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P. 1/3

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To:

Sandy Thurman

Fax 456-2438

From: Sylvia Hacaj

FAX FACTS

Date:

3/3/00

No. of Pages (including this cover page):

3

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MESSAGE:



**Lesbian
and Gay
Community
Services Center Inc.**

March 1, 2000

Ms. Sandy Thurman, Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20503

Swamped

Dear Sandy,

I hope you'll forgive the personal tone of this letter, but I worked for you at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1996 handling backstage and podium passes. I'm good friends and a former colleague of Eli Segal, Janet Green and Zoe Garmendia. And, in the isn't this a small town category, I have recently started working with Grayson Fowler because Tobacco Free Kids is now one my client accounts. So, I feel like I know you, even though you might have a hard time picking me out of a crowd. My last name is a bit unusual so you may remember seeing it one of your many clipboard lists!

The purpose of this letter relates to another of my clients, the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center (the Center) in New York City. As you know, it is the second oldest and second largest facility of its kind in the country. The Center is used by 5,000 people each week for cultural, educational and social activities, and it also provides mental health and social services, and substance abuse and prevention programs that have achieved national recognition.

Last time the Center's staff was at the White House, Marsha Scott suggested that members of the Center's senior staff touch base with you and update you on some of their programs and services. We would also like to discuss a proposal we have developed to implement a health services information and referral network that offers a comprehensive approach to the health risks and concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (lgbt) individuals. On her most recent visit to the Center, Julian Potter encouraged us to discuss sources of funding for this proposal with you.

You may know the Center is one of many groups that have expressed disappointment in the way Healthy People 2010 largely ignores the health needs of (lgbt) people. We are hopeful that Secretary Shalala will do everything possible to more appropriately represent our communities in the final release of the report. The implementation of our information and referral project would be a significant step toward addressing the shortcomings of Healthy People 2010.

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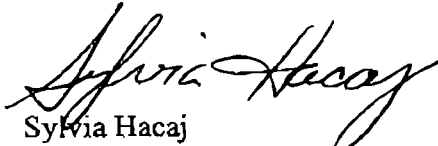
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Ms. Sandy Thurman
March 1, 2000
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The Center's staff is available to meet with you anytime on March 22, 2000. I will be out of the office from March 6-10, and will call the week of March 13 to follow-up on this request. I can be reached at (202) 478-6120, or at shacaj@mrss.com. Please call Carmen Vazquez, Director of Public Policy, at (212) 620-7310 if you need assistance while I am away.

Grayson mentioned that you might be tasked with the same assignment in Los Angeles and asked me if I was interested in going. I said only if I could have as good a job as last time. So, if you're looking for experienced backstage convention hands, let me know!

Sincerely,



Sylvia Hacaj
Washington Representative