



City and County of San Francisco
DEPARTMENT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

File 140441
140443



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Executive Director

BOS-11, Rules Clerk
Cpage

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

May 16, 2014

Board of Supervisors
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Dear Board of Supervisors:

San Francisco has been at the forefront of seeking true equity for girls and women since 1998 with the adoption of the City Ordinance implementing the UN Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The San Francisco CEDAW Ordinance specially calls on the City and County to analyze the operations of City departments, policies and programs to identify discrimination in the provision of direct and indirect services and, if identified, to remedy that discrimination.

Even today, women and girls continue to face subtle but harmful discrimination in the areas of economic development and employment, violence against women and girls, and health. The Department finds that the unique concerns of girls have too often not received due attention, funding, and analysis. Indeed, very few programs in San Francisco respond specifically to the needs of girls and young women. For instance, young women disproportionately face problems with body dysmorphia and sexual violence, problems that are not effectively addressed in co-ed settings. The programs that attempt to address broad youth concerns that do not take into account the different needs of girls (broken down by race and economic status) or that do not collect data to uncover the specific needs of girls, fail to address the concerns of all youth in an equitable fashion. Girls and young women are at a particularly vulnerable point in their development as citizens and human beings. Legislation like the Children and Youth Fund can have a particular influence over their development and sense of self-worth.

Throughout this Children and Youth Fund reauthorization, "equity" has been highlighted as a significant new principle to be adhered to during the funding and allocation processes. It is critical that gender equity serve as one component of this principle. Girls' advocates have been successful in incorporating more gender-responsive language in this latest draft (e.g., "ensuring children are provided with gender-responsive and culturally-competent services" and "Services responsive to issues of gender, sexual orientation, and gender identification, including, but not limited to, services to address the needs of girls and LGBTQQ communities"). However, three more changes would have a substantially positive impact not just for the girls and young women of San Francisco, but for all children.

The Department makes the following (2) recommendations for the second draft of the Children and Youth Fund Charter Amendment, File No. 140441:

i. Sec. 16.108(h)(1B): Gender equity included in the paragraph regarding equity metrics for the C.N.A. equity analysis in addition to low-income neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities.

It is critical that metrics are identified to establish a baseline for the status of girls and young women, and to monitor progress with the inclusion of the new guiding principle. Metrics and data should be disaggregated by sex as well as by race, socioeconomic status, gender identify, and so forth.

ii. Sec. 16.108(l)(3): Require the Commission on the Status of Women to hold one separate or joint Children and Youth Fund hearing once per fiscal year.

To ensure girls' voices are heard at all steps throughout the Children and Youth Fund process, the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) should also be tasked with holding at least one separate or joint hearing on the fund along with the Recreation and Park, Juvenile Probation, Youth, Health and Human Services Commissions.

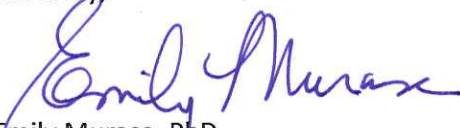
The Department makes the following recommendation for the second draft of the Children and Families Council Charter Amendment, File No. 140443:

i. Sec. 16.126(a)(5) and (c): Reserve one seat on the Children and Families Council for the Department on the Status of Women to ensure the equitable representation of girls' needs.

Now that gender-responsive services are explicitly included in the Children and Youth Fund draft language, it is all the more important that an individual with the knowledge and ability to oversee this provision has a seat on the Council. The Department should be identified as one of the stakeholders with responsibilities for services to children and family, and the Department's Executive Director should be given a seat on the Council.

Thank you for considering such an important adjustment to the Children and Youth Fund draft. Please direct any questions to Legislative Director Elizabeth Laferriere at (415) 252-2578.

Sincerely,


Emily Murase, PhD
Executive Director

Thank you for your dedicated work on this important issue.

cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board