



## Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee Minutes of the February 16, 2010 Meeting

**Committee Members Present:** Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Jane Aceituno, Alex Baty, Bart Broome, Corrin Buchanan, Samer Danfoura, Allison Laureano, Dominique Leslie, Amos Lim, Mark Murphy, Joseph Peralta, Poonam, Martin Rawlings-Fein, Donna Sachet, Lindasusan Ulrich, Vaughn Villaverde.

**Committee Members Absent:** Mark Dunlop (excused).

**Staff Present:** Nadia Babella, Domenic Viterbo.

**Guests Present:** Emalie Huriaux.

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

Ms. Laureano called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Babella called the roll.

### 2. **Public Comment For Items Not On The Agenda:**

None

### 3. **Approval of January 19, 2010 Minutes (action item):**

This item has been tabled until next month's meeting.

### 4. **7x7 Presentation: Dominique Leslie: Hepatitis-C on HCV by Emalie Huriaux, M.P.H., City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health:**

Ms. Huriaux explained that the main transmission of the Hepatitis-C virus (HCV) is through shared injection equipment and non-sterile equipment. HCV can live outside of the body for up to four days. In San Francisco 80-90% of intravenous drug users (IDU) have been exposed to HCV at some point. Some people are able to fight off the virus without taking medication; however, 85% are unable to fight it off and remain chronically infected. Veterans and people who are incarcerated are disproportionately affected. There is no concrete data on sexual transmission, though it is estimated that 15% of all HCV transmission is through sexual contact. There is also an estimate of about 15% of transmission that is unidentified that



could be through sexual contact. Most studies on sexual transmission have looked at monogamous heterosexual couples, where the male partner has HCV and the female partner doesn't. It remains unclear how the HCV is transmitted between them because the study does not specify different types of sexual activity. This study shows that 5% of the rate of transmission has been through sexual contact from a male partner to female partner. HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM) are also disproportionately affected. There seems to be a clear link of sexual transmission with HIV-positive MSM who engage in unprotected high-risk sexual activity. High risk sexual activities include anal sex, fisting, and sex with persons infected with STD's. In San Francisco, 43% of men who are HIV+ are also co-infected with HCV; of those men, 74% are homeless.

Current issues surrounding HCV include (1) HIV-positive MSM are not routinely tested for HCV, and (2) medical providers question patient honesty regarding IDU history.

Smoking and snorting drugs may be a way that HCV is transmitted in addition to sharing drug paraphernalia. There are still a lot of things that are unknown regarding HCV; there is no estimated number of people in San Francisco living with HCV. Also there are no studies on risk levels in the transgender community through the possible sharing of needles for the purpose of hormone therapy. Very little is known about the fetish community or other communities where blood may be shared and about non-injecting HIV-negative MSM. It is currently unknown whether the HCV is transmittable in bodily fluids.

Of one hundred people who contract HCV, one quarter of them might be eligible for treatment. About half of those who receive treatment manage to clear the virus; however, these same individuals will continue to produce HCV antibodies. It is not a treatment that will work for everyone.

Lack of funding for this disease may be due to the target population being injecting drug users and the discrimination towards the population. Lack of access to prevention and treatment, lack of knowledge around infection routes, stigma, judgment and discrimination continue to hinder necessary research. In California, the cost for treating people with chronic HCV is 2 billion per year.

The Hepatitis-A (HAV), Hepatitis-B (HBV), and HCV viruses may be separate viruses, but they're similar in that they all affect the liver, but HCV is the most complicated. HAV infection is the least common of the three in the U.S.; infection occurs usually through oral/fecal contact or water. HBV is transmitted the same way HIV is transmitted. Unlike HAV and HBV, those with HCV can get re-infected.

A way for the Commission to look at this issue would be by helping educate the community, focusing specifically on high-risk populations and those already affected by HCV and to help in providing better access to healthcare. Committee members can attend town hall meetings and provide recommendations to the Mayor's Office. The HRC can also collaborate with community groups addressing this issue.

##### **5. Approval of Recommended New Committee Members (Action Items):**

Of the 13 applicants, nine were interviewed, and seven were chosen. Seven members of the Committee from the previous year have either missed three meetings or resigned. The members of the interview committee described why they selected the interviewees.

Marty Rawlings-Fein will be reaching his fifth year term limit at the end of the term and will need to take a year off. Jane Aceituno, Allison Laureano, and Lindasusan Ulrich's memberships will be affected the following year. Commissioner Chung asked each of them to think about a plan of succession - who they feel ought to succeed them.

## **6. Follow-up to the Immigration and Seniors Panel Presentations (Discussion Item):**

To follow-up the Immigration Panel, Amos Lim suggested that to form an ad hoc workgroup, but Commissioner Chung advised to give it some thought and bring it up at the annual retreat.

To follow-up on the panel on issues affecting LGBT seniors, Commissioner Chung suggested that the same sort of advocacy on LGBT youth could be used. Check for city contractors who are specialists in serving LGBT seniors and perhaps formulate an action plan.

## **7. Work Group Reports:**

**Youth:** Mark Murphy announced that the School Board passed the resolution at their February 9 meeting. Fifteen months of really hard work has finally paid off. The resolution commits the SFUSD to fund staff in the Student Services Division to work on LGBT issues. The Youth Workgroup worked with the Youth Commission. As a result of the resolution an LBGT history class will be offered to any interested high school student. The class is offered at the Center. Commissioner Chung congratulated the Youth Workgroup and asked them to consider looking at discrimination in the community college system.

