



City and County of San Francisco
Department on the Status of Women



London N. Breed
 Mayor

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 25, 2023

Working at the intersection of health, safety, socioeconomics, politics and gender, the Department on the Status of Women has an expanded portfolio that prioritizes improving the whole lives of women, girls and nonbinary people through three core service areas: Health and Safety, Economic Security and Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment.

With a focus on its three core service areas, the Department seeks to rebuild itself as the City's Watch Dog and Accountability Partner on all issues related to gender parity; Chief Advocate for equity in service delivery, employment opportunities, leadership development and budget allocation; and Community Convener - bringing people together inside and outside the City to collaborate on ideas, strategy and impactful action to help San Francisco transform into a fully gender equitable City.

Reorganized and reimaged to meet this post-Roe moment, today's Department on the Status of Women is one that is human-centered, informed by data and infused with confidence, conviction and clarity of purpose.

The items below reflect the Department's work towards building a more diverse and efficient San Francisco City and County government through gender-responsive and racially equitable policies and programs.

I. **EXECUTIVE**

N/A

II. **ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS**

- **Fiscal**

On October 11, 2023, the Mayor's Budget Office provided a significant update on the City's economic situation. Despite the City's efforts to manage budget deficits and prioritize crucial investments, there's a projected structural deficit of at least \$500 million for Fiscal Year 2025-26. In response, departments are required to propose a 3% reduction in General Fund support for the current fiscal year. This entails moderating the expansion of contracts and programs and seeking cost-saving opportunities in procurement.

While the Department will comply with the Mayor's directive, because of prudent, conservative fiscal measures the Department put in place fifteen

months ago, we do not anticipate an impact to the grantee's baseline budgets.

- **Grants Administration**

The Department provided staff with training on grants management accountability. By holding organizations accountable to the grant plans that they have developed, the Department can ensure that clients/participants are appropriately benefiting from City-funded programs.

The Department updated its grantee quarterly narrative report questions to provide more opportunity for grantees to share important progress updates in addition to statistical and demographic data. Questions now focus on project progress, challenges faced, community changes that impact project work, important upcoming dates/events for grantees/projects, lessons learned, support needs, and sustainability.

The Department continues to develop a refined grants management policies, procedures, and preferences document which will improve narrative and financial reporting processes, including invoice processing, with the aim of expediting review and payment while reducing time and effort required of both grantees and DOSW program staff. Other benefits include clarified grants management processes for Department staff.

III. **COMMISSION**

N/A

IV. **COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

On September 29, Director Ellis served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the first annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month Launch Panel hosted by Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence. Director Ellis facilitated a diverse panel of survivors, advocates, and community leaders who shared personal stories and professional insights on best practices related to domestic violence education, intervention and prevention. This event served to kick-off Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the community with partner organizations and other City departments as well as to commemorate Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence's two-year anniversary as a Black-serving family service organization.

On October 11, DOSW hosted a virtual Open House with over 40 attendees including grantees, staff of fellow City agencies, and community partners to introduce new Department staff, reconnect with fellow partner organizations and share important updates about programmatic focus areas.

V. **PROGRAMS, POLICY & REPORTING**

- **Policy & Programs**

On October 18, the Department hosted its Fall Quarterly Grantee Meeting to provide updates to the grantee partners on Department budget and programs as well as additional information relative to Enviso and submission of the grantee quarterly reports in this new system. The Department is also preparing for the November 15 Family Violence Council meeting.

- **Health & Safety**

The Department has concluded, or scheduled, site visits with all CBOs in the Health & Safety Portfolio.

- **Economic Security**

The Department is continuing its work with Indigenous Justice and Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice's Cameo House to implement a Guaranteed Income Pilot and Micro Grant program to support survivors of violence and justice-impacted women. DOSW anticipates an official launch for these pilots later in Fall 2023.

The Department, along with its partners, is also working with San Francisco's Human Services Agency to request a waiver from California Department of Social Services to protect the public benefits of individuals participating in the guaranteed income pilot program.

