

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Special Meeting, Thursday, January 31, 2013

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were: Vice-President Villareal, members Biggs, Radding, Watkinson, and Williams

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting, November 8, 2012 were approved as amended.
M/S Biggs / Villareal Unanimous

3. **AGENDA ITEMS**

3-A. **CITY OF ALAMEDA PARATRANSIT SHUTTLE SERVICE MODIFICATION --
PRESENTATION BY GAIL PAYNE, TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR --
CITY OF ALAMEDA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Payne explained that each year, Public Works Staff conduct a review of the City of Alameda's Paratransit Shuttle and Taxi Service. After this year's review and hearing community feedback, they are recommending a number of changes to the Shuttle program. These include:

- Removing the Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway (RAMP) at Mosley Avenue/Third Street; and West Midway Avenue at Orion Street stops from the timetable, but allowing passengers to request on-demand pick-up or drop-off via phone when needed.
- Relocating the shuttle stop on Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway from Coral Sea Street to Fifth Street, and the stop on Mariner Square Loop at Willie Stargell Avenue to Fifth Street at Mitchell Avenue adjacent to Target when it opens in late 2013.
- Two stops will be added. Kate Creedon Center for Advanced Wound Care (815 Atlantic Avenue) and a shuttle stop will be added on Westline Drive south of Shorepoint Court on the east side of the street. Other stops will be considered based on need and public input.
- Maximizing the potential of the currently under-utilized service (average 500 boardings per month) by opening the service to the public as space permits. They propose doing this on a one year trial basis. They believe this change is not expected to impact seniors and individuals with disabilities using the shuttle because of its limited hours of operations.
- Purchasing schedule holders and benches for shuttle stops. While they are in the process of installing some benches, they plan to request \$5,000 for benches at other stops and \$5,000 for schedule holders at all stops, totaling a \$10,000 request for countywide paratransit discretionary monies.
- Installing Shuttle Stop Flags (signs) at stops that do not currently have them.
- Seeking a grant to obtain a shuttle that uses alternative fuels such as biodiesel with a low floor to make it easier to board and alight. This bus could have shared use with ARPD and Mastick.

Their new budget is \$10,000 over funds allocated, but they have a reserve of \$30,000 to carry them until other resources can be identified.

Board discussion included a comment from member Biggs that he did not feel that eliminating the stop at Alameda Point would create a hardship to APC residents, because of the availability of the bus line. In response to questions from the Board, Ms. Payne shared that they have conducted Customer satisfaction Surveys, and when they make the program “Open to the Public”, they will have a priority for those with disabilities and seniors.

In response to questions regarding the Taxi service, Ms. Payne shared that riders get 5 trips per month that can be “stockpiled”, and that they have not heard any complaints regarding the changes in their return trips from medical appointments policy.

M/S Villareal / Watkinson to approve the recommended program changes and the fiscal year 2013/2014 budget. Unanimous

3-B REQUEST BY SEAN CAHILL, ALAMEDA COMMUNITY ALLIANCE RESOURCE FOR EDUCATION (CARE) AND ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT LGBTQ ROUND TABLE CHAIR, FOR THE INCLUSION OF QUESTIONS REGARDING ALAMEDA’S LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS AND OTHER SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY SSHRB

Sean Cahill was joined by Diego Gonzales in a presentation requesting that the voice and needs of the LGBTQ community be included in future Community Needs and other SSHRB surveys.

Rather than try to characterize Mr. Cahill’s and Gonzales’ remarks, I have included them at the end of the Minutes. Mr. Cahill asked that the Board work with the AUSD LGBTQ Roundtable, CARE and other groups in the development of a survey specific to the needs of the LGBTQ community. President Wasko shared that as A&AWG Chair, she is planning to convene the workgroup to develop a template for all groups wishing to develop survey for a specific population.

Member Biggs shared that while CDBG / HUD does not require age, sex, or other basic demographic information in their surveys. The Board should work to honor this request, In our roles of being both a Social Services and Human Relations Board, one of the Board’s and ATAH’s roles is to identify inequities.

M/S Wasko / Biggs For the Board to take the information received this evening to be included in discussion and development of all future Community Needs and other SSHRB surveys, and for ATAH to review how we include all protected classes in the performance of the Board’s duties. Unanimous

3-C. WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS –

President Wasko, Assessment and Awareness Workgroup Chair asked if the Community Needs. Survey was on the City website. Staff explained that he had made the request and would check, adding that the City is in the process of launching a new website.

Member Biggs, Resource Sharing Workgroup Chair reported that he had attended a “first meeting” of Alameda non-profit Executive Directors. This group plans to continue to meeting, staff and President Wasko will be invited to join the group. This group has the potential to play an important role in developing ways for organizations to share resources,

Vice-President Villareal, Alamedans Together Against Hate Workgroup Chair announced that he and staff had met with Reverend Rose and Sean Cahill, and Reverend Rose decided to rescind her request, for now, that the Board look into the discriminatory policy of Alameda BSA. Both felt it might be too painful for their constituencies and rekindle the pain that came as a result of the Lesson 9 discussions. Vice-President Villareal also shared that, with the announcement of possible policy changes at BSA National, ATAH will wait to see what they announce on February 6. Finally, he announce the 4th annual Harvey Milk Day Celebration in Alameda sometime in May.

4. **BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

Member Radding requested that the Board have more information regarding requesting agencies when reviewing CDBG allocations next month

5 **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10

Respectfully submitted by:
Jim Franz
Secretary

Presentations by Sean Cahill and Diego Gonzales

Alameda City Social Services Human Relations Board (SSHRB) Needs Survey Address
Issue: Census Data collection for SSHRB Needs Survey to include LGBTQ
Community Data and Assistance in developing an LGBTQ survey relevant to present LGBTQ City of Alameda Community need.

Jan. 31 7:00 pm. City of Alameda Council Chambers

Good Evening Board President, Board Members and Staff,

My name is **Sean Cahill; I am a gay man and a member of the Alameda Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) community.** I have lived in Alameda with my partner Karry Kelley and our two children for the last 13 years, both of our children have attended Alameda schools since Kindergarten. During this time I have been highly engaged in advancing the needs of the Alameda Queer Community, and as such, have worked in the recognized capacities noted on tonight's agenda.

Many of you are familiar with the work I have accomplished both civically, with events like the upcoming 4th annual Alameda Harvey Milk Day, as well as with the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD), in helping to develop curriculum that embraces the queer youth and families of our schools.

Each of these accomplishments continues to remain pivotal to our community, most notably as related to my newly appointed position as co-chair of the AUSD LGBTQ Round Table, which consists of civic, organizational, community, administrative and staff stakeholders, assembled to further advance the needs of queer culture in our unified school district, both SSHRB and ATAH being noted representatives.

Because of these engagements, I have progressively worked harder and harder in this queer area and as such, continue to uncover and relate the disparities that remain in our hetero-normative cultural community. I ask today that a more heightened awareness and tactical action be brought to Alameda in the areas that remain neglectful to my queer culture.

One example of the change I am speaking of can be found in the City of Alameda's Social Service Human Relations Board Needs Survey conducted by the Assessment & Awareness Work Group (A&AWG). This needs survey is conducted in part, to inform the city in areas that present a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community. As a primary objective of the survey, I submit that the absence of data provided on the needs survey of our LGBTQ community, often considered a high at risk group for homelessness and/or other health related issues derived from a historically documented discriminatory experience by normative culture, be immediately corrected by the A&AWG for future data gathering, and additionally, to compensate for the oversight, that A&AWG immediately aid in the development of a supplemental survey to be conducted, aimed at informing the City of Alameda to the statistics that makeup this group and our related needs.

To further highlight a statistical need for such subset data collection I would like to submit key findings by the organization Gay, Lesbian, & Straight, Education Network (GLSEN) <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2897.html> Jan. 27 2013. This organization was founded by Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools at the U.S. Department of Education. Presently the Board of Directors consists of members like National Education Association Executive Director John Wilson, and Disney-ABC Television Group's Kevin Brockman. Mr. Jennings, a longtime activist for the queer community is also credited with starting the nation's first educational Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) which is now found in many of our public school districts across the nation. Although the work conducted by GLSEN is primarily focused on aiding our public education institutions, the relevance to civic application is not just notable but a perforce to why this examination is so urgently needed. A quick look at the Key Findings produced by GLSEN show the disparities, and quickly provides a lens to the relevance for city services serving queer groups.

To further substantiate the need, one only needs to look to Executive Director of the United States Interagency on Homelessness Barbara Poppe and her recent comments to CBS affiliate reporter Michele Gillen noting "the national rise in LGBT homeless youth, with studies showing roughly 20-40 percent of the approximately two million homeless youth are Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. <http://www.glaad.org/blog/cbs-affiliate-miami-reports-homeless-lgbt-youth> Jan. 27 2013.

In addition to developing a statistical needs basis for the inclusion of queer cultural, I would also like the A&AWG to consider in their needs survey the issue of gender identity and ask that they expand the normative assessments to included individuals who identify as gender non-conforming.

This expansion will aid in the development of our understanding the populations in Alameda whom consider themselves unrepresented by the traditional model of Male and Female.

As we grow our understanding of the Alameda Queer culture through assessment, we will be better prepared to inform on the areas that the current A&AWG needs survey covers. For example, the present survey assesses need in health services, yet only reports the basis of that need relevant to race and ethnicity. Nationally, we have a somewhat clearer understanding of the health related needs of queer culture, especially those that are created out of neglect. Collecting this data will only allow for

more comprehensive support to the community regarding these issues, and those which can be reasonably coupled to our already demographically identify need groups of ethnicity, race, age, and gender. Building on these themes it is easy to see how this new collection will begin to better inform us, and create healthier circumstances in the identified, but not limited to, areas of the existing needs survey, regarding community facilities, recreational issues, teen centers, and/or special needs services. For example if our teen centers, recreational facilities or special needs services are not informed on how they explicitly aid the queer community it is possible to ascertain that the health related issued derived from a continuance of misinformation, isolation, marginalization, and/or neglect of this subgroup will continue to be an ever increasingly grater and grater drain on our already limited and decreasing list of health services.

In closing I would like to thank the SSHRB for your time and attention to this important issue and again reiterate my desire that the City of Alameda, the SSHRB and the A&AWG, add to the Community Needs Survey, question that will aid our community in the assessment of Alameda queer culture and in the interim, aid in the development of an Alameda queer cultural survey to identify needs based issues due to the fact that there remains a presently undocumented assessment of this identified subgroup in the city of Alameda. In support of these efforts I would like to introduce Mr. Diego Gonzalez a representative of the 18th districts Assembly member Rob Bonta's office. Again thank you for your time.

Alameda City Social Services Human Relations Board (SSHRB)

Jan. 31 7:00 pm. City of Alameda Council Chambers

Good Evening Board Members and Staff,

My name is **Diego Gonzalez, and I am here on behalf of Assembly-member Rob Bonta,** supporting the need for expanding the Social Service Human Relations Board Needs Survey to include our LGBTQ community.

By including LGBTQ youth in the Needs Survey, much needed services and resources would become available to LGBTQ youth, in preventing and protecting LGBTQ youth from the negative attitudes toward them that put them at increased risk for experiences with violence, compared with other students. These experiences include behaviors such as bullying, teasing, harassment, physical assault, and suicide-related behaviors.

GLSEN's (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) 2011 National School Climate Survey sampled over 8,500 student respondents between the ages of 13 and 20 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, finding

- 81.9% of LGBTQ students reported being verbally harassed, 38.3% reported being physically harassed, and 18.3% reported being physically assaulted at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation.
- 84.9% of LGBTQ students heard the word "gay" used in a negative way and 71.3% heard homophobic remarks frequently or often at school.
- 6 in 10 LGBT students (63.5%) reported feeling unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation.

Funding resources are available to deal with this serious issue. Primary among these resources, is The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), it is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range

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of unique community development needs, such as staff development in schools and programs for homeless gay youth. Providing these vital services to the community provides a fuller picture of what the city needs and is made up of. Providing these resources would furthermore add to the cultural story of the modern family and say to the LGBTQ community that although we cannot shield you from the attitudes outside our reach. Our school and our community should be as safe and as supportive as the home you've built here in Alameda. I urge that this Board look into funds available through the CDBG to support future actions that would protect the LGBTQ community in Alameda. Our office is committed to making schools the safe and nurturing places they are intended to be in order for all youth to have successful academic experiences. Finally, please feel free to contact us regarding LGBTQ issues or any other concern in the future.

Thank you.