**Outreach:** Poonam interviewed the candidates for Committee membership. The group is looking at updating the website. Samer Danfoura explained that they workgroup is already recruiting for next year and plans to do more outreach efforts. They meet the first Wednesday of each month.

**Bisexual:** Lindasusan reported that a draft of the bisexual invisibility report has been sent to people for feedback. If there are people who'd like to give feedback on the Committee level, it would be appreciated.

**Alternative Families:** Bart Broome reported that the group had a meeting a few weeks ago and looked at older reports on this issue. The group decided to do a report based on the forum, create a formalized summary of what happened and include some of the stories collected as an addendum. Bart is working on redrafting the noted from the forum. Samer will write an introductory. Poonam will work on references.

## **8. Committee Year-End Evaluations (Discussion Item):**

Nadia Babella reported that this is the last meeting of the 2009-2010 year and asked for feedback about how the year went. One recommendation was to try to have follow-up discussions immediately after panels, rather than the month after. Commissioner Chung asked if we have met our goals we set out at last year's retreat? Lindasusan said the retreat was structured worked really well. She also recommended we find a way to record the 7 by 7's and panels digitally to place them on the website. Marty Rawlings-Fein agreed that this year's retreat was well-formed and efficient. He wished he could've done more personally, but feels excited about this coming year and being involved. Amos Lim stated that the Committee has given him a platform to address issues of concern. Corrin Buchanan said she learned a lot from the panels and thought it would be a good idea to have the Advisory Committee discuss them immediately after the panel. – squeeze in thoughts at the end. Poonam stated was excited about what we have been able to achieve. She stated that there is so much knowledge in the room and we should spend more time talking about the work we do and have done here. Jane Aceituno enjoyed seeing some of the actions taken and hoped to do more with the school board and plug into the political process. Bart Broome stated that he impressed with how much the Committee was able to accomplish and that the much of the work was done in the workgroups. Everyone should be part of a work group because it's a strong way to move forward. Panel discussions are very informative, but that current space doesn't accommodate the public. We can look meet in a spot which with room for an audience. Samer Danfoura stated that he enjoyed working with the Committee and proposed that we document the work we do, for example, how to put on a town forum. Also, he recommended that we hold the meetings in a place that has more space for the public.

Dominique Leslie stated that she can do more, but not by attending more meetings. She is available to write and can do more in that regard. She recommended that we get dinner for the meetings. She suggested that we find ways to involve monolingual Spanish speaking members. Joseph Peralta was excited about our work next year. Mark Murphy said that Pride takes up a lot of energy and we can look for better ways of doing. He was very happy with the work of the youth workgroup. Donna Sachet stated the workgroup she was involved with did not get traction this year, but hopes to get involved more next year. She also expressed concerns about budget cuts and stated that volunteerism is even more valuable. Alex Baty was impressed with the work the youth workgroup was able to accomplish and looked forward to more. Vaugh Villaverde said he feels really privileged he ended up in the youth workgroup and learned a lot and is ready to take on the next issue. Allison Laureano stated that she did not get as involved as she would have liked to this year, but will this coming year. She requested that we move meetings away from Wednesdays. Other than that, she felt that out of her four years here, this year's Committee has been most fulfilling. Nadia Babella wished she had brought the work plan for the last year, because the Committee would have been able to see how much of what we had set out to do, we actually were able to accomplish. We ended up doing most of what we wanted to do. We can think of a permanent location that is more public, e.g. the LGBT Community Center, so that our panels can attract more of the public.

#### **9. Commissioners Report:**

Commissioner Chung reported that we have more challenges this year, especially with Larry Brinkin leaving. She is looking at how to maximize efficiency. We will not have as much staff to support us with the work we're doing. We can share these tasks with the staff. Commissioner Chung reported that taking the Advisory Committee to the community is the way to go. We need to take City Hall to the community rather than expect the community to come to City Hall. We need to set a goal to meet in the community three times this year.

We have traditionally attended Pride, but there are other events in the community that we can consider such as street fairs, parades, for example, the Chinese New Year. This will give the Advisory Committee exposure and will provide these communities the opportunity to learn more about the work of the Committee.

Commissioner Chung stated that she is unsure how many staff will support meetings. We must be prepared for the harsh reality of more cuts coming. She reported that there is currently a \$550 million deficit in the city. We have to be more creative and give Committee members specific tasks they can participate in. She would like to sit down with every one individually to learn of their goal, vision, and what they can bring to the Committee. She feels inspired by what happened with the School Board and with the Alternative Family forum. It energized the Committee knowing that there are more envelopes we can push and challenge the status quo.

#### **10. Staff Report:**

Nadia Babella reported that the next Commission meeting will be held at Bayview-Hunters Point. Larry Brinkin's retirement party was amazing. We are not able to fill his position at this point and the Executive Director is looking to restructure the agency. This means that staff is doing a lot more with a lot less. We she first started working, the LGBT division had nine staff, now there are five. Four positions were not replaced because of budget cuts.

#### **11. Old/New Business:**

No Old/New Business was discussed.

**12. Announcements:**

None.

**13. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.