

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

OVW Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program

This Memorandum of Understanding stands as evidence that the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women (DOSW), the San Francisco District Attorney's Office (DA), the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), Bayview Hunters Point YMCA (BVHP YMCA), La Casa de las Madres (La Casa), and Glide have worked together to develop the project set forth below, which would build upon the work of the Justice & Courage Oversight Panel and the previous OVW grant-funded work focused on Limited English Proficient (LEP) victims at high risk for lethality.

If selected for funding, the identified collaborative proposes to: (1) Institutionalize written protocols on interagency communication, in particular the notification of probationers involved in new offenses, and shared data systems, in order to ensure interdepartmental access to current, accurate, and complete information on domestic violence and criminal cases; (2) Improve protocols to identify primary aggressors; (3) Improve policies on victim contact; (4) Institutionalize risk assessment tools in all criminal justice agencies; (5) Review communication procedures between governmental and community-based victim services and criminal justice agencies; (6) Evaluate the existing criminal justice advocacy services provided to victims by community based agencies; and, (7) Increase resources for community based organizations serving the diversity of survivors.

These goals will be met through the following five objectives: (1) Developing and implementing a High Lethality Risk Team pilot project in San Francisco's Bayview District; (2) Maintaining centralized prosecution and victim support services; (3) Developing policies and data collection systems to improve the tracking of cases and classification of complaints involving domestic and dating violence; (4) Developing a web-based danger assessment smart phone application that all law enforcement can access from the field to assist in identifying victims who are considered to be at high risk of lethality in relationships; and, (5) Enhancing direct services for victims who are considered to be at high risk of lethality in relationships.

The collaborating agencies identified in this MOU will work to ensure the successful coordination of community response to domestic violence high lethality risk cases. To this end, all agencies agree to submit this proposal in response to the solicitation of the Office on Violence Against Women Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program and, if selected for funding, to perform the duties set forth in this MOU.

History of Collaboration

San Francisco's public agencies and domestic violence and sexual assault service providers have worked together for many years to create a collaborative approach to preventing and addressing gender-based violence in the City and County of San Francisco.

DOSW, DA, and SFPD have a long history of collaboration, both having been integral participants in the Justice and Courage Oversight Panel on Domestic Violence Policy Reform and the Family Violence Council, two local initiatives that seek to develop and monitor protocols for criminal justice system response to domestic violence and to facilitate communication and

collaboration among criminal justice agencies, social service agencies, and community-based organizations that serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse. Most recently, DOSW, DA, and SFPD have been working in close collaboration on the San Francisco Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking to address gaps in local policies and protocols that impact victims of human trafficking. In addition, DOSW, DA, SFPD, and several community partners currently work together to enhance services to domestic violence survivors at high risk for lethality through the OVW Fiscal Year 2012 Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program.

DOSW has also worked extensively with Glide Foundation and La Casa de las Madres for numerous years. These two community-based organizations have been Partner Agencies in DOSW's Violence Against Women Prevention & Intervention Grants Program since 1997. Most recently, La Casa received funding from DOSW to begin a Safe Housing project at the San Francisco Housing Authority sites in the Bayview District. DA has worked with Bayview Hunters Point YMCA to promote the health and safety of Bayview youth through local grants coordinated by DA and through work with the Family Resource Center located at BVHP YMCA.

This proposal seeks to build upon prior efforts to address gaps in San Francisco's criminal justice response to domestic violence including the lack of a systemic process to identify risk factors and assess dangerousness in domestic violence cases on a consistent basis and the lack of domestic violence resources located in the communities that need them the most.

San Francisco Department on the Status of Women (DOSW):

DOSW works to foster equitable treatment and advancement of the women and girls of San Francisco through policies, legislation, and programs, with particular focus on marginalized populations and survivors of gender-based violence. DOSW seeks to do the following: (1) create comprehensive protocols in San Francisco to advance the status of women and girls by working collaboratively with community leaders, other departments, and elected officials; (2) develop legislation and policy reforms informed by research and collaboration; and (3) provide fiscal and programmatic oversight to DOSW's Violence Against Women (VAW) Prevention & Intervention Grants Program, a network of community-based organizations selected to meet the needs of survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking in San Francisco. DOSW currently staffs the Family Violence Council, which is an inter-agency council addressing child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse in San Francisco. DOSW piloted the Bridges to Freedom Project, which sought to expand the organizational capacity of San Francisco's law enforcement and emergency response agencies to improve language fluency and knowledge capacity of bilingual personnel in order to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of LEP victims of domestic violence.

San Francisco District Attorney's Office (DA):

For over 25 years, the DA's Office has been dedicated to prosecuting crime with resolve while remaining committed to rehabilitation and preserving civil liberties. The felony conviction rates continue to rise and there is comprehensive and culturally competent advocacy and support for victims. In Fiscal Year 2014, the DA's Domestic Violence Unit handled over 1500 cases and took action on over nearly 400 cases. In fiscal year 2014, the District Attorney's Victim Services Division served 1136 victims of domestic violence, an increase consistent with the division wide

trend. As a part of the DA's Office continued emphasis on addressing domestic violence, the service lens has shifted to expand the quality of services provided to victims.

San Francisco Police Department (SFPD):

The San Francisco Police Department's Special Victims Unit Domestic Violence Section investigates all felony arrest cases involving abuse committed against any person, including minors, by a current or former spouse, cohabitant, dating partner, fiancé, or person with a child in common, and includes cases of same sex relationships. The Domestic Violence Response Section includes one Assignment Officer, an inspector who is responsible for reviewing 350 to 400 incident reports each month, compiling statistics for the Section, and running background searches on all the suspects involved in the cases. The Assignment Officer reviews all reports, checking suspects for probation and parole status. If the suspect is found to be on probation or parole, the Assignment Officer notifies the appropriate agency.

An investigation consists of interviews with the victim, witnesses, and suspects. Inspectors seek to corroborate evidence in an attempt to bring an unbiased case to the District Attorney's Office. Inspectors also collect evidence and do computer background checks on all parties involved. The Police Department sends all misdemeanor arrest cases directly to the District Attorney's Office. Misdemeanor cases are only assigned for investigation when a victim specifically requests that an unassigned misdemeanor case receive warrant consideration. Because all felony arrest reports are time-sensitive and must be presented to the District Attorney's Office within 48 hours, if the case meets the criteria for active investigation, it is immediately assigned to an inspector who conducts a thorough investigation. The case is then presented to the District Attorney's Office for warrant consideration or formal charging if the suspect is already in custody. In non-arrest cases that are not assigned for investigation, the Assignment Officer calls every victim in an attempt to advise him or her about follow-up procedures and referrals. Special Victims Unit inspectors attempt to contact all victims in every domestic violence and stalking case.

Bayview Hunters Point YMCA (BVHP YMCA):

The Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) YMCA works to strengthen the foundation of its community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The BVHP YMCA has been providing free and low-cost programs to vulnerable youth and families for over 19 years. We now offer a wide spectrum of programs to support the needs of BVHP residents and are recognized as a community anchor that attracts people throughout District 10. Our 1601 Lane Street facility includes conference space, a commercial grade kitchen, a Family Resource Center, health & wellness programs, after school programs, a child development center, and a school that helps chronic truants realize academic achievement.

Bayview Hunters Point YMCA Family Resource Center (FRC) has been delivering wraparound services since 2008. The FRC has a dedicated staff that has been trained in multiple areas of child/human development, social work, crisis intervention. The FRC strengthens families through case management, certified parenting education classes, anger management classes, fatherhood support group, substance abuse support group, emergency food box, and emergency fund, assistance with securing shelter and/or housing, access to basic necessities, therapeutic counseling for young children and parents, completion or translation of paperwork, escort to

court hearings, and linkages to other programs and community services, and advocacy. The FRC Staff have completed 40-hour of domestic violence training at A Safe Place in Oakland, California and has been cross-trained in evidence based best practices that include trauma-informed care.

La Casa de las Madres (La Casa):

In 1976, La Casa de las Madres was California's first shelter dedicated to women and children escaping domestic violence. Today, that once-quiet safehouse sustains a 24-hour lifeline for survivors, and La Casa is a leading voice for abused women, their children, teens, and older adults in the San Francisco Bay Area. La Casa offers a continuum of free, confidential, culturally inclusive, and multilingual domestic violence services evolved to meet the diverse and context-specific needs of our diverse community. In broad and targeted partnerships, we empower individual and community changes empowering victims, survivors, and those at-risk of abuse to break free from overlapping cycles of violence and vulnerability. Last year, La Casa engaged 11,745 individuals and professionals in prevention education, opening the door for individualized support and social change. La Casa also served 9,110 local survivors—89% of whom achieved critical improvements across five impact dimensions: safety, connection, knowledge, empowerment, and stability. La Casa's mission is to respond to calls for help from domestic violence victims, of all ages, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. La Casa gives survivors the tools to transform their lives and seeks to prevent future violence by educating the community and by redefining public perceptions about domestic violence.

