

San Francisco Human Services Network Update: 12/19/07

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(1) HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HSN!

In December 1997, a small group of Executive Directors came together to discuss the need for a unified nonprofit voice to address policy issues impacting our sector and the people we serve. That meeting led to the creation of the San Francisco Human Services Network. With over 100 members today, we have made great strides in improving the ability of health and human service nonprofits to deliver essential services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

We honor our Co-Founders, Bruce Fisher and Anne Lazarus, our current Co-Chairs, Steve Fields and Sherilyn Adams, and our hard-working Steering Committee members. And we thank all of you that have contributed your dues and your time as we celebrate our 10th anniversary!

And now, on to the next 10 years...

(2) HSN CALENDAR

See the [HSN calendar](#) for details about upcoming meetings, hearings and events. The January calendar has been posted. The next member meeting is on January 18, and will feature a conversation with Supervisor Sean Elsbernd.

(3) CITY BUDGET AND HSN CODB SURVEY

We remind you to fill out and send in your [cost-of-doing-business surveys](#) as soon as possible. City departments will begin developing their budgets and holding hearings as early as January, and we need this data for those hearings.

The Mayor's Budget Director informed HSN that she will send this survey to departments with a recommendation that they use it to determine their contractors' cost increases. This week, **the Department of Public Health told us they intend to send it out, with a deadline around the middle of January.** We also ask that you [return all completed surveys to HSN](#). We will keep all individual responses confidential, and use them to do our own analysis of rising costs.

We also welcome your feedback on the survey so that we can improve it in future years.

(4) CONTRACT REFORM

In the past month, HSN conducted six focus groups to gather feedback from nonprofit contractors about departments' progress in implementing the recommendations of the City Nonprofit Contracting Task Force. We will present a report to departments by the end of January.

If you missed the focus groups and want to provide feedback on any contracting department, please [email Debbi Lerman](#) by January 18. A list of focus group topics is included in the [November 20 HSN update](#).

(5) HEALTH CARE SECURITY ORDINANCE

The City's Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) is moving forward with its plans to implement the Health Care Security Ordinance (HCSO) employer spending mandate on January 1. The law requires all San Francisco employers with 50 or more employees to provide health benefits (and beginning April 1, for-profits with 20 employees). For more information, see the [OLSE's HCSO website](#).

The Golden Gate Restaurant Association (GGRA) filed suit to block the employer mandate. Federal Judge Jeffrey White held a hearing on November 2, but as of December 19, has not yet issued a ruling.

Unfortunately, this leaves employers without guidance as the implementation date approaches. We hope Judge White will issue his decision soon. Two places to check for an update are the OLSE website and the [GGRA website](#).

If the employer spending mandate is upheld, the city will enforce the law as of January 1. If the mandate is overturned, the city will appeal.

You will also find two new documents on the OLSE's HCSO web page:

In the "Forms & Documents" section, you will find a copy of the *Mandatory Annual Reporting Form* (posted for reference purposes only). All registered businesses will receive an original, scannable document by U.S. mail, which must be returned on or before February 28, 2008 by all employers covered by the HCSO. The 2008 report is due soon after the implementation date, and is intended to establish a baseline for comparison in future years.

In the "Overview" section, you will find their new *Frequently Asked Questions* document.

Information regarding the city option through [Healthy San Francisco](#) is also now available. This site for employers includes info about enrolling employees in the program or establishing a medical reimbursement account for those who are ineligible.

(6) HSN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

HSN wishes you all a happy holiday season. We will be closed the week of December 24 and part of the week of December 31. Merrill will return on either January 2 or 3, and Debbi will return January 7.

(7) OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) CITY BUDGET COMMUNITY FORUMS

The Human Services Agency will hold three community budget forums on 12/19 from 4-6pm (Family and Children's Services and Child Care), 12/20 from 2-4pm (Aging and Adult Services) and 1/3/08 from 4-6pm (Economic Support and Self-Sufficiency Programs). All forums will be held in Born Auditorium at 170 Otis St.

The Department of Public Health plans to schedule a budget forum in mid-to-late January.

(B) INSTITUTE ON AGING'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Institute on Aging (IOA) kicked off their educational series, *Discovering Secrets of the Aging Mind*, with over 150 attendees at their November 15 program on Alzheimer's.

The second program in their series -- "Mental Illness and Aging: Difficult Behaviors That Challenge Professionals" -- will be held on January 24, 2008. You can see the details on this program and the other two programs (which will be held on March 13 and May 15) on [IOA's education website](#).

The early bird registration deadline is January 7. Six hours of continuing education credit will be provided for each program.

(C) FROM THE VA DOWNTOWN CLINIC

The San Francisco VA Downtown Clinic is a community clinic for veterans on 3rd Street and Harrison. They are especially geared to homeless and indigent veterans, and have extensive social work, mental health and full primary care services. Their primary care services recently expanded, and they currently have capacity for several hundred more patients.

To refer patients, call (415) 551-7376. Patients can also walk-in to make appointments or check eligibility. They are very interested in working with community agencies to connect veterans to services. If you have any questions or would like a presentation about their

clinic to your agency or site, please contact Jenny Espinoza-Marcus, MD at (415) 551-7415 or Jenny.Espinoza@va.gov.

(D) 2008 EAST BAY NONPROFIT CONFERENCE

The CBO Center invites you to their annual conference on February 1, 2008. This year's theme is "*The Generation Shift and Your Nonprofit*".

Join other nonprofit leaders for a day of learning and networking as they examine the many ways the aging of the Baby Boom population is affecting the nonprofit sector.

Fast-paced workshops and stimulating panel discussions will help you navigate the many changes and challenges your nonprofit faces in the areas of leadership transition, fundraising, board development, cultural competency and volunteer recruitment.

Visit the [CBO Center website](#) for more information and registration. An early bird registration discount is available until January 7.