

City and County of San Francisco



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Human Rights Commission

Contract Compliance
Dispute Resolution/Fair Housing
Small and Micro Local Business Enterprise
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & HIV Discrimination

Theresa Sparks
Director

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee Minutes of the September 21, 2010 Meeting

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Alex Baty, Bart Broome, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Mark Dunlop, Elizabeth Labeledz, Joseph Peralta, Poonam, Fayaz Rajani, Ray Rudolph, Donna Sachet, Mark Snyder, Lindasusan Ulrich, Vaughn Villaverde, and Amy Whelan.

Committee Members Absent: Corrin Buchanan (excused), Samer Danfoura, Elizabeth Labeledz, Allison Laureano (excused), Amos Lim, Mark Murphy (excused), Bianca Polovina (excused).

Staff Present: Nadia Babella, Erin Jones-Le (intern), Domenic Viterbo.

Guests Present: Tommi Avicoli Mecca, Paul Klees.

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

Commissioner Chung called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Nadia Babella called the roll.

Jane Aceituno and Dominique Leslie have both resigned from the Committee and Martin Rawlings-Fein's was dropped from the Committee because he missed three meetings.

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

No public comments were made.

3. **Approval of the August 17, 2010 Minutes (Action Item):**

LU to approve with edits. Ray Rudolph seconded. Approved.

4. **Follow-Up Discussion: Ageing In – Ageing Out: Ageism, Adultism & Cross Generational Inclusion in the LGBT Community (Discussion Item):**

The Advisory Committee provided feedback regarding the August Ageing In and Ageing Out panel. Some of the questions and points raised in the follow-up discussion included the following:

- The panel was a really informative and wished we had more time. Brian de Vries gave a lot of really good information to reference and it was eye-opening.
- Concerns were raised about the violence in the film and that the film may be viewed as condoning the use of violence to address bullying.
- Suggestion was made to link information from the TILT program to the HRC website.
- A point which was not discussed was the fear that younger people may be taken advantage of by members of the community and the same can be said of older people being take advantage of by members of the community. Unspoken fear undermines building trust and relationships across generations.
- We can explore the generational differences and similarities of how younger and older groups look at topics such as bullying, for example. Bullying is very different nowadays than it was years ago, for example, but there are similarities.
- We can use media outreach to get a louder voice and consider using op-ed pieces on ageism . We can write for the Bay Area Reporter, Bay Times, HRC newsletter.
- Look at intergenerational inclusion in the LBT women’s community.
- Profile peoples who are in intergenerational friendships and what they’ve learned from each other. Spreading those stories would help combat the stigma of intergenerational prejudices.
- Host a town hall and invite youth organizations and senior organizations to energize the discussion about this – how to bring them together. Where are the gaps? How to bridge them to make a stronger community.
- Suggestion was made to hold discussions at Holy Redeemer.
- Have a follow-up panel and invite Brian de Vries for more information.
- Engaging in a public dialog is a great idea. We should fine tune our focus in terms of how this relates to discrimination and rights and how to set the tone in a positive way.
- Look at the housing needs of LGBT senior or youth and broaden our focus outside of SF to the Bay Area?
- 55 Laguna housing development project which is going to offer LGBT senior friendly units was approved by the Planning Commission, but it’s implementation is delayed.
- Explore using photography and stories on ageism.
- Make connections to the alternative families forum. Brian de Vries spoken about those families, “logical” families (other than biological families).

5. Support for LGBT Homeless Shelter – Presenter: Brian Basinger (Action Item):

Tommi Avicolti Mecca presented on this topic because Brian Basinger could not attend this evening’s meeting. He said that he and Mr. Basinger have been working on establishing a multi-services center for LGBT working class poor and homeless queers in the Castro.

Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors held a hearing on discrimination and violence experienced by LGBT shelter residents. LGBT folks were continually beaten up in shelters. Over 70% have experienced violence based on gender identity. One of the things that came out of the

hearing was to have a separate LGBT shelter. 40% of homeless youth in America identify as LGBT. 1 in 5 transgender youth become homeless after coming out. They're looking to provide housing for everyone who needs it, including seniors.

