SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION

Policy and Budget Priorities

2015-16 & 2016-17

DRAFT

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PRIORITY X: INVESTIGATING AND ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS OF THE ANTI-ABORTION BANNERS DISPLAYED ON MARKET STREET

Urging the Board of Supervisors investigate the impacts of the anti-abortion messages displayed on City-managed lamp posts and the City's Efforts to Educate Youth about their reproductive rights and health

BACKGROUND:

During January 2015, banners claiming that "Abortion Hurts Women" were displayed on City-managed lampposts along Market street for at least the second time in two years. The statements spread scientifically false public health statements about abortions, which are only dangerous to women and girls when they are illegal. Abortions, since their legalization in 1973, are considered very safe medical procedures. The attack on safe and legal abortions poses a risk to all women, especially young women.

Young people need access to accurate information and to education about reproductive health, including our right to a safe, legal abortion. Compared to adults, youth may be less knowledgeable about this issue, and may be especially vulnerable to the statements displayed on Market St. The decision about how to respond to an unplanned pregnancy is one of the most difficult a young woman may ever face. False and shaming statements attempt to manipulate young women's decision-making and may even lead young women and girls to consider taking unsafe and uninformed actions.

Nationally, almost 615,000 U.S. women aged 15-19 become pregnant each year. The San Francisco neighborhoods in which the banners were displayed, Tenderloin and South of Market, are home to youth and families and are among the City's lowest-income neighborhoods, which have the highest rates of low-weight birth, and emergency room visits for pregnancy. Overall, 32.3% of the 202 adolescent births in San Francisco in 2012 occurred in areas of concentrated poverty.

The Mayor and members of the Board introduced legislation in 2014 ensuring women have the ability to access reproductive health facilities without harassment, and the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed

a resolution opposing these same banners, also in 2014. Still, the placement of the banners on lamp posts gives the unfortunate impression of public endorsement of the messages.

In March 2015, members of the Board introduced an ordinance (File No. 150241), which was approved as to form by the City Attorney, which would amend the administrative code to prohibit advertising of sugar-sweetened beverages on City property due to public health concerns. We believe this may provide a guideline for upholding similar standards for public health information concerning reproductive health on city property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Francisco Youth Commission respectfully urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to hold a public hearing addressing the impacts of the anti-abortion messages displayed on Market street and the City's efforts to educate young people about their reproductive rights and health. We urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to prioritize and engage in public messaging efforts that honor reproductive choice and public health during the January anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision, the same time of year in which the banners are displayed each year, in order to counter the shaming messages. Finally, we urge members of the Board to explore legislative avenues for amending the public works code to ensure messages displayed on city-managed lampposts beyond basic information about public events is scientifically-verifiable when it contains information about public health. The

SUPPORT A DEMOCRATIC AND ACCESSIBLE CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

Support a diverse, democratically-run, affordable, accessible, and financially stable City College that serves all students well.

BACKGROUND

City College of San Francisco (CCSF) is one the largest community colleges in the country and enjoys a proud record of successfully helping students complete their GEDs, preparing students to transfer to 4-year colleges, and graduating students in the fields of food preparation, nursing, radiology, fire fighting, health education, and many more. Since opening its doors in 1935, CCSF has played an active role in the lives and educational achievements of Bay Area residents of all ages, ethnic, academic, and socio-economic backgrounds, and plays a particularly vital role in providing high-quality, affordable instruction to San Francisco's working class and immigrant communities of color through its open-access mission.

City College boasts a progress rate for an ELL students that is double that of California community colleges in general, a high student completion rate, and stronger-than-average outcomes for students transferring to CSU's.[1] City College of San Francisco is known for providing model programs supporting students who did not complete high school or who are veterans, former prisoners, working parents, and/or English language-learners. Additionally, CCSF educates a large number of students from the San Francisco Unified School District. California students have faced rising tuition costs and reductions to in-state enrollment within the California State University and University of California systems over the last several years, leaving many young people in San Francisco and throughout the state increasingly dependent on the educational opportunities provided by community colleges.[2]

In early July, 2012, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) released a devastating report calling into question the future financial viability of CCSF and demanding that CCSF institute changes to address over a dozen structural issues.[3] The ACCJC placed CCSF's academic accreditation under threat despite the fact that City College maintained a

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[1] City Attorney Dennis Herrera News Release, August 22, 2013; Retrieved at: http://www.sfcityattorney.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1335

[2] Asimov, Nanette. "Cal State to Close Door on Spring 2013 Enrollment." *SFGate.* SF Gate, 20 Mar. 2012. Web. 15 Mar. 2013.

[3] Koskey, Andrea. "City College of San Francisco Working to Keep Accreditation, Avoid Closure." *San Francisco Examiner.* San Francisco Examiner, 10 July 2012. Web. 14 Mar. 2013. <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/education/2012/07/city-college-san-francisco-working-keep-accreditation-avoid-closure>.

consistently high level of instructional quality.[4] The ACCJC's recommendations focused on building the college's financial reserves, restructuring its governance, and hiring more administrators, with resulting cuts to faculty and staff wages and benefits, cuts to classes, and the consolidation of academic departments and streamlining of course offerings in such a way as had the potential to reduce the diversity of programs at the college, especially courses like ethnic, women's, and LGBT studies, as well as course offerings for non-traditional students and English Language Learners.[5] Despite the college's efforts to comply with the commission's recommendations, the commission ruled to revoke the College's accreditation, effective July 2014.

The state's for-profit post-secondary institutions with much lower graduation and career success rates have not been sanctioned by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, ACCJC's parent organization, at a rate nearly commensurate with the accelerated sanctioning of California's public colleges.[6] Meanwhile, ACCJC has placed 37% of California community colleges on sanctions during a period of intense state budget cuts,[7] and the commission maintained its sanctioning of City College following the passage of Proposition A, inhibiting the democratic allocation of voter-approved supplemental funds for the college. Indeed, in a suit later filed by the city attorney against the accrediting commission substantiated that the ACCJ's has aggressively advocated for a junior-college degree-focused community-college model in such a way as would limit broad educational offerings and remedial courses that benefit underserved communities and ELL students, and would limit fee-waivers for non-traditional students.[8] The City Attorney also found that members of the ACCJC maintain significant ties to for-profit educational ventures and student lender interests that maintain an stake in narrowing the open-access mission of California Community colleges.[9]

In Spring and Summer 2013, AFT 2121 and California Federation of Teachers filed a series of complaints against the ACCJC, resulting in an investigation by the U.S. Dept. of Education. In August 2013, the federal DOE found that the ACCJC had violated standards required of accreditation bodies throughout the course of the commission's review of CCSF in the following ways: 1) Failing to provide an evaluation team with a balanced composition of academicians and administrators 2) Failing to adhere to a policy preventing conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest 3) Failing to differentiate between compliance indicators and recommended areas for improvement, or lay out clear compliance guidelines the college would need to adhere to in

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[4] By the accrediting commission's own account, CCSF's instructional quality and commitment to its mission were high. See the accrediting commission's report: *CCSF Evaluation Team Report May 2012.* ACCJC, n.d. Web.

[5] "CCSF Activists Demand City Hall's Aid." *SFGate.* SF Gate, 15 Mar. 2003. Web. 15 Mar. 2013

[6] "CSAC to Examine Impact of "Wild West" Online Degrees on Cal Grants." Press Release. *California Student Aid Commission Press Advisory.* 14 Mar. 2012.

[7] The level of sanctioning was incongruent with national levels. Since 2011, ACCJC sanctions of California community colleges represented 64% of college sanctions nationwide. See: Hittelman, Marty. "ACCJC Gone Wild." (n.d.): 3. Web. <http://www.saveccsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/ACCJC-Gone-Wild.pdf>.

