

Catholic Charities of the East Bay

HIV/AIDS in Prison Project

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July 26, 1996

Memorandum to: Rand Martin, Senator Vasconcellos' office;
 Robert Rios and Laurie McBride, Life AIDS Lobby;
 Ken Topper, Senator Lockyer's office
 Sheila Enders, Area AIDS Education and Training Center

From: Judy Greenspan, Director

I am attaching a copy of a letter that I sent today to Director Gomez concerning the fact that transgender prisoners on Unit 4 at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville are not being allowed to attend a support group for transgender prisoners. It is my understanding that most of the transgender prisoners on Unit 4 are not HIV+ but are being housed on the unit anyway (mostly in V wing). I am not objecting to the housing assignment but I am concerned about the decision to exclude them from an ongoing support group being led by a licensed clinical social worker.

As you may already know, Dr. Bick issued the order to prevent transgender prisoners on Unit 4 from attending the transgender prisoner support group led by Scott Cozza. I am not interested in stirring up old skeletons. But I do believe that Dr. Bick's continued animosity toward Scott is not helpful at this time. I would very much like this matter discussed at your next meeting. I believe that the only resolution is to allow the transgender prisoners to attend the only support group for their population in the prison.

I would appreciate hearing from one of you about this matter. I would also greatly appreciate receiving an updated list of the members of the AIDS Advisory Committee. Thanks.