



City and County of San Francisco

Commission on the Status of Women

Mayor London N. Breed

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

5:00 pm

San Francisco City Hall, Room 408

Roster:

President Dr. Shokooh Miry

Vice President Sophia Andary

Commissioner Sharon Chung

Commissioner Diane Jones Lowrey

Commissioner Dr. Anne Moses (late)

Commissioner Dr. Raveena Rihal (excused)

Commissioner Ani Rivera (excused)

Note: The Commission will hear public comment on each item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

I. CALL TO ORDER

DISCUSSION

President Miry called the meeting to order at 5:10pm. Ms. Blakely performed roll call, confirmed 4 of 7 Commissioners present (quorum). Ms. Blakely read the land acknowledgement. Commissioner Moses joined the meeting during Agenda IV(A).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION and ACTION

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the regular Commission meeting on May 22, 2024, without changes.

No public comment.

(Roll Call Vote) Jones Lowrey / Andary – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DISCUSSION

Dr. Macaluso presented on behalf of Director Ellis, noting that the Department will share more budget updates once finalized. He acknowledged the 2nd anniversary of the fall of Roe v. Wade and highlighted the Department's efforts in reproductive rights. On June 18th, the Department held the 2nd annual Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition meeting, where City Attorney David Chiu provided an overview of the legal landscape. The Department's grantee, the Gender Equity Policy Institute, also presented an early look at the forthcoming regional landscape analysis to nearly 40 allies at the Planned Parenthood office in San Francisco. Additionally, the Department provided technical assistance for the Mayor's San Francisco Reproductive Freedom Act ballot measure coming this Fall.

Commission comment

President Miry asked the Department to ensure that all Commissioners are invited to the Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition events moving forward.

No public comment

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION FROM OFFICE OF TRANSGENDER INITIATIVES

Director Honey Mahogany introduced herself, detailing her extensive background as a San Francisco native, social worker, business owner, founder, community organizer, and activist. Now serving as the Director of the Office of Transgender Initiatives, she highlighted the office's swift impact, such as implementing gender-neutral bathrooms, conducting cultural competency trainings, and addressing complaints involving City departments and police interactions with trans individuals.

Director Mahogany discussed the successes and challenges of various programs, including the legal scrutiny facing the guaranteed income pilot program for trans people (GIFT). She emphasized the program's positive outcomes, particularly in accessing mental health services and securing housing, despite the legal challenges. Director Mahogany stressed the importance of cultural competency within City departments, maintaining accountability, and learning from successful programs to reduce disparities. She underscored that trans rights initiatives benefit the wider community and expressed a desire to collaborate with other City departments to make these initiatives more inclusive and meaningful beyond simply checking boxes.

Commissioner comment

Vice President Andary congratulated Director Mahogany and expressed the importance of increasing trans representation on San Francisco's commissions and boards. Vice President Andary highlighted the diversity within the LGBTQ+ community, particularly the trans community, and emphasized the need for visible trans voices in leadership roles. She also stressed the importance of accurate data collection to ensure trans individuals are properly represented in surveys and statistics.

Director Mahogany appreciated the feedback and agreed on the significance of appointing young trans advocates to commission positions. She mentioned ongoing discussions with City departments to create more opportunities for trans individuals in stable jobs with benefits. Regarding data collection, Director Mahogany noted that while her office previously handled SOGI data, some responsibilities have been shifted to the Human Rights Commission, and she would follow up on the specifics.

No public comment

B. BLACK WOMEN REVOLT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NO-COST GRANT EXTENSION

Dr. Macaluso presented to the Commission a request to extend the end date of the Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence's \$100,000 capacity-building sole source grant agreement from June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2025. This extension will enable Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence, under the fiscal sponsorship of Young Community Developers Inc., to use the funds to expand culturally responsive services for domestic violence survivors. The goal is to broaden the reach and increase the number of clients served by the Department's gender-based violence portfolio.

Commissioner comment

After confirming the resolution aimed solely at extending the timeline with no additional costs, Commissioners voted to approve.

No public comment

(Roll Call Vote) Andary / Chung – 5 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

C. THE GENDER EQUITY POLICY INSTITUTE (GEPI) GRANT AMENDMENT AND SOLE SOURCE APPROVAL

Dr. Macaluso proposed a resolution to extend the Gender Equity Policy Institute's grant agreement through June 30, 2025, increase the grant by \$35,000, and waive the competitive solicitation requirement. This extension will allow GEPI to incorporate legal decisions affecting abortion care services into their report. The additional \$35,000 will fund technical assistance for a landscape analysis report and toolkit.

Commissioner comment

Commissioners emphasized the need for the extension to accommodate evolving legal landscapes and inquired about the breakdown and funding source of the \$35,000. They learned the funds, sourced from existing savings, include a \$2,000 monthly retainer and \$11,000 for overhead and administrative costs, with any unused funds returned to the Department.

No public comment

(Roll Call Vote) Jones Lowrey / Andary – 5 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

D. DRAFT COVER LETTER: 2023 GENDER ANALYSIS OF COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS REPORT

Dr. Macaluso provided a brief overview of the cover letter drafted by the Department following the recommendations the Commission made on the 2023 Gender Analysis of Commissions and Boards Report, discussed at the regular Commission meeting on May 22, 2024.

Commissioner comment

The Commission reviewed and discussed the recommended amendments in the draft cover letter, focusing on enhancing diversity and gender equity. Commissioners expressed satisfaction with the improvements made in the cover letter and agreed to proceed with approving the recommendations to be integrated in the final 2023 Gender Analysis of Commissions and Boards Report.

No public comment

(Roll Call Vote) Moses / Chung – 5 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Antonia More from the Justice & Diversity Center thanked the Commission for extending the grant for Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence. She shared two stories illustrating the impact of funding gender-based violence organizations in the City: a woman from China who escaped forced labor and abuse to pursue nursing school and secure custody, and a mother of three who obtained legal and financial support to rebuild her life after years of abuse. More emphasized the vital role of these organizations and expressed gratitude for the Commission's ongoing support.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning, President Miry shared that several schools in San Francisco had to contact the police this year about a male predator targeting young girls, who is now in custody and facing charges. This disturbing incident reminded President Miry of the crucial work the Department does. She connected it to a discussion with her daughter and classmates, emphasizing that the Department's efforts to help combat dark forces and uplift girls, creating safe spaces and instilling valuable principles. President Miry thanked the Department, highlighting the importance and daily impact of the work being done.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM.