[Commending Department of Public Health’s 12N Training and Implementation Efforts]

Resolution Commending the Department of Public Health for its leadership in creating and implementing a training on Chapter 12N of the city’s administrative code, and recognizing the department’s commitment to providing excellent services for LGBTQ youth

WHEREAS, in 1999, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance establishing chapter 12N of the city’s administrative code, titled: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth: Youth Services Sensitivity Training; and

WHEREAS, chapter 12N specifies that “Each City department shall provide lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender sensitivity training for any employee who has direct contact with youth or whose work directly affects youth;” and

WHEREAS, the goal of chapter 12N is to ensure that city departments and their contracted agencies are providing excellent services to LGBTQ youth that effectively address the multiple barriers to wellbeing and success encountered by LGBTQ youth; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Department of Public Health secured MHSA grant funding in order to develop a LGBTQ youth competency training video; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health, its leadership, and staff worked in collaboration with the Youth Commission, the Human Rights Commission, and Bayview-Hunters Point Center for Arts and Technology to develop the training video; and

WHEREAS, the 35 minute video was produced after conducting several youth and service provider focus groups and specifically centers the voice of a diverse group of LGBTQ youth who share direct insights from their experiences accessing city services; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the completion of the video, the Department of Public Health began a pilot training implementation and evaluation period that closed in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the over 1,700 DPH staff trained through facilitated group and online trainings during the pilot period gave the training video overwhelmingly outstanding reviews; and
WHEREAS, the training video can also serve as a valuable resource to other city agencies and contractors, as well as to service providers in other localities; and

WHEREAS, at a June 6, 2013 hearing in the Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Safety committee, the Department of Public Health was one among two reporting city departments, alongside the Juvenile Probation Department, who had undertaken efforts to implement staff-wide trainings on serving LGBTQ youth; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by the Department of Public Health are uniquely important to ensuring the physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing of San Francisco’s young people; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health is a particularly large department, comprised of over 8,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, the particular sensitivities associated with providing clinical services and the large size of the department might have presented unique challenges to implementing staff trainings on cultural competence serving LGBTQ youth; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health has clearly demonstrated its commitment to overcoming such challenges in order to ensure LGBTQ youth will be treated with respect and dignity in the course of accessing DPH services; and

WHEREAS, these efforts were supported at multiple levels throughout DPH’s organization, including DPH leadership, CBHS, COPC, and MCAH; and

WHEREAS, the training video is one among DPH’s other notable accomplishments ensuring the needs of LGBTQ youth are well met, including the establishment of the Dimensions queer youth clinic in 1999 and the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in intake forms in 2014; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission does hereby commend the Department of Public Health Director, Barbara Garcia, and her staff, especially Michael Baxter, Lisa Reyes, Juan Ibarra, Norman Aleman, Esteban Rodriguez, Jo Robinson, Marlo Simmons, and Amy
Peterson, for their initiative and dedication in ensuring the mandate of Chapter 12N is fulfilled; and be it finally

RESOLVED, the San Francisco Youth Commission commends and recognizes the Department of Public Health’s notable and longstanding commitment to the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer and questioning youth in San Francisco.

Michel Li
2014-2015 Youth Commission Chair

Adopted on January 5, 2015