- **Civic Engagement & Political Empowerment**

During the October 11 virtual Open House, the Department shared potential new programming ideas and concepts, including a Civics 101 course as well as trainings on the process to get appointed to Boards and Commissions. This newly expanded focus area for DOSW will continue to ensure women, girls and nonbinary people have the information, tools and resources they need to be active and engaged participants in our City and our democracy.

- **Strategic Initiatives**

Earlier in March, the Gender Equity Policy Institute (GEPI) was awarded a \$200,000 grant to develop and execute a comprehensive assessment of abortion care service delivery in the nine-county region to guide and support San Francisco Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition (BAARC) initiative cross-sector stakeholders.

In its current project phase, the GEPI research team is recruiting focus group participants to inform the assessment, including reproductive healthcare providers, relevant county and municipal agency staff and leaders, academic experts, and legal scholars. These sessions will be held from October 2023 through March 2024 and aim to address crucial questions about accessibility, affordability, quality and equity as well as regional disparities in reproductive healthcare.

GEPI founder and CEO, Dr. Nancy Cohen, will present an update on research progress and initial findings at next month's Commission meeting on November 9. DOSW will continue to promote focus group outreach efforts and invites Commission members to share this opportunity with their networks. A recruitment flyer is included in the Commissioners' meeting packet and the GEPI research team can be contacted at research@thegepi.org for additional information.

- **SF Bay Area SOL Collaborative**

The SF Bay Area SOL (Safety, Opportunity, and Lifelong Relationships) Collaborative continues to develop a continuum of care for youth involved in or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

The Department has assisted with the planning of the Street Outreach Convening: Re-engaging Youth in Services to help support improving care for systems-involved youth experiencing homelessness by increasing collaboration between providers. The Department hopes this convening will help the Collaborative with its coordinated response and emergency placement component.

Finally, the evaluators at the UC Berkeley, Human Rights Center has submitted their research tools and outcomes for the emergency placement component to the University of California Institutional Review Board for approval of the study.

- **Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women Grant**

The Department continues to coordinate with the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administrative of Justice to build on the important work produced by the Domestic Violent Death Review Team and implement subsequent reviews of fatal incidents of Domestic Violence within the City and County of San Francisco. DOSW continues to support Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence, La Casa de Las Madres and the Victim Services Division of the District Attorney's Office in their efforts to expand support services and coordinate data collection on the City-wide expansion of the High Lethality Assessment

Program. In addition to providing programmatic and fiscal updates to the Department of Justice this month the Department is planning to expand ongoing collaborations with the SFDA Victim Service Division and eventually the Office of Victims' Rights to support program capacity.

- **Blue Shield Foundation Grant**

The HEALing Roots Collaborative is producing a [podcast series](#) that asks the question: what are the social and economic costs of domestic violence to the City and County of San Francisco? Through candid discussions with City departments and local community-based organizations who provide DV survivor facing services, the podcast hopes to highlight the issue of domestic violence in the LGBTQIA+ community, the disparate economic and social effects on survivors of color and other relevant topics. A new episode of the series commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month has just dropped this week.

VI. **RESEARCH & DATA/ PROJECTS, STRATEGIC LEARNING & CAPACITY BUILDING**

- **Research & Data**

This month, the Department has continued to work on rolling out Envisio, our new grantee reporting system. Once implemented, Envisio will help the Department administer quarterly reports it receives from grantees and improve our ability to use the data in these reports. DOSW is preparing for the first reporting cycle using Envisio at the end of October. To facilitate the data upload, DOSW has provided our grantees with an upload package containing useful templates, information, and other resources to help them upload their data to Envisio for the first time.

The Department has launched its survey for the Gender Analysis of San Francisco Commissions and Boards Report. This report is generated by the Department once every two years and examines representation across several groups in the City's advisory and policy bodies; the categories are: women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, veterans (or people who have immediate family members that have served) and people of various religious affiliations. This year DOSW is committed to increasing the response rate for our survey, as our 2021 report was limited by low participation due primarily to complications arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department remains committed to producing reports using the best data possible. So far, our survey has received responses from over 300 individuals and 55 organizations.

