but permits are expensive. These are people who are working hard to make a living for their families but they just can't afford proper paperwork to contribute legally, so how do we support these families in ways that are sustainable.

It was hard to capture narratives in surveys so there were discussions in focus groups about discrimination, hate violence, comfortableness with public safety and accessing law enforcement. There were many responses from the focus group about violence for example on the Muni. After some data analysis the surveys should be able to better geologically identify where immigrant communities are located within SF.

5. Report Back – LGBT Senior Hearing and Commonwealth Club Panel

The hearing was a great success. There were so many participants that they managed to fill the overflow room as well and people were still standing in the hallway. Hundreds of seniors came to speak. Expert testimony was provided by 5 people including, Seth Kilbourn from Open House and Daniel Redman from NCLR.

The three common themes included housing for seniors, access to social services, especially with regards to in home services, and building coalitions among local service providers in SF. The Supervisors were very interested in hearing about what community members had to say. The next meeting with the supervisors is set for 2/22/12 to set in place a 6 month task force that will determine the short term and long term goals on actual policy legislation around housing for a community, like seniors living with HIV. Another focus will be researching demographics to identify the community that is out there. The supervisors will set in place a structure to establish an LGBT senior advisory committee, projected to have 23 members, to the Center for Adult and Aging Services. The advisory committee would be comprised of service providers, non profits and members of the community.

That evening the dialogue continued at the Commonwealth Club. Julian Chan did an excellent job facilitating the event. There were four panelists: Brian de Vries, Professor of Gerontology; Moli Steinert, Executive Director of Stepping Stone; Gustavo Serina, Commission on Aging and Adult Services; and Marvin Burrows, founder, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, and LGBT Lighthouse Community Center. The running theme of the panel was housing and bringing fabulousness back to growing older in SF.

The Board of Supervisors subcommittee hearing is available on the SF government website. They have yet to hear back from the Commonwealth Club if they will be broadcasting the panel.

This has been a fruitful process. The LGBT senior process has been a long 2-3 year planning process that has now taken on a life of its own. The senior workgroup should give themselves a tap on the back. We've graduated the project to another body. We can still observe the progress and advocate when the appropriate time comes. Theresa Sparks or Commissioner Chung may sit on the LGBT Taskforce depending on capacity. Former Commissioner, Martha Knutzen and Director Theresa Sparks were the two commissioners co-chairing the LGBT Advisory Committee when the 2003 LGBT Senior report came out. They identified the 67 recommendations in the 2003 report and will be using them today as a foundation on how to proceed.

6. Discussion of Annual Retreat and Adoption of Annual Plan

The POPs were discussed. An edit to the housing POP in the process the second line says "conducting individual interviews with community member organizations." It is really supposed to say, "community members and organizations for specific concerns."

The retreat went very smoothly. It was a really natural process. People decided on topics quickly and were able to group themselves into 3 working groups.

Committee member Mark Murphy motioned to adopt the three topics and Vaughn Villaverde seconded the motion. The work plan was adopted unanimously.

7. Workgroup Report Back

Beyond Castro

The group meets the first Tuesdays of the month at 6 pm. The next meeting will be March 6. They had a productive meeting in February. They picked 2 additional general locations for upcoming community meeting: the outer mission and the tenderloin district. They are also hoping to do a collaborative meeting at end of year in Castro to bring what they have learned from other communities and to make Castro more inclusive. They want community input on how to make the Castro more welcoming. They plan to continue dialogue in District 10. Members in Beyond Castro include Committee Members: Tracy, Matt, Neo, Diana, Angela, Mark D., Alex, and Bill.

LGBT Housing

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 28 at 5:30pm at the Human Rights Commission. Committee members include Corrin, Amos, Sterling, Bianca, Paul and Bonnie. If you're looking for a committee, they're happy to have you. Everyone is partnering with a community organization to introduce themselves and develop a relationship. Once they have these connections they will discuss what we want these organizations to say and how to format it. At the next meeting the group will begin to organize a panel, which is the first step of their process. Bonnie will start partnering and volunteering with Larkin Street Youth Services. They encourage workgroup members to volunteer with the various organizations.

The group we will also connect with Bevan Dufty, who is leading the city's homelessness efforts.

LGBT youth

Committee members include Bart, Cynthia, Marcelle, Patrick, Mike, Vaughn, and Mark M. They had a meeting on February 8th, and will be meeting the second Wednesdays of every month at 7pm at HRC.

They looked at the resolution passed by the school board two years ago. In April, the group will meet with 2 members of SFUSD LGBT Support Services team, Kevin and Ilsa.

They group will review the SFUSD Student Services website. Mark met with SFUSD Commissioner Sandra Fewer, who was the champion for the resolution two years ago. She was thrilled about the LGBTAC doing this work and will support the work. In March and April the school will be going through budgeting. The LGBT support services position is funded for only half time; she wants the group to advocate for it to be funded as a fulltime position. The group will also following up with the Director of the Youth Commission, Mario Yedidia, who was also instrumental with bringing the resolution to pass.

Patrick and Mike are working on information about the Gay Straight Alliances and LGBT liaisons within the SFUSD. Vaughn and Cynthia are also looking at how students are accessing these services in Massachusetts and Minnesota and will conduct a benchmark review of other jurisdictions efforts in this area. Bart is doing a follow up on Senate Bill 48 and looking at the language of the bill to make sure we are holding people accountable.

