



City and County of San Francisco

Department on the Status of Women

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Executive Director Emily M. Murase, PhD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2010
TO: Hillary Ronen, Legislative Aid to Supervisor Campos
Alisa Somera, Government Audit and Oversight Committee Clerk
FROM: Laura Marshall, Fiscal and Policy Analyst
RE: **Government Audit and Oversight Committee Hearing on How Existing Shelter System is Serving the Needs of LGBT People**

The Department on the Status of Women was pleased to be included in the notification for the March 25, 2010 hearing on how the existing shelter system is serving the needs and ensuring equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. This is an important topic that merits the full consideration of the Board of Supervisors and City departments.

The Department on the Status of Women funds 3 emergency shelters, 3 transitional housing facilities, and 1 permanent supportive housing facility through our Violence Against Women Prevention and Intervention (VAW) Grants Program. The Department's investment provides 3,718 bed nights of emergency shelter and 12,045 bed nights of long-term or permanent housing for women survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Each quarter, VAW Grants Program Partner Agencies are required to submit service reports that include documentation of demographic information about clients served. Statistics related to sexual and gender identity are requested by this form.

- In FY08-09, the 3 domestic violence emergency shelters served 167 clients with Department funding, 85 of them (50%) adults. Of these adult clients, **1 (1%) reported being a lesbian**. Programs did not document any other GLBT clients during the fiscal year.
- In FY08-09, the 3 transitional housing programs and 1 permanent supportive housing program served 113 clients, including 99 adults (88%). Of these adult clients, **1 (1%) reported being a lesbian**. Programs did not document any other GLBT clients during the fiscal year.
- In the first 2 quarters of the current fiscal year, shelter and housing programs have not documented any LGBT clients.

The Department funds Community United Against Violence (CUAV) to conduct technical assistance trainings with community-based service providers. CUAV's trainings help service providers understand the dynamics of domestic violence within GLBTQ relationships, and support programs in providing services that meet the needs of this community. CUAV is an

active partner in the domestic violence intervention community, and all of the programs funded by the Department have received trainings from this agency, including emergency shelters.

Additionally, each of the domestic violence shelters has adopted a policy for the inclusion of transgender women within their programs. The Committee may benefit from hearing from the following agencies on this topic:

- Community United Against Violence – Pablo Espinoza, Director, (415) 777-5500
- Asian Women’s Shelter – Aiko Pandorf, Executive Director, (415) 751-7110
- La Casa de las Madres – Kathy Black, Executive Director, (415) 503-0500
- St. Vincent de Paul Riley Center – Maria Chavez, Director, (415) 255-2894

I hope this information is helpful for the Committee as it considers this important topic. I am happy to answer any questions you might have: (415) 252-2578 or laura.marshall@sfgov.org.