They worked with Supervisor Campos. They contacted Dolores Street Services' Eric Casada. They agreed to advocate for an LGBT shelter. Current proposed location is 1050 South Van Ness – 2nd floor; the shelter is designed for LGBT 18+. At this point they are looking for two things 1) approval from Human Services Agency Director, Trent Rohr and 2) \$163,000 which will come from money that was left over and set aside.

Mr. Avicolti Mecca asked the Advisory Committee for a letter of support for the shelter.

A discussion ensued and included some of following questions and answers:

Why does it have to be 18 and up?

- Because you cannot mix youth with adults

How will the project be funded after the initial set aside is used?

- The shelter is a demonstration program and having it would prove the need to continue it.

Is there any information on LGBT seniors in shelters?

- No, there's anecdotal evidence, only.

Should we put our energies more into transitional permanent housing?

- The shelter is an immediate stop gap measure, but they are working on long term solutions too.

What is the timeline?

- After they get the approval, they hope to open the shelter on December 1, World AIDS Day.

Are there any models in other cities?

- Sylvia Rivera is a shelter for young people. They'll be the first 18+ shelter.

Is there any priority given to HIV in shelters?

- Not currently.

Will there be any other services at the shelter? Would the funding cover it?

- Yes, other services available would be available at the shelter.

Discussion was had regarding the importance of securing long term housing, as the end goal. Mark Dunlop motioned to approve the Advisory Committee providing a letter of support. Bart Broome seconded. Donna Sachet abstained. Motion carried.

6. Discussion of Advisory Committee Holiday Party (Discussion Item):

The Outreach Workgroup is planning an end of the year holiday party to celebrate all the work we've done and to have the community join us. We can use the party to recruit members for our upcoming year. So, far only she and Samer are working on it. More information to come.

7. Work Group Reports:

LGBT ASYLUM: The first panel is planned for the November meeting. They are planning to work with Outreach Workgroup and hold it at La Raza in the Mission, to increase attendance. Next work group meeting is October 5. They are envisioning 4 panelists. So, far one speaker has committed.

ALTERNATIVE FAMILIES/SENIOR LGBT: Bart Broome is working on completing the alternative family report by November. Senior panel meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Next meeting is on October 13, 2010 at 5:30 PM at the HRC.

HOUSING RIGHTS: The group has not met since August. The group will reevaluate whether there are enough people to work on the issues. They will consider drafting a resolution on housing rights is human rights. Commissioner Chung spoke about working with the Equity Committee on this topic or invite the community to participate in the workgroup. We can also take a break and revisit this topic next year.

OUTREACH: The workgroup meets the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30. They are looking at creating ways to recruit year-round. They are currently looking for a space for the immigration panel and holiday party. It was recommended that they use Facebook to do outreach. They will call Francis at City Hall re: hosting the holiday party there. They are looking to videotape the asylum panel, so if anyone knows anyone who can tape the asylum panel, please contact Poonam.

BISEXUAL INVISIBILITY: Lindasusan will meet with Nadia to look at the current draft of the report.

8. Commissioner Report:

Commissioner Chung reported that they have a new commissioner - Todd Mavis, who is a member of the LGBT community. He has expressed interest being on this committee. With a little luck, he'll be a new co-chair next year. We will invite him to our next month's meeting. She was recently invited by Joint Commission to Chicago – to look at accreditation standards for hospitals. They are revising the standards and looking at incorporating changes to make them more inclusive for LGBT rights. It was a productive one-day meeting with many LGBT stakeholders from all over the country present at the meeting. She will do a 7x7 presentation on the topic; some of the changes are very exciting.

9. Staff Report:

Nadia Babella reported that the LGBT and housing, employment and public accommodations division has two interns: Erin Le-Jones and Angad Singh. Hearing on profiling and surveillance of Arab, Muslims and South Asians will take place this Thursday September 23, 2010. Tom Willis was hired as a Manager III of the division.

10. Old/New Business:

No Old/New Business was discussed.

11. Announcements:

Announcements were made.

12. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.