Glide Foundation (Glide):

Having recently reached its landmark fiftieth anniversary of daily service, Glide has worked for decades to create a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization. Building upon the charitable work engendered through the formation of Glide Methodist Church in 1929, the Glide Foundation was formed in 1969 by community members in response to the crises faced by residents of the Tenderloin and surrounding neighborhoods within San Francisco. Glide serves a diverse cross-section of homeless, low-income and marginalized populations, providing an array of programs including free meals, housing, primary and mental health care, domestic violence counseling and abatement, substance abuse recovery, childcare for children aged 18 months to five years, afterschool and summer programs for youth in grades K-5, and a family resource center. Over the past fifty years, Glide has founded and sustained visionary programming and achieved tangible results for tens of thousands of individuals and families, all once thought to be beyond the possible. The organization literally and figuratively unlocks doors once closed to people on the margins, making Glide a life-changing gateway to comprehensive one-stop-shop care that embraces every individual with dignity and respect.

The Women's Center of Glide opened its doors in 2007 with the intention of reaching the women who are most underserved by San Francisco's domestic violence service sector, particularly homeless, low-income and African American women. Today, the Center offers direct support and services to help mitigate the consequences of domestic violence and empower a diverse population of women to make healthier decisions and live healthier and more stable lives. The Center's domestic violence education, prevention and intervention services address the enduring emotional impact from childhood and adulthood abuse, and provide women with new tools for

decision-making and healthier behaviors. As a result, clients seek out and find new opportunities for continued education, employment and economic self-sufficiency. In addition, the Women's Center works collaboratively with other Glide programs to secure safety, health and stability supportive services for its participants. In FY 13-14, the Women's Center touched the lives of 356 unduplicated women through its education support groups, crisis intervention, individual counseling, information and referrals, and case management services for a total of 2,605 units of service. Forty-seven percent (47%) of women served identify as African American/Black.

Participation in Developing the Application

This project and the accompanying proposal were developed by the following representatives of the above-listed agencies:

- **DOSW:** Emily Murase, PhD, Executive Director; Minouche Kandel, Director of Women's Policy; Stephanie Nguyen, Fiscal & Policy Analyst
- **DA:** Gena Castrorodriguez, Chief of Victim Services; Elizabeth Tarchi, Managing Attorney of the Domestic Violence Unit; Tara Anderson, Policy & Grants Manager
- **SFPD:** Commander Bob Moser, Captain Robert O'Sullivan (Bayview District), Lieutenant Edward Santos (Special Victims Unit), Commander Garret Tom, Deputy Chief Sharon Ferrigno, Chief Greg Suhr
- **BVHP YMCA:** Takija Gardner, Executive Director; Neal Hatten, Associate Executive Director; Tami Minix, Family Resource Center Director
- **La Casa:** Kathy Black, Executive Director; Katharine Berg, Associate Director
- **Glide:** Rita Shimmin, Executive Director; Lillian Mark, Community Building Division, Operations Manager

This proposal was developed by the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, the San Francisco Police Department, YMCA of San Francisco Bayview Hunters Point, La Casa de las Madres, and Glide Foundation through multiple conversations. The San Francisco Department on the Status of Women will be the lead agency.

Roles and Responsibilities

Department on the Status of Women

- I. *Roles:* To monitor, report, and coordinate grant activities; to actively participate at quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings; to support data analysis of high lethality cases; to develop policies and protocols that enhance the City's coordinated response to domestic violence.
- II. *Responsibilities:*
 - a. DOSW staff will attend quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings with DA, SFPD, BVHP YMCA, La Casa, and Glide.
 - b. DOSW staff will collaboratively develop a research based system of response that results in the identification and screening of chronic and high risk cases for multidisciplinary team review.

- c. DOSW will work with DA and SFPD to coordinate data analysis and tracking of relevant police incident data and other criminal justice data to identify cases with victims at high risk of lethality.
 - d. DOSW will collaborate with Project Team to develop and enhance local victim-centered policies and protocols that promote the accountability of domestic violence offenders and protection of victims.
 - e. DOSW will monitor grant activities and provide fiscal and programmatic reports to the Office on Violence Against Women.
- III. *Resources:* In-kind contributions include the following:
- a. Office and meeting space.
 - b. Project staff—Director of Women’s Policy, Fiscal & Policy Analyst (Year 1).

District Attorney’s Office

- I. *Role:* To prosecute perpetrators of domestic and dating violence against women and provide victims with support throughout the court process and access to victim compensation; to develop protocols to improve the criminal justice system’s identification and protection of victims who are considered to be at high risk of lethality in relationships.
- II. *Responsibilities:*
 - a. The Victim Advocate, Policy & Grants Manager, and Chief of Victim Services will attend quarterly Project Team Meetings to monitor grant implementation activities.
 - b. DA staff will attend monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings.
 - c. DA staff will collaboratively develop a research based system of response that results in the identification and screening of chronic and high risk cases for multidisciplinary team review.
 - d. DA will fund a 1.0 FTE Prosecutor position in Years 2 & 3 to be staffed by an experienced attorney who will carry a full caseload of domestic violence cases in which the victim has been identified by the San Francisco Police Department’s Special Victims Unit and/or the Project Team to be at high risk of lethality. (DV Prosecutor)
 - e. DA will fund a 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate position in Years 2 & 3 who will work with the DV prosecutor to provide services to the victims on her caseload, including (i) supporting victims throughout the court process, (ii) connecting victims to community-based service providers, and (iii) assisting victims’ access to state victim compensation.
 - f. DA will collaborate with the Project Team to develop and enhance existing protocols.
 - g. DA will work with DOSW and SFPD to track relevant police incident data and other criminal justice data to identify cases with victims at high risk of lethality.
 - h. DA will collect data required for grant reporting.
- III. *Resources:* In-kind contributions include the following:
 - a. Office and meeting space.
 - b. Project staff – Managing Attorney of Domestic Violence Unit, Chief of Victim

Services, DV Prosecutor (Year 1), Victim Advocate (Year 1), Policy & Grants Manager.

- c. Materials and supplies.

San Francisco Police Department (SFPD)

- I. *Role:* To participate in quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings; to identify and refer domestic violence cases considered to be at high risk of lethality to Project Team and partner agencies; to monitor and report on relevant police incident data to improve identification and protection of domestic violence victims at highest risk of lethality.
- II. *Responsibilities:*
 - a. SFPD will attend all quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings.
 - b. SFPD staff will collaboratively develop a research based system of response that results in the identification and screening of chronic and high risk cases for multidisciplinary team review.
 - c. SFPD staff will work with Project Team to screen, refer, and identify domestic violence cases at highest risk of lethality to partner agencies.
 - d. SFPD will work with DA and DOSW to develop a web-based danger assessment smart phone application that all law enforcement can access from the field to assist in identifying victims who are considered to be at high risk of lethality in relationships.
 - e. SFPD will work with DA and DOSW to track relevant police incident data and other criminal justice data to identify cases with victims at high risk of lethality.
 - f. SFPD will collect data required for grant reporting.
- III. *Resources:* In-kind contributions include the following:
 - a. Police Department personnel.

YMCA of San Francisco Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP YMCA)

- I. *Role:* To coordinate quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings; to provide in-kind direct services at the Family Resource Center that support domestic violence survivors considered to be high risk of lethality by Project Team; to identify and refer domestic violence cases to Project Team; to track and monitor cases considered to be at highest risk of lethality.
- II. *Responsibilities:*
 - a. BVHP YMCA will fund a part-time (0.5 FTE) Administrative Coordinator who will coordinate all quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings. BVHP YMCA staff will work with Project Team to refer and identify domestic violence cases at highest risk of lethality.
 - b. BVHP YMCA staff will collaboratively develop a research based system of response that results in the identification and screening of chronic and high risk cases for multidisciplinary team review.
 - c. BVHP YMCA will track and monitor cases identified by Project Team as being at highest risk of lethality. These activities will be significantly supported by La

Casa staff on-site at BVHP YMCA.

- d. Prior to participation at monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings, BVHP YMCA staff must complete 40-hour Domestic Violence Training and agree to all collaborative confidentiality agreements to ensure the protection of domestic violence victims.
 - e. BVHP YMCA will serve as a point of referral for the Project Team and offer direct crisis intervention services as available to domestic violence survivors determined by the Project Team to be of greatest need, with support from La Casa de las Madres.
 - f. BVHP YMCA staff will collect data required for grant reporting.
- III. *Resources:* In-kind contributions include the following:
- a. Support of program staff.
 - b. Office space and materials for La Casa staff.
 - c. Existing services of BVHP YMCA's Family Resource Center.