[8] City Attorney Dennis Herrera News Release, August 22, 2013; Retrieved at: http://www.sfcityattorney.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1335

[9] Ibid. See Also: According to an article by Josh Keller, "Accreditor of California Colleges Lacks Conflict of Interest Protections, Federal Review Says," originally published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education,* August 31, 2010

order to retain accreditation 4) Failure to enforce previously-noted areas of non-compliance—later cited as reasons for issuing a show-cause status to the college—within accordance with the required two-year enforcement timeline.[10] The ACCJC has been given twelve months to demonstrate compliance before having its recognition terminated by the DOE.[11]

In August 2013, City Attorney, Dennis Herrera, filed suit against the accrediting commission to prevent the closure of CCSF and to compel "the state governing board charged with evaluating college standards and eligibility for public funding to resume its legal duties."[12] Mr. Herrera asserted conflicts of interest and unfair political bias had affected accreditation evaluations; that the ACCJC had engaged in political retaliation against the college; and that the State Board of Governors had unlawfully delegated public duties to an unaccountable private agency.[13] State legislators approved an audit of the commission and introduced several pieces of legislation to aid the college, including establishing more just and transparent accrediting processes, reestablishing the elected Board of Trustees, and stabilizing funding amidst enrollment drops that have occurred throughout the accreditation crisis.[14]

Following the disempowerment of the democratically elected Board of Trustees and the installation of the special trustee with extraordinary powers, decisions as to the college's educational future have become less transparent and student and faculty leadership and voice have been undermined. In July 2013, student trustee, Shanell Williams, was barred from the chancellor search committee meeting. In March 2014, student protesters were pepper-sprayed and arrested while protesting a new student payment policy and a proposed 19% raise for top administrators.

Seeing that the lack of democratic governance had neither appeased the demands of the accrediting commission, nor sustained the unique abilities of the college to serve the needs of San Francisco's diverse communities, the Youth Commission supported a resolution by Supervisor Campos, later unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors in March 2014, calling for the re-instatement of City College's duly elected Board of Trustees (File No. 140123).

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[10] For a full text version of the Dept. of Ed. decision letter, See: http://www.saveccsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/WASC-jr-decision-letter-081313-FINAL.pdf

[11] The DOE issued a decision in January 2014 to continue ACCJC as a recognized accreditor. The ACCJC must still pass its twelve month follow up report. See: "Press Release," Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges," January 29, 2014. Retrieved at: http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ACCJC_Receives_Formal_Letter_of_Recognition_01_29_2014_2.pdf

[12] Attorney Dennis Herrera News Release, August 22, 2013; Retrieved at: http://www.sfcityattorney.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1335

[13] Ibid.

[14] AB1942 by Assembly member Rob Bonta, D-Alameda, secures transparent, fair accrediting practices for all community colleges. AB2087 by Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, D-San Francisco, defends local, democratic accountability and passed the state assembly by 74-0. State Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, authored SB965, would stabilize City College's funding while its enrollment recovers from the damage caused by the accreditation commission's decision.

Since the Youth Commission initially passed a resolution (1213-14) on these issues on March 18, a number of City leaders have continued to mobilize around this issue. The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution (File No. 130303) in April 2013 in support of the utilization of Prop A funds in accordance with the language of the proposition; in support of preserving the quality and diversity of education at the college; and considering in-kind and other support of the college. City Attorney, Dennis Herrera, also demonstrated courageous leadership by taking action to halt the impending closure of the college. Mayor Lee and other elected leaders[15] called on the accrediting commission to grant an extension on the deadline for revoking the college's accreditation.[16]

Recent Updates:

In January 2014, Superior Court Judge Karnow granted an injunction blocking the commission's decision to revoke the college's accreditation. In January 2015, the ACCJC announced it would grant City College two more years to come into compliance, two days before Judge Karnow let the commission's accrediting decision stand, but ruled that the commission had illegally withheld explanations of some findings and failed to let the college defend itself, and ordered the commission to provide the explanations and hear the college's defense.

In early 2015, current state Assemblyman David Chiu, introduced legislation aiming to increase accountability for community college accrediting agencies by enabling community colleges to provide feedback on an accrediting agency's performance without fear of retribution.

In February 2015, California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice Harris appointed Guy Lease as the new special trustee with extraordinary powers" amid student calls for the reinstatement of the elected Board of Trustees. Harris confirmed the elected trustees will reassume full authority around July 1, 2015.

After surviving immediate accreditation threats, the college has moved on to looking at other issues, including facilities management. After the abrupt closure of the Civic Center campus shortly before Spring classes were set to begin, students were left without alternative course offerings and no academic or transition plan. Youth Commissioners unanimously supported Supervisor Kim's resolution (File No. 150251) urging the administration of CCSF to restore neighborhood classes displaced by the closure of the Civic Center campus, later passed by the Board of Supervisors.

Recommendations

There are few issues that have such an impact of young San Franciscans' ability to develop as engaged and critical citizens; achieve equal access to the economic opportunities San Francisco has to offer; or remain and work in the city they call home as the presence of a affordable, accessible

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[15] Elected leaders who have spoken out in support of the college include, but are not limited to: The SF Board of Supervisors, Tom Ammiano, Jackie Speier, Anna Eshoo, Mark Leno, and Nancy Pelosi, among many others.

[16] Nanette, Asimov, May 16, 2014, SF Chronicle, "Accreditors firm on deadline for closing City College of S.F," Retrieved at: http://www.sfgate.com/education/article/Accreditors-firm-on-deadline-for-closing-City-5482174.php

City College that is dedicated to serving the needs of diverse students. Given the stake young people and the community at-large have in the college's future, we urge the City's elected leaders to take all possible measures to support the restoration of democratic governance and robust and meaningful student leadership at the College. And moreover, to ensure the continuance of the college's open-access mission.

We further urge the City to continue to explore means of supporting the college, especially by investigating ways to reduce and reverse drops in enrollment. We would like to thank members of the Board of Supervisors, and further encourage and support them, in their efforts to ensure transparency and transition-planning in cases where the College conducts any facility closures, renovations, or cancels classes or programs. We urge the maintenance of quality student services, and we urge your ongoing support to ensure that students, especially non-traditional students including undocumented, immigrant, and disabled students, and students at the College's satellite campuses, are well served and their academic futures secure.

Finally, nothing has proved to be out of the bounds of the ACCJC's determination to discredit City College of San Francisco. We encourage members of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to begin considering a plan for the College's and City's response in the case of another decision by the ACCJC to revoke the college's accreditation two years from now.

PRIORITY X: ENSURING REGULAR REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF OUTCOMES OF SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERRALS TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department and Human Services Agency Family and Children Services Division to enact clear data-collection and sharing capacities through the establishment of a MOU that includes provisions for collecting data on SFPD referrals to FCS including age, race, ethnicity, language, whether an arrest was made, and outcomes in FCS including services provided, cases accepted for investigation, placement, and family reunification.

We urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to conduct regular, periodic six-month reviews of the outcomes of DGO 6.09 paragraph G to assess the policy for disproportionate impacts on communities of color; and whether the intended outcomes of linking young people to needed trauma services are being met.

We urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to work with Community Behavioral Health Services to identify appropriate avenues for officer referrals of children and families to the CBHS system of care.

Finally, we urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to recommit to implementing a comprehensive officer training on working effectively with youth, including de-escalation skills.

PRIORITY X: FEE WAIVERS FOR SAN FRANCISCO DACA APPLICANTS

Urging the Mayor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to Provide Fee Waivers for Eligible San Francisco DACA Applicants

BACKGROUND

In San Francisco, roughly 30,000 of San Francisco's 809,000 residents are undocumented immigrants,[1] and over 5,000 of San Francisco's undocumented residents are youth ages 14-24.[2] Undocumented youth have historically faced barriers in accessing employment, scholarships, loans, state and federal services, and other opportunities.