VII. **GENERAL UPDATES**

N/A

VIII. **SPECIAL EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

N/A

IX. **CALENDAR**

October

LGBTQ+ History Month - Breast Cancer Awareness Month - Domestic Violence Awareness Month - World Menopause Month

Wednesday, October 25

Commission Meeting

November

Native American Heritage Month

Thursday, November 9

Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24

Day After Thanksgiving

December

Thursday, December 7

First Day of Hanukkah

Tuesday, December 12

Commission Meeting

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26

Kwanza



City and County of San Francisco
Department on the Status of Women



London N. Breed
Mayor

Date: October 6, 2023

To: Mayor London Breed; Members of the Board of Supervisors; City Attorney David Chiu; Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of the Department of Public Health; Dr. Sheryl Davis, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission and other interested stakeholders.

Cc: Sean Elsbernd, Chief of Staff to Mayor London Breed; Andrea Bruss, Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor London Breed; Eileen Mariano, Manager of State and Federal Affairs to Mayor London Breed; Chiamaka Ogwuegbu, Racial Equity Policy Advisor to Mayor London Breed; Julie Wilensky, Deputy City Attorney to City Attorney David Chiu; Rebekah Krell, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs to City Attorney David Chiu; Kimberly Ellis, Director of the Department on the Status of Women; Dr. Claire Horton, San Francisco Health Network Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Public Health; Angela Yip, Communications and Legislative Analyst to City Administrator Carmen Chu

From: Alex Boskovich, Chief of Staff, Department on the Status of Women

Subject: Monthly Update on the Status of Abortion Rights

The following update memo provides an overview of abortion laws in individual states, as well as local and statewide efforts to protect patients' access to reproductive healthcare. Our goal is to provide monthly updates to keep the Mayor and other key internal stakeholders apprised of developments in this new, ever-changing post-Roe landscape.

I. Current Snapshot of Abortion Access across the Nation

- Abortion is now banned in at least [13 states](#) with access most recently restored in [Wisconsin](#) as of September 18 following a judge's ruling in July that an 1849 law banning feticide does not apply to a patient consenting to receive abortion care. The case is likely to reach the the Wisconsin Supreme Court where [state Republican lawmakers were blocked from attempting to impeach Justice Janet Protasiewicz](#) whose recent election tilted the balance of the court toward liberals. On September 26, a [coalition of anti-abortion organizations](#) issued a public demand that the district attorneys for Wisconsin's two largest counties prosecute local abortion providers; both county prosecutors had announced last year that they would permit abortions within their jurisdictions.
- Additionally, [a U.S. appeals court ruled on September 28 that Idaho's abortion ban does not conflict with the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act](#). The

decision blocks a lower court's ruling that had temporarily protected doctors from prosecution for performing an abortion in response to a medical emergency. Idaho's abortion ban [also requires an "affirmative defense," meaning a provider must prove in court that an abortion met the criteria for a legal exception. Additionally, patients must wait 24 hours after counseling](#) to receive abortion care.

- Abortion rights advocates in México are reporting an increase in the number of [American patients who cross the border to access medication abortion](#). Although there is no official national dataset, [México's federal public health service and all federal health institutions must now offer abortion to anyone who requests it](#) after a historic Supreme Court ruling on September 6 that decriminalized abortion. Earlier [in January, México elected its first woman chief justice](#), Justice Norma Lucía Piña Hernández, and is now [poised to elect its first woman president](#).

II. State Policy Update

- On September 26, [California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced a lawsuit against a chain of five crisis pregnancy centers in Northern California](#) alleging use of "fraudulent and misleading claims to advertise an unproven and largely experimental procedure called "abortion pill reversal (APR)". [Two state bills addressing crisis pregnancy center services died in the Legislature earlier this year](#). Attorney General Bonta previously expressed his support for the San Francisco Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition (BAARC) initiative at the June 29 convening at Planned Parenthood Northern California's flagship clinic in San Francisco. His staff have also engaged with the Department on the Status of Women's (DOSW) grantee, [Gender Equity Policy Institute](#) (GEPI), regarding the regional abortion care service delivery assessment.
- On September 27, [California Governor Gavin Newsom signed two DOSW endorsed abortion rights bills](#) sponsored by East Bay state lawmakers, [California Legislative Women's Caucus Chair Senator Nancy Skinner](#) and [Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan](#), to protect patients from out-of-state abortion bans (SB 345) and their reproductive health information (AB 254). The Governor has until October 14 to sign the two remaining DOSW endorsed bills on his desk that were sponsored by the [California Legislative Women's Caucus](#) and [endorsed by the California Future of Abortion Council](#). See Attachment A for all DOSW endorsed abortion rights bills and their status.

III. San Francisco Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition Update

- On September 12, DOSW joined the Mayor's Office for an introductory meeting with the White House Gender Policy Council, including providing a briefing about the BAARC initiative and its purpose, goals and impact to date. White House staff applauded City leaders for spearheading the first-ever regional collective of municipal and county governments and reproductive health and justice stakeholders committed to working together in the post-Roe era.

DOSW will continue to partner with the Mayor's Office around opportunities to engage the White House Gender Policy Council, including providing an update from GEPI about the initial findings from the regional abortion care service delivery assessment at the November 9th Commission on the Status of Women meeting as well as future BAARC initiative activities around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22, 2024.

ATTACHMENT A

Author	Bill	Description	Status
Alameda/Contra Costa County Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan	<u>AB 254</u>	Provides privacy protections for digital data related to patients accessing abortion services in California.	Signed by the Governor
Alameda/Contra Costa County Assemblymember Buffy Wicks	<u>AB 598</u>	Requires school districts to participate in the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and include a module on sexual and reproductive health care as one of the core survey modules.	Converted into a two-year bill
Alameda/Contra Costa County Senator and Women's Legislative Caucus Chair Nancy Skinner	<u>SB 36</u>	Strengthens safe haven protections for abortion and gender-affirming care by prohibiting bail agents or bounty hunters from apprehending people in California and protecting access to public benefits.	<i>SB 36 was held in Appropriations Committee and incorporated into</i> SB 345: Signed by the Governor
	<u>SB 345</u>	Improves protections for providers who provide abortion and gender-affirming care and services.	
Los Angeles County Assemblymember and Assistant Majority Whip Pilar Schiavo	<u>AB 710</u>	Will launch a public information campaign to provide women with accurate information regarding access to abortion care at crisis pregnancy centers.	Held In Suspense
Los Angeles County Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo	<u>AB 1194</u>	Ensures that businesses can't use exemptions under the Consumer Privacy Rights Act (CPRA) to share information about "a consumer accessing, procuring, or searching for services regarding contraception, pregnancy care, and perinatal care, including, but not limited to, abortion services."	On the Governor's Desk as of September 21
San Diego County Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber	<u>AB 576</u>	Aligns Medi-Cal coverage of medication abortion with evidence-based clinical guidelines.	On the Governor's Desk as of September 15

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition Regional Landscape Analysis

GEPI GENDER
EQUITY
POLICY
INSTITUTE

The *Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition Regional Landscape Analysis* (BAARLA) is a year-long study, funded by the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women and led by researchers from the Gender Equity Policy Institute (GEPI). The study aims to develop a comprehensive assessment of abortion care service delivery in the region.

The focus groups will be held between October 2023 and March 2024. These sessions will address crucial questions about accessibility, affordability, quality, and equity as well as regional disparities in reproductive healthcare.

You may qualify if you:

- Work or volunteer in the 9 county San Francisco Bay Area.
- Are 18 years of age or older.
- Have an understanding of reproductive healthcare in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Participation includes:

- Completing a pre-survey
- Attending a 1-to-1.5-hour focus group
- Receiving \$100-200 incentive



For more info: research@thegepi.org

Interested? Click [here](#) to complete our pre-survey or scan the QR code attached.

BAARC

San Francisco Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition