



Press Packet for LGBTQ Connect Sponsored by Blue Shield of California October 17, 2014

We tell LGBTQ youth that “it gets better,” but for thousands of homeless Bay Area residents, it hasn’t. In 2013, there were 7,350 youth and adults experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, 30% of whom identified as LGBTQ.¹ LGBTQ Connect is a safe space where LGBTQ individuals can access hundreds of city services in one afternoon. Homeless LGBTQ-identified individuals who seek mainstream services often face barriers and trauma that other groups do not. The LGBTQ Connect sponsored by Blue Shield of California offers a life-changing opportunity for hundreds of vulnerable San Franciscans. PHC is proud to present LGBTQ Connect in partnership with the Mayor’s Office for Housing Opportunity, Partnerships & Engagement, the AIDS Housing Alliance, and the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

More about LGBTQ Connect and LGBT homelessness:

[New York Times](#)

[Think Progress](#)

[Mark Somolwitz](#)

[Rolling Stone](#)

Bevan Dufty



Bevan Dufty is the current Director of Housing Opportunity, Partnerships & Engagement (HOPE), an organization dedicated to addressing homeless services and better outcomes for individuals who are homeless or live in city sponsored housing. He has contributed more than 18 years of public service to the City and County of San Francisco, including five years as the City’s Director of Neighborhood Services and eight years on the Board of Supervisors. He helped to establish the Castro Young Adult Housing Collaborative for 22 homeless youth, and been focused on prevention for our transitional youth, chronically homeless and restructuring the courts approach to habitual offenders.

¹ [2013 San Francisco Homeless Count & Survey](#)

Kara Zordel



Kara Zordel MS; MSW began her career as a case manager over 15 years ago when she found her passion for creating individualized and sustainable change in the lives of those who are vulnerable and in need. Kara has created policies and programming for UNICEF Tanzania, managed a large family shelter in the South Bronx, piloted a homeless eviction prevention program—now an award-winning national model—and created the first supportive housing of its kind in New York City. As PHC marks its 10 year anniversary, Kara is proud to note recent program expansions, including the Every Day Connect daily program and an annual LGBT-focused Connect event initiated in 2013.

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