On June 15, 2012 the Obama administration via the Department of Homeland Security announced the implementation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which began on August 15, 2012.[3] DACA is a program that allows for the discretionary determination to defer removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion in addition to providing potential eligibility for employment authorization for qualified individuals as of June 15, 2012.[4] The DACA program offers "deferred action" to undocumented youth who were brought to the United States as children and who meet other specific requirements as indicated on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website.[5]

In 2012, about 1.2 million immigrants were eligible for DACA, and only about 600,000 have signed up so far. Of 539,774 DACA eligible youth in California, only 157,182 (29.1%) have applied for the program.[6] The DACA program has been quite successful in providing employment and financial opportunities; for example, approximately 61% of DACA recipients surveyed have obtained a new

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[1] Begin, Brent. "Illegal immigrants leaving San Francisco for cheaper pastures." San Francisco Examiner. Last modified July 21, 2011. Accessed April 13, 2014. http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/illegal-immigrants-leaving-san-francisco-for-cheaper-pastures/Content?oid=2178492.

[2] Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth. "SF Summer Jobs Program Will Include Opportunities for Undocumented Youth." Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth. Last modified May 28, 2013. Accessed April 13, 2014. http://colemanadvocates.org/blog/sf-summer-jobs-program-will-include-opportunities-for-undocumented-youth/.

[3] US Department of Homeland Security. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Who Can Be Considered?" US Department of Homeland Security. Last modified August 15, 2012. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.dhs.gov/blog/2012/08/15/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-who-can-be-considered.

[4] US Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Frequently Asked Questions." US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Last modified January 18, 2013. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions.

[5] Ibid

[6] Center for American Progress. "Undocumented No More." Center for American Progress. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/DACAReportCC-2-1.pdf.

job since receiving DACA, over 50% have opened their first bank account, and 38% have obtained their first credit card.[7]

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced an Executive Action to protect unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. from deportation, expanding DACA and introducing a new program, Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA). Under the President's new expanded plan, DACA recipients would renew their statuses and work authorization every three years instead of two.[8] In addition, Immigrants who entered the U.S. before January 1, 2010, and who have at least one child who is a U.S. citizen or a green-card holder, are also protected under this executive action and may be eligible for DAPA.

However, there are costs with DACA. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services charges an application fee of $465 to apply and reapply, a $380 fee for the I-765 Form and an additional $85 in biometric service fees.[9] These fees impose a significant barrier to eligible applicants; for example, according to Migration Policy Institute's one year DACA mark study, 35% of eligible DACA applicants are under 100% of the Federal Poverty level, with 66% under 199% of the Federal Poverty level.[10] 60.5% of all DACA applications received from August 2012 to July 2013 were in the months of August, September, October, and November (the first four months of the program) and were up for re-application this year,[11] increasing the need for financial aid at the beginning of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The financial need is even more apparent in San Francisco, a city consistently ranked as one of the most expensive cities in the United States, currently second only to New York City.[12]

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following President Barack Obama's Executive Action, Mayor Edwin Lee immediately authorized $500,000 in new funding for the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to provide citywide DACA and DAPA outreach, education, fraud prevention and language assistance. However, reducing financial barriers for undocumented youth applying for DACA is still an unmet need in San Francisco. The Youth Commission urges the City to provide additional funding and

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[7] Gonzales, Roberto G., and Veronica Terriquez. "How DACA is Impacting the Lives of Those Who are Now DACAmented." Immigration Policy Center. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/how-daca-impacting-lives-those-who-are-now-dacamented.

[8] Ibid

[9] United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. "I-765, Application for Employment Authorization." United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Last modified January 18, 2013. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.uscis.gov/i-765

[10] Migration Policy Institute. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals at the One-Year Mark." Migration Policy Institude. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/DACA2013-FINAL.pdf.

[11] United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals." United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Accessed November 24, 2014. http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca-13-8-15.pdf.

[12] Expatistan. "Expatistan's Cost of Living World Map." Expatistan. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.expatistan.com/cost-of-living/index.

offer fee waivers to San Francisco's DACA applicants who face barriers paying any applicable application fee(s) in applying for the DACA program.

The Youth Commission commends Mayor Lee's commitment to fund the DreamSF Initiative through 2019. Another recommendation is to expand the number of slots on OCEIA's DreamSF Fellowship program which offers DACA-approved youth the opportunity to serve the city's immigrant communities through professional experience and training.

While the new and expanded DACA and DAPA are temporarily delayed, the Youth Commission is excited to work with the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA), the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), and community organizations serving undocumented youth to ensure that San Francisco is ready to support DACA-eligible youth once the injunction to remove the DACA programs is settled.

UPDATES

After speaking with community representatives at a DACA convener meeting, one proposal came up as most effective in providing fee assistance to applicants for DACA and DACA renewal. This proposal includes two scholarship programs, in addition to additional funding for the DACA DREAM SF Fellowship program. The first consists of a more intensive internship, from which a participant earns a salary amount in the form of a stipend; this internship would largely concern outreach about using DACA and other city/state resources. In the second program, the participant need only complete a project or training of some sort, entailing either outreach about DACA or workforce development. These two programs were created with flexibility in mind, in hopes of reaching the larger DACA eligible and renewal applicant population.

In addition, the committee has been working with SFUSD's Student Advisory Council on a survey focusing on the needs of immigrant students in order to identify resources not yet provided to the immigrant population. The survey is designed to investigate immigrant students' experiences with SFUSD, the City, and other non-profit organizations regarding possible programs and youth services available to them such as DACA, AB540, and AB 60. When the data from the survey is collected and analyzed, the committee can better understand which services and programs can be better advertised, and be considered as outreach projects for the internship ideas that came out of the DACA convener meeting.

PRIORITY 1: DECLARE 2015 AS THE YEAR OF RECOGNIZING HOMELESS YOUTH

Ensure that the city acknowledges the growth of the homeless youth population (12-24 year olds), and to prioritize the provision of housing, employment training and services through financial support.

BACKGROUND

The Youth Commission has had many meetings with the Youth Advisory Board of Larkin Street to discuss ways to better serve the homeless youth in San Francisco. Larkin Street is a service provider that caters to homeless youth in San Francisco, and provides an abundant amount of assistance. *Between July 2012 and July 2013 Larkin Street provided aid to 3,450 individuals, which happens to be a lot more than the 2013 Point-In-Time Count. Based on our collaboration with the Youth Advisory Board, we recognized that the homeless youth population in San Francisco is often overlooked and underserved. According to the 2013 Point-in-Time count conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), there are roughly 1,902 homeless youth in San Francisco. With very little and accessible services, many youth have difficulty getting on the right track towards living a healthy life.

The Youth Commission and Larkin Street gathered more information about the state of homeless youth in San Francisco. There are only 4,000 youth shelters in the entire nation. Approximately 5,000 youths die from assault, suicide, and illness from being on the streets. These youths are susceptible to incarceration especially since every state spends approximately $5.7 billion each year to arrest homeless youth. Nearly 66% of homeless youth in San Francisco have experienced harassment from local police officers and law enforcement. About half of the surveyed youth also reported that they had been homeless for one year or more.

Many of the homeless youth are vulnerable to sex, drugs, and alcohol. In the 2013 Point-in-Time count survey, 21% of the youth admitted that they traded sex and drugs for a place to sleep. One in ten of the homeless youth reported that they had been a victim of sexual exploitation. A third of homeless have been a victim of exploiter or have been recruited by a pimp within the first 48 hours of them being on street. Drugs have also played a part in homeless youth experiences with a staggering 20% of youth having used methamphetamines and one out of ten youths having used heroin. Because of their lack of housing, homeless youth are more susceptible to give into the vices of sexual exploitation and addictive drug habits.

There's also a significant LGBTQ+ homeless population. 40% of the homeless youth in the nation identify as being LGBTQ+ which is a huge discrepancy when there is only 5-10% of youth who identified as being LGBTQ+.

Even though there are many problems that homeless youth face, there are numerous services available to them. Larkin Street Youth Services (provider of educational, vocational, and housing support to homeless youth in San Francisco) reestablished their Youth Advisory Board this year to serve as voice for the homeless youth in the city. Although the Point-in-Time count suggested that there are 1,902 homeless youth in the city, the Larkin Street Youth Services provided services to 3,450 youth between July 2012 and July 2013. Our city needs to allocate more of their funds to support homeless youth services like Larkin Street to uplift homeless youth, and to get them back on track.

This is why the Youth Commission along with Larkin Street urges the Board of Supervisors to declare 2015 was the "Year of Homeless Youth". We want to make homeless youth in San Francisco a priority and want to raise awareness

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission, along with the Youth Advisory Board of Larkin Street, encourage the Board of Supervisors and Mayor to declare 2015 as the Year of recognizing Homeless Youth to raise awareness about the ongoing services on a citywide level. Our nation aims to eradicate youth homelessness by 2020 through the Obama Administration, and this can be done through education. Declaring 2015 a year for homeless youth is one step for our entire city to learn more about the struggles and success stories of homeless youth.

By declaring 2015 a year for homeless youth, the city must also prioritize housing, employment training, on-site counseling services, education and job placement for homeless youth through financial support.

Finally, we urge the Mayor to release an Executive Directive to support the most vulnerable population of the city's homeless people, our homeless children and youth. This Executive Directive

PRIORITY X: TRAILING CHILDREN'S FUND LEGISLATION

Following up on the passing of the Children's and Youth Fund legislation in 2014 to support and establish the Our Children Our City Council and the DCYF Oversight Advisory Council.

BACKGROUND

Previously called the Children's Fund, the Children and Families First Fund is a dedicated stream of earmarked dollars for children and youth services in San Francisco. It was first approved by San Francisco voters in 1991, reinstated by the electorate in 2001, and was up for reauthorization in 2014. The Children's Fund had been the primary source of funding for programs and direct services for the more than 56,000 youth in San Francisco who are 18 years and younger.[1] As the chartered advisory body charged with the responsibility to examine existing quality of youth programs and services, the Youth Commission sat on the Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Council and led the effort to engage San Francisco's young people.

Commissioners facilitated community conversations and discussions about the reauthorization process of the Children's Fund. From these meetings, focus groups, and a Youth Town Hall, they heard the need for the inclusion of disconnected TAY in the services provided by the Fund, the need for the city and school district to increase their investment in children and youth services, the need for more youth voice in councils and oversight bodies whose decisions impact young people, and the need for better coordination between the city, schools, and private/non-profit sectors.[2] They translated the feedback into recommendations in the form of Resolution 1314-04[3] to their appointing officials who considered it during the crafting of Proposition C.

Proposition C passed with 73% voters' approval during the November 2014 elections.[4] With the passing of the ballot measure, the Fund was extended for 25 years, received an additional $.01 per $100 of assessed valuation of the city's property tax, and could begin serving transitional-age youth between the ages of (18-24). The measure also established the Our Children, Our Families Council (OCOF), a group chaired by the Mayor and the Superintendent. The council is tasked to help the city, school district, and its community partners coordinate their services by creating a plan for the city to improve the condition of children and families, assessing city policies and programs and making general recommendations every five years. Additionally, the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families' Citizen Advisory Council (DCYF CAC) was replaced by the Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC). The OAC is charged with advising DCYF on the use of the Children's Fund,

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[1] San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families. *Snapshot of DCYF's Investments, Population Served and Participation Survey Results* San Francisco: n.p., n.d. PDF. <http://www.dcyf.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=710>

[2] *Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Engagement Wiki.* N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2014. <http://ourchildren-ourcity.wikispaces.com/>.

[3] San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution 1314-04 "Policies and Priorities for the Children's Fund," adopted April 7, 2014: <http://www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=15313>.

[4] City and County of San Francisco Registrar of Voters. Accessed April 13, 2015 <http://sfgov2.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/elections/ElectionsArchives/2014/Nov/Summary6.pdf>

creating the Children Needs Assessment and Children Services Allocation Plan, and monitoring the City's children, youth and family policies, programs, and services, advocating for a dedicated commitment to children, youth and families from every city department.[5]

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the passage of the Children and Families First Fund, the Board of Supervisors introduced trailing legislation regarding the makeup and more specific responsibilities of the OCOF Council and the DCYF OAC. The Youth Commission continued to urge the Supervisors to include youth seats on these two bodies.

On the OAC, the Youth Commission urged for at least 25% of the seats to be made up of youth. On the OCOF Council, the Youth Commission urged for four seats: one Youth Commissioner, one Student Advisory Council Member, one TAY youth, and one youth who is a public school student and member of a youth organization.

UPDATES

The legislation on the OAC passed with three youth seats including two youth under the age of 18, and one transitional-age youth. The Youth Commission has been legislated to make recommendations to the Mayor on the two youth seats. As of April 2015, they have created and released the application out to the community for these two youth seats, and planned to conduct interviews.

While the legislation on the OCOF Council awaits approval of the entire Board of Supervisors, the most recent draft introduced at the Rules Committee on April 9, 2015 included three youth seats out of the four recommended by the Youth Commission.[6]

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[5] "Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee." N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Apr. 2015. <http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/boards/w/5f1a1e2880611dce/boards/6407>.

[6] BOS File 150222: Administrative Code – Membership and Functions of the Our Children, Our Families Council < https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2236384&GUID=81D47AD9-02AA-4C25-9FF4-9E5CF37928A1>

URGING THE RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE EQUITY ANALYSIS

Ensure that the Recreation and Park Department provide equitable facilities throughout the city of San Francisco.

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Recreation and Park Department of San Francisco is to provide enriching recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for the well-being of the diverse community of San Francisco. The Recreation and Park Department (RPD) is committed to maintaining the natural beauty of San Francisco without sacrificing the ability for youth to play or explore.

RPD has more than 4,100 acres of park land under its jurisdiction, including Sharp Park in Pacifica and Camp Mather Family Camp in the High Sierras.[1] Its 220 parks provide over 440 programs serving . The department has the capacity to offer 16,000 slots for youth over the summer in their programs and $800K in scholarships were awarded this past summer. RPD also plays a significant role in violence prevention strategies including late night basketball, Camp Mather outdoor experience, SFPD & Park Patrol, and youth leadership programs. RPD tries to work with specific communities and figure out what they want and what is essential, and what are service-specific programs.RPD does their best to allocate resources appropriately and equally across neighborhoods in the city.

During the 2010 recession, the Recreation and Park Department faced many economic challenges. During this time, RPD was able to navigate historic budget challenges through the implementation of creative revenue strategies. In 2012 a bond was passed which brought many park renovations, added recreation and summer programs. However, many of these changes had inadvertent affects on the historically disadvantaged communities where the changes were made.

On March 5, 2015 at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services hearing on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights , the youth commission presented many recommendations to the supervisors. Public comments included concerns regarding staffing, extending lighting hours , implementing park monitors, and providing access and general safety for children and youth.

The Youth Commission recommended that the Park and Recreation Department reassess the reservation system for "adult permitted play", extend lighting hours, hire full time staff and monitors at parks and playgrounds and maintain language accessible signage.

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[1] Rec and Park, Fiscal year 2011-12 report

Safety is a critical element of all spaces in which our children and youth recreate. On-site staff and park monitors can serve to help prevent conflict, violence, and danger to park users. The city, through its Recreation & Parks department, offers many programs and classes at a cost. Many children and youth do not have jobs and cannot afford them. The RPD does offer extensive scholarships, but some youth and children across the city don't know about them. The city and RPD should outreach so that all of our children/youth know about these programs and scholarships.

Visitors of a park deserve the right to be informed of the rules regarding play structures, fields, reservations, etc. Conflicts between people who want to enjoy the city's outdoor spaces should not be caused by a lack of responsibility on the city's end to ensure Language Access. This also applies to any outreach being done by the city to offer programs to families with children and youth. Fields and facilities at neighborhood parks where youth and children frequent should be accessible without reservations. Additionally there shouldn't be a reservation system for "adult permitted play" at key parks where youth sport leagues frequent and/or where many youth pick-up/drop-in games happen.

Lastly, many children and youth spend time after school at fields, outdoor courts, and recreational yards. At parks where these facilities are heavily utilized, lighting is especially helpful during times in the year when the sun sets early. Lighting also serves as a safety tool. Lighting should be installed or extended at park fields and courts where youth recreate during after-school hours.

The Recreation and Park Department offers scholarships for its many programs and classes for low-income youth. Many youth do not know of these scholarships and the city and the Recreation and Park Department should outreach so that all of the city's youth and children have an opportunity to access classes and programs in spite of their income level

Park visitors deserve a right to be informed of the rules regarding play structures, fields, reservations, etc. Many parks and open spaces do not provide adequate notice of these rules in their language due to a lack of responsibility on the city's end to ensure Language Access

In October 2014, there was an incident at Mission Playground involving community youth and adult tech workers, where the adults had reserved the field space ahead of time on a field that had typically been a pick up (non-reservation) field

A Recreation and Open Space Equity Analysis will focus on improving Recreation and Park services in neighborhoods with high concentrations of low income households, community of colors, residents with disabilities, and households with high percentages of youth

The Recreation and Open Space Equity Analysis will create neighborhood specific strategies to improve Recreation and Park service by addressing key issues (safety, staffing, and resources, etc.) facing targeted neighborhoods and communities

SFMTA has conducted a Service Equity report and King County has also conducted a parks and recreation equity analysis

RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Recreation and Park Department to conduct a Recreation and Open Space Equity Analysis on all San Francisco parks and fields, studying accessibility and service performance specifically in low income and minority neighborhoods, monitoring progress to improve services to these communities over time and linking improvement strategies to Recreation and Park funding requests as needed.

The San Francisco Youth Commission also encourages the Board of Supervisor's to consider the recommendations made during the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights hearing, which were calling for more safety at parks, extended lighting hours and , while reviewing the budget of the departments that oversee the city's recreational and outdoor spaces, particularly the Recreation and Park Department as the main purveyor of outdoor experiences for youth in the city.

FULLY FUND THE PLAN FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH

Ensure that the city continue to follow through with the 2007 citywide recommendations proposed by the Transitional Youth Task Force.

BACKGROUND

In San Francisco, it is estimated that there are between 5,000 and 8,000 disconnected transitional-aged youth – youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who will not make a successful transition into adulthood:[1] 6,000 TAY lack a high school diploma, 5,500 are completely uninsured and 7,000 neither work nor go to school.[2] As a result, many TAY experience substantial periods of unemployment, homelessness, and a disproportionally high number of these young people have some degree of involvement with the criminal justice system.

In response to these numbers, the Youth Commission adopted a resolution in 2005 calling on then-Mayor Gavin Newsom to create at task force that would propose methods to better serve this population.[3] Mayor Newsom created this task force in 2006 and after a year of intensive, collaborative work between City officials, community-based service providers, and TAY, the Mayor's Transitional Youth Task Force (TYTF) released its report in October 2007, Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco's Most Vulnerable Young Adults. This document contained 16 comprehensive recommendations for City agencies "to address the problem of the current fragmented policies and programs, with a comprehensive, integrated approach towards disconnected transitional age youth."[4] Among the report's 16 recommendations to the city's policy makers, "more accessible housing for disconnected TAY" was a high priority.

Some City Departments responded to the TYTF report with great vigor. For example, the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) convened a TAY Housing Work Group with a variety of stakeholders to create a plan to meet the housing goals established by the Task Force. The goal of the TAY Housing Plan was to create 400 additional units for TAY by 2015, using a variety of housing models. This

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[1] *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco's Most Vulnerable Young Adults* (2007), Mayor's Transitional Youth Task Force, City & County of San Francisco

[2] Transitional Age Youth—San Francisco (TAYSF) initiative, TAYSF 2011 Progress Report, page 2 http://www.heysf.org/download/taysfpublications/TAYSF_Progress_Report.pdf.

[3] Youth Commission Resolution 0405—005, Resolution urging the Mayor to Ordain a Transitional Youth Task Force.

[4] *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco*, p. 50

priority was re-affirmed by a recommendation in the TAYSF Policy Priorities for Transitional Age Youth 2014-16 document released in Spring 2014, which called for plans to continue the pipeline of housing for TAY to meet or exceed the 400 unit goal by 2015.[5]

The TAY Housing Work Group concluded that there is no one "best model" of housing for youth, rather a wide range of models is needed for different populations. MOH went ahead and issued its first Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) exclusively for projects serving TAY in 2009. Unfortunately, due to stigma against TAY and homeless youth, some proposed affordable housing projects that would include TAY units have faced considerable neighborhood opposition, as was the case of the Booker T. Washington project which took years to officially become approved. The recession of 2010 also delayed the completion of many TAY housing units. Fortunately, the Booker T. Washington project is now underway with plans to have it built by 2017. Two other buildings with TAY housing also saw the completion of construction this past year, including 1100 Ocean and Edward the 2nd. It is now 2015, the year of the projected 400 unit deadline and there continues to be 158 units that still need to be identified.[6] Since last year, 242 TAY units have been identified and 48 units have been completed leading to a total of 188 complete units, while 24 are in predevelopment and 30 units are land indentified.[7]

In 2014, youth commissioners hosted a youth town hall on housing and affordability which was attended by over 50 youth and advocates. Youth participants were joined by several City staff who came to share their insights. In the TAY breakout at this event, participants noted that in addition to limited slots in dedicated TAY housing programs, TAY also face other barriers when searching for housing, including: age discrimination, a lack of credit history, and not being aware of their rights as tenants.[8]

Last year the Youth Commission recommended the development of an evaluation tool that measures the quality and effectiveness of TAY housing and its supportive services which includes direct feedback from TAY. The need for TAY housing is much bigger than what is available. Therefore, it is necessary to see that funds are invested wisely, which is where the evaluation comes in. The Mayor's Office of Housing decided in 2014 that it was vital to see how effective the TAY housing was at serving TAY and their diverse needs. They decided to conduct a TAY housing assessment in conjunction with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CHS). Earlier this year, the Youth Commission met with The Corporation for Supportive Housing, Harder+Company, Human Services Agency, and the Mayor's Office of Housing to receive an update on the assessment. CHS is currently conducting an assessment of the effectiveness of the city's TAY housing through focus groups, surveys and direct outreach of TAY. They have been in contact with TAY Ed,

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[5] Transitional Age Youth—San Francisco (TAYSF) initiative, TAYSF 2011 Progress Report http://www.heysf.org/download/taysfpublications/TAYSF_Progress_Report.pdf.

[6] Personal communication with Anne Romero, Project Manager with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, May 15, 2014.

[7] Supportive Housing for Transition-Aged Youth, prepared by Mayor's Office of Housing, Updated December 2014

[8] A full report from the town hall will be released by youth commissioners in June 2014. For more information about the town hall, refer to the Housing committee report in the Youth Commission's annual report.

TAYSF and the San Francisco Youth Commission. The results of this assessment are due at the end of summer 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Francisco Youth Commission encourages the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Department of Public Health, and the Human Services Agency to implement the housing recommendations of the Transitional Youth Task Force and the TAYSF TAY 2014-2016 priorities document,[9] including identifying the remaining 158 units.

Finally, while we recognize the paramount importance of creating housing units for our City's most disconnected and extremely low-income young people, we recommend analyzing housing outcomes for TAY who would not normally be eligible for TAY housing programs, and considering additional less resource-intensive supports for them achieving positive housing outcomes, including financial education, move-in costs or rental subsidies, apartment-hunting support, and tenants' rights education.

[9] http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=48565

YOUTH ENGAGE CBA'S

Setting the precedence for youth engagement in the creation of Community Benefit Agreements between the City and the private sector in addition to including more youth services in those agreements.

BACKGROUND

Priority #6 of the Youth Commission's Policy & Budget Priorities for Fiscal Years 2012-2013 & 2013-2014 stressed the "Promotion of job experience and employment opportunities for San Francisco's young people by including Youth Involvement Plans when negotiating contracts with new businesses." On March 12, 2012, the Youth Commission adopted Resolution 1112—AL 07 Urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to Prioritize Youth Employment During Business Negotiations with the intent of encouraging youth involvement plans, to, at a minimum, increase the number of youth jobs and internships for the city's young people, so as to create a thriving workforce for the future of San Francisco. On March 27, 2012, the Board of Supervisors adopted resolution file no.120293 Urging the Mayor and City Departments to Prioritize Youth Employment During Business Negotiations.

This year, the Youth Commission's Immigration and Employment Committee was committed to addressing this priority of youth employment and engagement and thus, chose to work on Community Benefit Agreements. A Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) is a binding contract any company residing in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area whose annual payroll expense exceeds one million dollars can enter with the City Administrator in order to receive a 1.5% payroll expense tax exclusion. Community Benefit Agreements may include commitments to engage in community activities and participate in workforce development opportunities in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area. Currently, there are six companies engaged in CBAs: Twitter, Zendesk, Spotify, Zoosk, Yammer, and One Kings Lane. In the past, these companies have worked with community organizations such as Black Girls Code and Vietnamese Youth Development Center, contributing to small and large projects.

The Immigration and Employment Committee researched CBAs, meeting with the City Administrator's Office as well as the liaisons from the different companies involved in CBAs. The Committee also toured Twitter, Zendesk, and Spotify to learn more about what the companies can offer to their communities and understand the potential of CBAs. During the tours, commissioners were able to ask staff questions regarding their community work and outreach, which set the precedence for their action regarding CBAs. The Immigration and Employment Committee and six different CBA companies are holding a youth town hall in June together with the theme of connection and empowerment, where youth can learn about CBAs so they can contribute to them and gain from them.

RECENT UPDATES

The Youth Town Hall, sponsored jointly by by the Central Market and Tenderloin companies, will be held on June 11, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Titled "Kinetic Konnection," goals of the event include connecting young people to the Mid-Market area and its opportunities; connecting young people to decision making in City Hall; and empowering youth by connecting with companies and seeing their voices translate to tangible programs, policies and opportunities. At the day long town hall, youth will hear from inspirational speakers, attend workshops put on by the six different companies engaged in CBAs, hear from the liaisons during panel discussions, and have the opportunity to voice their own questions and opinions to young leaders and adults working in the private sector. Ultimately, this event will serve as a pilot option for how young people can get involved with current and future companies involved in CBAs.

Priority: Urging for Police Officer Training To Improve Youth & Police Relations

Assist and assure that the Police Department follow-through on commitment to Youth Commission's recommendation to provide police training on interacting with youth.

Background

For much of it's 17 year history, the Youth Commission has focused its attention to the arena of youth-police interactions--from sponsoring two Citywide hearings in June of 2000 regarding the adopted state Constitutional Amendment and statute on Juvenile Crime known as Proposition 21; to putting on a town hall in December 2002 that drew over 200 youth, many of whom spoke about their experiences with police in schools; to working with the Police Department (SFPD) and the Office of Citizen Complaints staff to develop revisions adopted by the Police Commission in September 2008 to the SFPD's protocol on youth detention and arrest and interrogation codified in Department General Order (DGO) 7.01; to holding the first ever joint hearing with the Police Commission on March 7th, 2012 where over 70 speakers shared their testimony.

At many points of its history, the public--a great many whom were youth, service providers, teachers, and parents--offered Youth Commissioners their riveting personal experiences and interactions with police officers. At the March 7th, 2012 joint hearing, ,any community members and department staff discussed the positive and life-changing work in which SFPD is involved in each day. There were also numerous stories of miscommunication and seemingly unnecessary escalations between police officers and youth. Gathering all of the input and research provided, Youth Commissioners have shared with Chief Suhr and the Police Commission, a formal memo recommending policy changes to improve relations with youth.

Updates

In 2013, the Police Department confirmed that newly hired officers had begun volunteering with youth organizations throughout their training period at the police academy. Additionally, the police department is involved in drop-out prevention efforts and encourages ongoing youth athletic coaching commitments among its officers. We applaud the police department's commitment to developing relationships with youth-serving organizations, especially with the Boys and Girls Clubs. We also appreciate the

department's commitment to achieving public safety through prevention strategies, such as encouraging school success.
Comprehensive police training on youth-police interactions remains an important factor in avoiding unnecessary escalations between police and juveniles, and is a strong priority for the San Francisco Youth Commission. Such training has already been implemented successfully, in other police departments, including Portland, Oregon and with SRO's in San Diego.

In 2014, the police department began workign with a trainer to offer to the San Francisco Police Department, focusing on the Adverse Childhood Experience and the toxic stress. These trainings, however, are not entirely dedicated on improving youth and police interactions, de-escalation, and making police officers developmentally competent to accurately assess a situation; additionally, they do not have a youth-development, skill- or scenario-based approach.

Youth Commissioners believe this training should:

1. Be provided to new hires, as well as be incorporated into advanced officer training.
2. Be prioritized for sergeants and patrol officers.
3. Focus on policing tactics unique to juveniles, and offer a comprehensive overview of the department's policies surrounding juvenile policing outlined in the Department General Order 7.01.
4. Offer practical communication skills and best practices for working with youth that are grounded in developmental psychology. Topics that should be included are: adolescent cognitive development, mental health issues among youth, and recognizing and interacting with traumatized youth.
5. Include de-escalation skills and strategies for asserting authority effectively with youth.
6. Address the issue of racial profiling and disproportionate police contact with youth of color.
7. Incorporate scenarios of real life police-youth interactions and include youth in training components.
8. Offer officers an opportunity to practice and apply their skills.

We believe that efforts towards increasing police training on youth development, adolescent cognitive development, de escalation, and positively interacting with youth will help to create a productive and consistent dialogue between youth and police in addressing youth-culturally competent issues within law enforcement.

Recommendations

The Youth Commission is calling upon the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Police Chief Suhr and the Police Commission to follow through on the following training related recommendations as outlined.

The Youth Commission is calling upon the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and Police Commission to support and urge the police department to implement a new training for all police officers, with a priority for sergeants and patrol officers that address topics and policing tactics unique to juveniles. This training should include topics such as adolescent cognitive development, mental health issues for youth, asserting authority effectively with juveniles, recognizing and interacting with traumatized youth and responding to accusations of racial profiling.

The Youth Commission strongly suggests that the training incorporate scenarios of real life police-youth interactions and emphasize effective communication and de-escalation tactics during police interactions with youth.

Priority X: Promoting and maintaining family unity and connection between youth and their incarcerated parent

Background:

In March 2015, youth commissioners, working in partnership with Project WHAT, passed a resolution calling for the lowering the visiting age in county jails to age 16. They met with Sheriff Mirkarimi in March 2015, who expressed commitment to both instituting policy to lower the visiting age in county jails, and issuing a RFP for the development of an online inmate locator tool.

Over half all U.S. inmates in 2007 were parents of one or more children under the age of 18;[1] According to the Center for Youth Wellness, incarceration is one of the most adverse of childhood experiences and a DCYF Community Needs Assessment found that 17,993 children and youth were estimated to have had a parent who spent time in either county jail or state prison in 2010.[2] This number does not include youth and children who had a parent that was incarcerated at any time during their childhood, and does not include transitional age youth, parental incarceration may affect an even greater number of San Francisco's young people.

Visitation is a major mediating factor in the adverse effect of parental incarceration.[3] Supervision required for 16 and 17 year olds to visit their parent may present barriers to youth maintaining a relationship with their parent. The federal government permits persons 16 years age and older to visit inmates in federal prisons.

Sheriff Mirkarimi has already undertaken efforts to lower phone call prices for people incarcerated in San Francisco County jails to promote family unity. The Sheriff along with HSA, Community Works, and SFCIPP are already working to expand contact visits for children and youth under age seventeen. Many youth are already well served through the One Family visiting program, but established family visiting programs cannot serve all youth who may wish to schedule visits with their parents.

Administrative and financial barriers to parental visitation were among the top issues and concerns voiced by youth with incarcerated parents, formerly incarcerated people, and service providers during a youth participatory action research effort undertaken by San Francisco Project WHAT, a leadership program of youth with incarcerated parents, in 2013-2015.[4]

Call-in requests to locate a parent or loved one often take very long time. County jails are a first point of contact in the criminal justice system, and may be sites where parents are detained before their children have otherwise learned of a parent's arrest or incarceration. Federal prisons, California state prisons, and several county jail systems including Sacramento Alameda, and San Bernardino already

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[1] Justice Strategies; "Children on the Outside: Voicing the Pain and Human Costs of Parental Incarceration," January 2011

[2] 1,797 San Francisco children had a parent in California State prison. An estimated 16,196 San Francisco children had a parent in custody for some period of time in 2010 at San Francisco County Jails. See: San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, "2011 Community Needs Assessment," Published May 2011, Page 101.

[3] Joseph Murray, David P. Farrington; "Effects of Parental Imprisonment on Child Antisocial Behavior and Mental Health: A Systemic Review"; September 2009

[4] *Project WHAT! Research Findings with SF Solutions*, February 2015

have their online inmate locators. There are now more people being detained at county level due to realignment. The changes due to realignment are more cause to have an inmate locator and to increase our efforts to support children in maintaining strong bonds with their parents during incarceration.

Updates

New training for DGO 7.04

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission commends the Sheriff Department's self-evident commitment to maintaining and promoting relationships between youth and their incarcerated parents and his agreement to lowering the jail visiting age to age 16.

The San Francisco Youth Commission the implementation of the new jail visiting policy as quickly as possible and wish to confirm that such a change to the visiting policy should not preclude youth 16 and 17 years old from also participating in contact visits through existing established visiting programs. We urge that such a visiting policy should include provisions for verifying the relationship of a child and parent, as well as the identity of the youth visitor in a way that presents as few barriers to regular visitation as possible. We support the speedy creation of an accessible online inmate locator that is searchable by first and last name, and without an inmate ID number. Finally, we urge the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the Sheriff to investigate funding sources and contracting options that would afford parents detained in county jail free phone calls to their child or child's caretaker.

In order to promote ongoing family unity between youth and incarcerated parents, we also urge the Board of Supervisors to investigate ways in which the city can fund visitation programs for when a parent is transferred from SF County Jail to state prison. This funding would cover transportation costs for children and their caretakers to visit an incarcerated parent four times a per year and enhance bussing programs.

Expand Implementation of 12N Cultural Competency Training and Efforts to Track LGBTQ Youth in City Services

Dedicate support to ensure that youth-serving City Departments are undertaking efforts to identify the needs of LGBTQ youth, use inclusive intakes, assume best practices, and train staff in accordance with section 12(N) of the San Francisco admin code

Background

Adopted in June of 1999, Chapter 12N of the San Francisco Administrative Code—entitled *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth: Youth Services Sensitivity Training*—mandates training with very specific criteria regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth sensitivity of all City employees who work with youth and all City contractors who receive $50,000 or more in City (or City-administered) funds.[1]

For the past thirteen years, this well-intentioned mandate that was designed to help queer youth access culturally competent services has been an unfunded mandate. In 2012, the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Human Rights Commission (HRC), and the Youth Commission prepared a training tool which is being piloted at DPH sites. However, there are few resources to support other departments in developing relevant staff trainings, developing capacity to make appropriate referrals for LGBTQ youth, or identifying administrative barriers that keep queer and trans youth from equally accessing their services. Notably, most city departments and contractors do not currently collect information regarding the sexual orientation or gender identity of youth they serve.[2] As a result, there are few means of determining how and whether queer and trans youth are accessing services, let alone determining what outcomes they experience.

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[1] San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 12N: *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth: Youth Services Sensitivity Training,* Retrieved at: http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/administrative/chapter12nlesbiangaybisexualtransgenderq?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:sanfrancisco_ca

[2] As of 2014, DPH was revising intakes to collect this demographic data. Other departments, such as the Juvenile Probation Department, may ask the question during interviews, but do not collect or store the information as a retrievable data point. April 17, 2014 Personal Communication with Michael Baxter, MSW, Director of Family Planning (MCAH) and Youth Programs (COPC), San Francisco Department of Public Health; and February 19, 2014 Personal Communication with Allen Nance, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department

Fifteen years after the passage of 12N, San Francisco's LGBTQ youth are still very in need of excellent services. Nationally, 20-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ.[3] LGB youth in San Francisco are harassed more (Figure 3.1) and are more likely to consider suicide (Figure 3.2) than their heterosexual peers. There is a lack of research on how suicide risk affects transgender youth, but one study among adults and young adults found that 30.1 percent of transgender individuals surveyed reported having ever attempted suicide; this is 6-7 times higher than the general young adult population.[4]

School-Based Harassment Due to Sexual Orientation (Figure 11.1)[5]

During the past 12 months, have you ever been harassed because someone thought you were gay, lesbian or bisexual?

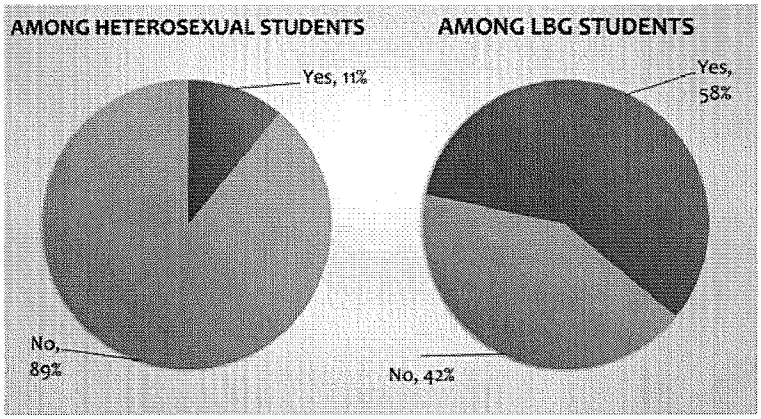

Figure 3.1 School-Based Harassment Due to Sexual Orientation

Suicide Risk (Figure 11.2)[6]

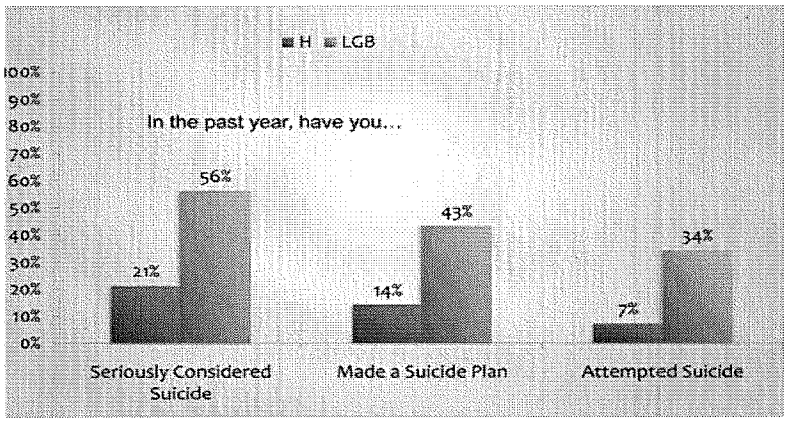

Figure 3.2 Suicide Risk

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[3] See: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2010/06/21/7980/gay-and-transgender-youth-homelessness-by-the-numbers/

[4] See: http://www.suicidology.org/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=232&name=DLFE-334.pdf

[5] San Francisco Unified School District, Student Support Services for LGBTQ Youth, http://www.healthiersf.org/LGBTQ/index.php.

[6] Ibid.

Updates

In June 2013, Supervisor Avalos, along with co-sponsoring Supervisors Campos and Wiener, sponsored a hearing in Neighborhood Services and Safety regarding various city departments' efforts to implement 12N. DPH, HRC, DCYF, DHR, JPD, and HSA were all in attendance. Several departments had initiated notable efforts to create supportive environments for LGBTQIQ youth. However, no departments had means of tracking service outcomes for LGBTQIQ youth. Save for DPH's pilot training, none of these efforts were specifically aligned with the scope of the ordinance.

This hearing made clear both the willingness and enthusiasm of the City family to address the needs of LGBTQ youth, as well as the need for a well-supported implementation plan for the ordinance. In January 2014, Youth Commissioners, Supervisor Avalos' office, and staff from the Human Rights Commission, DPH, and DCYF teamed up to begin hosting working group meetings with members of key youth-serving city departments. To date, staff from the Juvenile Probation Department, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Public Library, the Human Rights Commission, TAY SF, the Youth Commission, and Supervisor Avalos' office have participated in these meetings to discuss their respective efforts to implement best practices for serving LGBTQ youth as well as to share insights about what types of competency trainings would be most supportive of staff in their departments.

Several departments submitted questionnaires detailing the nature, scope, and setting of youth services they provide, including providing key insights regarding gender-segregated, residential, detention, and contracted services. These insights will be critical in ensuring that the ordinance is implemented in a way that substantively impacts the lives of LGBTQIQ youth. We commend all participating departments for their effort and look forward to our continued work together.

Recommendations

The Youth Commission would like to thank members of the Board of Supervisors for attention to this matter, as well as key youth-serving city departments for participating in the 2014 working group meetings.

The Youth Commission respectfully urges Mayor Lee, the Board of Supervisors, and City Departments to identify and dedicate funding sources to support implementation of 12N competency trainings and to support planning and coordination of 12N implementation efforts.

The Commission additionally requests that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors call on City departments to begin collecting information on sexual orientation and gender identity in intake forms, beginning in the upcoming fiscal year.

Lowering San Francisco's Legal Voting Age to Sixteen Years of Age and Older

Extending voting rights to sixteen and seventeen year olds would increase both civic participation and political awareness and empower youth to become more engaged in our local government

Background

In January 2015, the San Francisco Youth Commission passed a resolution urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to lower San Francisco's legal voting age to sixteen years and older in municipal and school district elections.
Sixteen holds a special significance in our society; upon turning 16, young people can drive, work without limitations on hours, pay taxes, take classes on government in school, are subject to adult criminal charges, and yet are denied the right to vote.

Young people often feel excluded from being engaged in their government and are underrepresented in local government. With the right to vote, young people would increase their knowledge and interest in politics and the issues directly affecting them Extending voting rights to youth of 16 years of age would empower young people to become engaged in our local government. Young voters will be more likely to continue civic engagement throughout their lives than are those who begin voting later in life. Having young people voting at earlier ages would increase voter turnout in future elections and further stimulate interest in getting more involved in local government affairs. Studies have proven 16 year old voters are competent and mature enough to make well-informed decisions that will influence their lives and the broader electorate

Given the current age demographics in San Francisco where the average age of the electorate has risen from 44.2 in 1980 to 45.8 and is projected to 47.6 by 2025, expanding the electorate is an essential step in counterbalancing this aging. Young people have interests and priorities that differ from those of older voters and an aging electorate may neglect the interests of more diverse younger generations.
Many families have left San Francisco due to the increase in house prices and lack of affordability to live in the city. Between 2000 and 2013, San Francisco lost about 8,0006 school age youth and now has the lowest percentage of kids of any major U.S. city. The young people impacted by these trends are best positioned to identify solutions, and their political enfranchisement is a vital step toward combating family flight.

The city has seen fit to make investments in the leadership and civic engagement of young people through DCYF's Youth Leadership and Organizing programs, Youth Empowerment Fund, and annual Youth Advocacy Day, among other initiatives; and WHEREAS, thousands of SFUSD high school students have cast votes in mock elections and ballot measures through the Youth Vote program, gaining exposure to the electoral process and civic norms and practices. On Tuesday, October 14, 2014 over 90 young people attended a Young Voters Forum designed to educate youth on the various issues facing San Francisco this election year and invite reflection on how the ballot might impact their lives and those of their peers and family. A majority of the attendees at the Young Voters Forum were under 18, yet meaningfully contributed to the discussion regarding several ballot measures. The non-partisan event was put on by the San Francisco Youth Commission, TAYSF, San Francisco Youth Warriors, Youth Leadership Institute, Peer Resources, the Student Advisory Council, and Coleman Advocates. Staff from the San Francisco Department of Elections was on hand at the Young Voters Forum to register new voters and recruit young people to work the polls on Election Day.

These and many other efforts by engaged local youth leaders have been very fruitful, with the city benefiting from several policy and legislative campaigns initiated and led by young people all around the city, including most recently an ordinance amending the health code and establishing limitations for the granting of new tobacco sales permits (File No. 1410988), which was finally passed by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014.

Numerous countries—Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom—have extended the right to vote to 16 year olds in national, state, and local elections or are considering doing so, and these efforts have resulted in higher turnout among voters ages 16-17 than among voters age 18 and older. In December 2010, the Lowell, Massachusetts City Council passed a resolution petitioning the Massachusetts State Legislature to lower the city's voting age to 179 and the petition is currently being considered by the Massachusetts State Legislature where it has garnered the support of several state lawmakers. In May 2013, Takoma Park, Maryland became the first municipality in the United States to reduce its legal voting age to 16 years of age.

Voter turnout among these newly enfranchised voters in Takoma Park was 44 percent, as compared to the overall voter turnout which was 11 percent. The Scottish government allowed 16 and 17 year olds to vote in its referendum on declaring independence from the United Kingdom. These 16 and 17 year old voters used this

opportunity to exercise their newfound right to vote en masse, with over 90 percent of 16 and 17 year old voters registering to vote in the Scottish independence referendum. Research consistently indicates 16-17 year-olds make voting decisions based on reasoned consideration of their own and larger interests in a fashion similar to older voters.

Resolutions adopted by both the San Francisco Youth Commission 8 (Resolution 0405-013) and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (File No. 051215) in 2005 supported expanding suffrage to citizens of 16 years and older in city and county elections. In 2014, the Youth Commission adopted Resolution No. 12 1314—0219 that called on for the Board of Supervisors and Youth-Serving Commissions to create a "Youth Voice" Policy that would allow more young people to come to testify at public meetings to voice their concerns and opinions on legislation that would directly impact them.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors added Rule 2.12.120 to the Board of Supervisors' Rules of Order in 2014, providing more opportunities for young people to meaningfully participate in public meetings.

Many states are enacting laws designed to severely limit communities' of color and young people's voting rights, rolling back gains won through a proud history of struggle on behalf of African Americans and groups of young, multiracial activists. San Francisco has an opportunity to take bold action to reverse these trends and stand for the political enfranchisement of young people.

Updates

On March 17, 2014, Supervisor Avalos, along with his co-sponsors Supervisors Kim, Campos, and Mar, introduced a charter amendment allowing citizens of 16 years of age and older to vote and register in municipal and 4 school district elections held in the City and County of San Francisco.

Recommendations

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to lower San Francisco's city and school district voting age eligibility to 16 years of age or older. The Youth Commission also urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge San Francisco's elected state representatives—State Senator Mark Leno,

Assemblymembers Philip Y. Ting and David Chiu—to prepare legislation that would provide for a state constitutional referendum to reduce the voting age to sixteen for all state elections.