La Casa de las Madres (La Casa)

- I. *Role:* To actively participate in quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings; to provide in-kind direct services at La Casa that support domestic violence survivors considered to be high risk of lethality by Project Team; to provide training and support to BVHP YMCA staff on identifying and serving domestic violence survivors.
- II. *Responsibilities:*
 - a. La Casa's Program Director or his/her designee will attend all quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings. La Casa staff will work with Project Team to refer and identify domestic violence cases at highest risk of lethality.
 - b. La Casa staff will collaboratively develop a research based system of response that results in the identification and screening of chronic and high risk cases for multidisciplinary team review.
 - c. La Casa will serve as a point of referral for the Project Team and offer direct services as available to domestic violence survivors identified by the Project Team to be of greatest need.
 - d. La Casa will fund a part-time Case Manager who will qualify as a Domestic Violence Counselor pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code 18290-18309.8 and Evidence Code 1037-1037.8 and be co-located at BVHP YMCA's Family Resource Center to offer domestic violence counseling and case management to identified and referred survivors as well as technical assistance, programmatic support, and training related to best practices, protections, and support for domestic violence survivors to the primary grant staff at BVHP YMCA.
 - e. Prior to participation at monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings, La Casa staff must meet the criteria of a Domestic Violence Counselor under the provisions referenced above and agree to all related confidentiality agreements to ensure the protection of domestic violence victims. La Casa staff will participate in information sharing with the Project Team only to the degree

allowed by legal constructs protecting domestic violence counselor confidential communications.

f. La Casa staff will collect data required for grant reporting.

III. *Resources:* In-kind contributions include the following:

a. Support of program staff.

b. Existing services of La Casa de las Madres.

Glide Foundation (Glide)

I. *Role:* To actively participate in quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings; to provide direct services that support domestic violence survivors considered to be high risk of lethality by Project Team.

II. *Responsibilities:*

a. Glide will attend all quarterly Project Team meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings. Glide staff will collaboratively work with Project Team to refer and identify domestic violence cases at highest risk of lethality.

b. Glide staff will collaboratively develop a research based system of response that results in the identification and screening of chronic and high risk cases for multidisciplinary team review.

c. Glide will serve as a point of referral for the Project Team and offer direct services as available to domestic violence survivors identified by the Project Team to be of greatest need.

d. Glide will provide technical assistance as needed to BVHP YMCA grant staff around serving homeless and African-American domestic violence survivors.

e. Prior to participation at monthly Multidisciplinary High Lethality Risk Team meetings, Glide staff must complete 40-hour Domestic Violence Training and agree to all collaborative confidentiality agreements to ensure the protection of domestic violence victims.

f. Glide staff will collect data required for grant reporting.

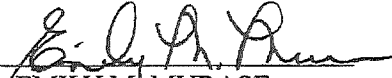
III. *Resources:* In-kind contributions include the following:

a. Support of program staff.

b. Existing services of Glide.

Approval

The parties to this MOU through their duly authorized representatives have executed this MOU on the days set out below, and certify that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions of this MOU as set forth herein.

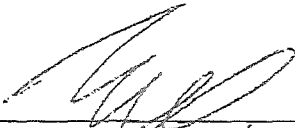
By 
EMILY M. MURASE
Executive Director
Department on the Status of Women
City & County of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Date 3.24.2015

Approval

The parties to this MOU through their duly authorized representatives have executed this MOU on the days set out below, and certify that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions of this MOU as set forth herein.

By



GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney
City & County of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Date

3-23-15

Approval

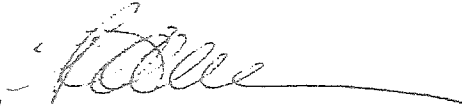
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By *Sharon Ferrigno*
SHARON FERRIGNO
Police Department
City & County of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Date 3/24/15

Approval

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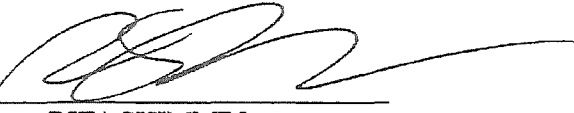
By  _____

KATHY BLACK
La Casa de las Madres
Executive Director
San Francisco, CA

Date 3/24/15 _____

Approval

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By 

RITA SHIMMIN
Co-Executive Director
Glide Foundation
San Francisco, CA

Date 3-24-15

