



## Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee Minutes of the March 20, 2012 Meeting

**Committee Members Present:** Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Diane Alcala, Bill Ambrunn, Alex Baty, Bart Broome, Corrin Buchanan, Tracy Garza, Sterling Johnson, Paul Klees, Amos Lim, Mark Muphy, Mike Van Nguyen, Marcelle Million, Angela Perone, Bianca Polovina, Fayaz Rajani, Ray Rudolph, Mark Snyder, Tom Temperano, Matthew Valdez, Vaughn Villaverde, Cynthia Yeung, and Amy Whelan.

**Committee Members Absent:** Commissioner Todd Mavis, Mark Dunlop, Bonnie Miluso, Patrick Pablo, and Neo Veavea.

**Staff Present:** Nadia Babella and Darrick Ing (intern).

**Guests Present:** John Patrick, Krittika Chaiyanupong, Derek Gerson, Michelle Alcedo, and Suni Sandoval.

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

Commissioner Chung called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Nadia Babella called the roll. There was quorum.

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

Guests introduced themselves. John Patrick and Krittika Chaiyanupong are organizational psychology PhD candidates. They were present to observe the meeting for a school project. Derek Gerson is an economics student at Berkeley, and he announced the Equalize Youth Project, which is a community-based resource for LGBTQ youth dealing with discrimination. Michelle Alcedo is the Director of Education and Outreach at Openhouse. Suhagey Sandoval will be interning at the HRC.

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

Motion was made by committee member Mark Murphy to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by committee member Tracy Garza with minor adjustments. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. **Presentation by Jamie Wagoner on Proposed Project to Provide Legal Services to LGBT Seniors and Disabled Adults**

The presentation was postponed due to illness of the presenter.



25 Van Ness Avenue  
Suite 800  
San Francisco  
California 94102-6033



TEL (415) 252-2500  
FAX (415) 431-5764  
TDD (415) 252-2550  
www.sf-hrc.org



## **5. Follow-up to Criminalization of HIV Panel**

A follow-up to the Criminalization of HIV panel will be organized. This is a commissioner project that will be organized at an LGBTAC meeting. The purpose of the project is to discuss the tough questions of stigmatization from the human rights perspective and not the health perspective. Several organizations will be invited to speak at the panel including Project Inform, SF District Attorney's office, and the Department of Public Health.

The panel may include a discussion of police use of condoms as evidence of sex work. Congresswoman Barbara Lee introduced legislation that calls for review of current laws that stigmatize people living with HIV or at risk of HIV. This conversation would be a local version of that type of dialogue. On April 12 the Human Rights Commission is holding a hearing on the human rights impact of the War on Drugs, which may touch on some issues of health and HIV. Several volunteers will be needed to set up the follow-up panel to the November 2011 panel on the Criminalization of HIV. Advisory Committee member who are interested included Matthew Valdez, Angie Perone, Ray Rudolph, Paul Klees, Bianca Polovina, and Fayaz Rajani.

## **6. Workgroup Report Back**

### **Beyond Castro**

The workgroup decided that it does not have the resources to expand the Beyond Castro project to two new neighborhoods so the workgroup will expand to include the Excelsior/Outer Mission this year. The workgroup will be holding a meeting in the community again similar to the meeting last July in the Bayview. The meeting will be focused on getting youth and community involved to discuss needs within the community. The workgroup will also return to Bayview to have community discussion of positive and negative changes since our last meeting. Committee member Neo Veavea reported that there is a momentum building and the discussions regarding LGBT have been continuing in the community.

The Beyond Castro workgroup will be checking in with the Coleman Advocates, the Youth Commission, and other organizations that were present at the previous panel to come up with new ideas.

Committee member Diane Alcalá suggested the idea of utilizing government and other organization's mobile vehicles or travelling clinics as a means to distribute information about available LGBT resources, thereby increasing access to different communities while conserving resources. The workgroup is looking into ways to partner with existing mobile resources.

The next Beyond Castro Workgroup meeting is Tuesday, April 3, at 6pm. Any advisory committee members may still join the workgroup.

### **LGBT Housing**

The LGBT Housing Workgroup is organizing a panel to educate the advisory committee and greater community about LGBT housing issues. The workgroup is postponing the panel from April to May in District 6 within the Tenderloin. The LGBT housing panel will focus on education about preventative issues. The workgroup is currently still seeking panelists. The LGBT Housing Workgroup is also contacting Bevan Dufty and Jane Kim's office as well as other homeless shelters.

The LGBT Housing workgroup is interested in reaching out to Asian/Pacific Islander (API) LGBT organizations. Members asked if there were any that catered specifically to that population since many API

organizations referred them to AIDS Legal Referral Panel and AIDS Housing Project, when looking for information about housing for the LGBT API community.

The focus of the LGBT Housing panel is broad, but the workgroup hopes to produce policy recommendations at the panel for LGBT people who are marginally homeless. The workgroup will make sure that there is data to back up any information produced in the report from that will stem from the panel.

Community members suggested taking a look at New York's city funded project for LGBT Senior Home. Open House is also compiling data on services dealing with LGBT housing issues. The LGBT Housing workgroup was only looking at LGBT housing issues of renting and the marginally housed, but will consider issues with purchasing. The workgroup is going to be relying outreach and advertisements for this panel.