8. Member Report on Activities in the Community

API Wellness is now the sole site for anonymous HIV testing in SF. All other locations are only confidential testing. Confidential testing contains information e.g. name, social security number or email address, but it's kept confidential, whereas anonymous testing contains no name or information. For appointments, go to www.apiwellness.org.

Dept. of Public Health is working on bringing attention to the issue of HIV and aging. They published a report in 2008 and found that there was a lack of resources and programs allocated to HIV and aging issues. They want to train every DPH funded provider in SF on these issues and contracted Positive Resources Center, AIDS Legal Referral Panel, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Project Reform and Health Advocates to do an overview of how people's benefits will change as they get to retirement age. For example a lot of people who contracted HIV in the past qualified onto their employers' private long term disability and have been living off of it, but it expires after a person becomes 65 because they are no longer legally "disabled" but retired. That source of income will just be wiped out. A lot of people who were surveyed have no idea what they will do once they are 65. On 2/29, a pilot training curriculum will be held for DPH contractors and community based organization to address these issues. Of the people in SF who have HIV, a majority of them will be 50 by this summer, which is why they are starting to address this issue now.

The 3 judge panel of the 9th Circuit deemed Proposition 8 unconstitutional. It is now being appealed to the entire 9th Circuit. They have one more review before bringing the appeal to the Supreme Court.

Washington State approved same sex marriage. Governor of New Jersey vetoed the same sex marriage bill. State House of Maryland passed the same sex marriage bill, and is waiting for the state senate to vote on it.

AIDS quilt returned to the Castro last week. Buy Clothes for AIDS had a huge HIV awareness event and it was a great turnout. AIDS Housing Alliance had a fundraiser at Trigger that went well.

9. Commissioner Report (Discussion Item):

Commissioners had a retreat. They want to have more commission meetings in the community. The next commission meeting in the community will be in District 6. Commissioner Chung will be organizing it. If

anyone would volunteer to help, please contact her after the meeting. She will probably be reaching out to Supervisor Kim's office.

The Commission also looked at the unfinished agenda, e.g. African American outmigration and student graduation disparity. The Commission will again look at the issue of education as human right and look more in depth at students of color's access to education.

Last year Commissioner Chung participated at Global Commission on HIV and the Law in the High Income Countries. They now are issuing the report and you can see the website and the video. The website is www.hivlawcommission.org

10. Staff Report (Discussion Item):

The 12N Ordinance state that all city employees who work with youth and all organizations who receive \$50,000 or more or work with youth must undergo LGBTQ competency training. This has been on the books for a long time but has not been implemented or enforced. The HRC with the Youth Commission have partnered up with the DPH to implement these requirements. They have sub contracted with Baycat who will put together a web based training for everyone to receive the training. It is currently in training phase and they are looking to get feedback from LGBTQ youth to incorporate into the training.

The Equity Advisory Committee is holding nominations for Hero Awards to recognize organizations, students, and individuals for their outstanding contributions towards equity, education and human rights. Nadia will be sending out an email about that.

On Thursday, April 12, at 5:30pm in City Hall Room 416, the HRC will be holding a hearing on the "Human Rights Impacts of War on Drugs." It will look at incarceration rates and looking at them through the lens of race, the impact on family, the impact on different communities, and how the collateral consequences of drug use vary differently based on demographics.

11. Announcements:

The 20th anniversary fundraising gala of Women Organized to Resist Life Threatening Diseases, the only women organization founded by HIV positive women for HIV positive women in the Bay Area, is on Thursday March 1 at 6 pm located at the Oakland 21st Street Collective. They provide newsletters to educate women on HIV around the world. Commissioner Chung is being honored as one of the 7 honorees. All of the food will be provided from food truck vendors. More information can be found at www.womenhiv.org.

Tom Temprano produces outdoor events a couple times a month. The first event will start in March. The events are a benefit for small organizations and non-profits here in SF. Tom is currently seeking beneficiaries. The donations range from around \$200 – \$700. They don't require 501c3 nonprofit status.

This Friday and Saturday there is a town hall meeting for trans people of color and allies. It is a chance for trans people of color to voice concerns about services in Oakland. On Friday the town hall will be located in Oakland and on Saturday the town hall will be located at City of Refuge on Howard St.

On March 1, at the Everett Middle School at 450 Church Street, there is a town hall meeting about the redistricting of Castro. There is a committee of us speaking about keeping the LGBT Center and the

proposed 55 Laguna St Project within District 8 to keep it all inclusive because of community interest. We do not want to see the extended part of Castro redistricted.

On March 4, at the Women's Building, there is a Harvey Milk Club general membership meeting on the state of the queer left panel. Current Supervisors Campos and Olague and other community leaders will be speaking about political issues.

CUAV has moved offices and is having an open house meeting on Thursday Feb. 23. Tenderloin health is closing. The middle school where Patrick works at is looking for speakers to come speak on career paths on Wednesday March 14th and the 21st from 9-12.

On March 9 in Detroit the White House will have a conference on LGBT Housing and Homelessness.

12. Old/New Business:

None.

13. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.