The next LGBT Housing Workgroup meeting is on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

### **LGBT Youth Workgroup**

Last meeting the LGBT Youth workgroup started audits for LGBT youth resources on SFUSD school websites. The workgroup found that there was no information posted on the individual schools' website about LGBT organizations at the school and only one of the schools had the name of the LGBT support services liaison for the school posted on the website. Of 14 schools, only one school had a liaison that met with students but that liaison only met with the GSA once a year. There were a few GSAs listed at schools but they were inactive or did not have a staff member listed that supports the organization. In addition the school district gives out a \$800 stipend for the LGBT staff counselor on campus for funding, but it was unclear who those stipends were going to. The workgroup wants to sure that there is proper oversight and accountability of the program that was implemented as a result of the 2009 resolution.

The workgroup invited the Student Support Services staff, Kevin Gogin and Ilsa Bertolini, to their next meeting. The workgroup also researched SB 48, the inclusion of LGBT history into the school curriculum. SB 48 will be a good tool, but it will be an entirely separate project and will depend mainly on whether or not schools implement it.

The workgroup did national research and found that Washington DC school district has developed a comprehensive program to address LGBT issues with an annual work plan. The next step that that the workgroup is taking is to look at their meeting minutes to see how the implementation and accountability is going. The workgroup is also working collaboratively with GSA.

Committee member Mark Murphy met with School Board Commissioner Sandra Lee Fewer and updated her on what it is that the workgroup are doing. She is fully supportive and wants the LGBTAC to keep the School Board is accountable. The Youth Commission Executive Director, Mario Yedida, is also excited and interested to work with the LGBT youth workgroup.

The next meeting is the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm at the HRC offices.

### **7. Member Report on Activities in the Community**

Last week, City of Omaha passed anti discrimination LGBT ordinance at the city level. It was a very conservative city council member who changed his vote last minute to pass the anti-discrimination ordinance.

In Iowa there is action within the state Senate to try and work on repealing marriage. Politically the state Senate was more Republican last year but now has a Democratic majority.

The White House issued a request of the FDA to reexamine the prohibition on blood donations from gay men.

The Obama administration have submitted document to make LGBT asylum easier and gives more specific criteria to waive the one year ban. Used to be that you apply for asylum based on intimidation or life threatened, but now you can apply for asylum based on fear of future threat of persecution.

Committee member Sterling Johnson was honored at the BALIF Gala. Transgender Law Center was also received a BALIF award.

Grant Colfax from Department of Public Health was appointed director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy.

Last month committee member Ray Rudolph reported on the January 26 LGBT seniors hearing before the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee. Following the meeting, Supervisors Campos, Olague, and Wiener invited a small group to meet with them to discuss how to follow up on the hearing. The supervisors decided to create an LGBT Senior Taskforce for a year, which would include 11 members, to look at housing, health and services, legal issues, research and demographics and how our community gets along within the community. The Board will be taking public applications and the Board will decide who will serve on the Taskforce. There will be lots of possibilities to get involved for anyone who is interested. The supervisors are interested in what research is available, what the unmet needs are, and how to fund that research on LGBT seniors in April with preliminary recommendations. The goal is to gather as much information as possible so that the task force can do its work next year. The Taskforce will need to find out how to do research on LGBT seniors who are scared to be identified. It's been very difficult to count LGBT seniors and address their needs accurately. Everyone has been relying on estimates but estimates are inaccurate. Information about the taskforce will be sent out when it becomes available

#### **8. Commissioner Report (Discussion Item):**

On Thursday April 12 the Human Rights Commission will hold a hearing on the Human Rights Impact of the War on Drugs. It will be held at 416 at the regular commission room at City Hall.

The Commission has passed the budget without big changes this fiscal year

#### **9. Staff Report (Discussion Item):**

The HRC is working to remove the exclusion of transgender transition-related surgical procedures from Healthy San Francisco. Healthy SF currently excludes transition-related surgeries, even ones that are offered for other diagnoses. The HRC is working with DPH and UCSF to see how those procedures can be brought into the Healthy SF program.

#### **10. Announcements:**

Openhouse is hosting On Lok's Senior Life Conference at the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Senior Center.

Transgender Law Center's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary is this Saturday 8pm at the EndUp.

Proceeds of the happy hour at Rio on the March 30<sup>th</sup> will go to the Transgender Law Center.

The Transgender and Aging Program will have a half-day Symposium for professionals, providers and advocates at the State building on April 4th. This event is sponsored by NCLR and Openhouse. There will be a community panel and provider panel.

Stop the Deportations has uploaded a story and video on their website about a binational couple.

**11. Old/New Business:**

The LGBTAC is seeking 7x7's. The 7x7 gives an Advisory Committee member seven minutes to share on an important topic that they are currently working on and gives the AC seven minutes for a question and answer period. It is a good way to educate the AC on the work that other members are doing in their professional or personal life.

Committee Member Bill Ambrunn said that it is important to have diverse voices, including LGBT voices in city government. He asked if staff could find information about LGBT representation in San Francisco's government.

**12. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.