

Town Hall Apartments



Town Hall Apartments

- LGBT-Friendly senior affordable housing
- Co-owned by Heartland Alliance and Center on Halsted
- Residents pay 30% of their income towards rent with rental subsidy from the Chicago Housing Authority
- 79 units – mix of studios and 1 bedrooms
- The building is full and the waitlist is closed
- \$26 million project funded through a combination of city, state and federal funds

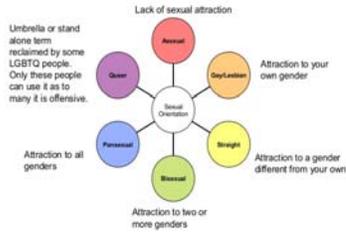
What is Sexual Orientation?

- Sexual orientation involves the following factors:
 - Attraction (physical, mental, and/or emotional)
 - Behavior (relationships and/or sex practices)
 - Identity (the way someone views themselves)



What is Sexual Orientation?

How much do you know about sexuality?



What is Gender Identity?

- Gender identity involves the following factors:
 - Physical characteristics (physical traits, genitalia, etc.)
 - Gender role (public, social, and perceived expectations based on one's gender)
 - Gender identity (the gender someone views themselves)

Terminology – Transgender



Terminology – LGBTQ

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Queer



Terminology Best Practices

- Respect for LGBT people can be conveyed through language.
- Words mean different things to different people.
- Language evolves over time.
- Avoid assumptions based on language.
- Ask how someone identifies.

LGBT Older Adults

- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force estimates that there are 1.5 million LGBT people age 65 and over in the U.S.
- The Task Force estimates that by 2030 this number will double to 3 million.



Who are LGBT Older Adults?



- Ethnically and economically diverse.
- Isolated, invisible or marginalized even within their own communities.
- Resilient, proud and outspoken group.

LGBT History

- In 1952, Christine Jorgensen became the first transgender woman to receive gender affirming surgery
- In 1969, The Stonewall Riots took place in New York City, widely considered to be the most important event leading to the gay rights movement
- In 1973, Homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic Statistic Manual

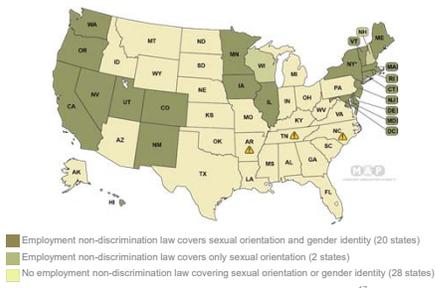
LGBT History

- In 1981, the Centers for Disease Control identify the first cases of what will eventually be known as the AIDS epidemic
- In 1994, "Don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) was the official U.S. policy on military service by gays, bisexuals, and lesbians, prohibiting discrimination as long as they didn't reveal their sexuality
- In 1998, Matthew Shepard, an American student at the University of Wyoming was beaten, tortured, and left to die

LGBT History

- In 2003, the Supreme Court struck down the sodomy law in Texas and, by extension, invalidated sodomy laws in 13 other states, making same-sex sexual activity legal in every U.S. state
- In 2013, Gender Identity Disorder was removed from the DSM
- In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples can marry nationwide

Non-Discrimination Laws by State



What factors contribute to someone aging well?



Financial Security



Good Health/
Health Care



Social/Community Support

LGBT Barriers to Aging Well

1. Effects of stigma, past and present

2. Need to rely upon "families of choice" for care and support

3. Unequal treatment under laws, programs and services for older adults

Community Support

- Unwelcoming mainstream aging programs.
- Isolation from broader LGBT community.
- 20% less likely to access senior centers, housing assistance, meal programs, food stamps, and other entitlements.
- Twice as likely to live alone.
- 3-4 times less likely to have children.

Social Isolation

- Loneliness is associated with an increased risk for heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, cognitive decline and depression
- Research shows that social isolation is as damaging to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day

Health Disparities

- LGBT older adults have higher rates of chronic conditions and other health problems, such as obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.
- Additional barriers to healthcare include lack of health insurance and fear of discrimination by providers.



HIV and Aging Statistics

- Newly infected older adults account for 17 percent of all new HIV diagnoses annually.
- Annual HIV infections among gay and bisexual men aged 55 and over increased 18% from 2010 to 2014 (from 1,100 to 1,300).



HIV and Aging

- Among people aged 50 and older:
 - 49% of new HIV diagnoses in 2015 were among gay and bisexual men
 - 15% were among heterosexual men
 - 23% were among heterosexual women
 - 12% were among persons who inject drugs
- 50% of Americans living with HIV are age 50 or older

HIV and Aging

- Early HIV detection remains minimal among LGBT elders (stigma, symptoms associated with aging, health discrimination)
- In 2014, 40% of people aged 55 and older had late stage infection (AIDS) at the time of HIV diagnosis (i.e., diagnosed late in the course of the infection).
- Research indicates that HIV may progress faster among older adults, making early detection and treatment especially important for this population



Undetectable = Untransmittable



- According to the CDC, people who take ART daily as prescribed and achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner

Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)



- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) is when people at very high risk for HIV take HIV medicines daily to lower their chances of getting infected.
- Daily PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by more than 90%. Among people who inject drugs, it reduces the risk by more than 70%.

Financial Disparities



- Medicaid long-term care
- Retiree health insurance benefits
- Tax-qualified retirement plans
- Pensions (survivor annuities)
- Veterans' benefits
- Inheritance laws

LGBT Older Adults & Long-Term Care



- 80% of LGBT older adults go back into the closet when they move into a skilled nursing facility.
- Less than 50% of LGBT baby boomers expect that health care professionals will treat them with dignity and respect.

Best Practices



- In what ways does your organization communicate that it is welcoming of diversity?



Best Practices

- Set a tone of respect
- Send an inclusive message
- Create safety
- Advocate for LGBT constituents



Best Practices

1. Do presume your agency has LGBT clients.
2. Do ask clients about their sexual orientations and gender identities in a safe and confidential manner.
3. Do create an opening for LGBT clients to talk about family members of choice.
4. Do examine current programming to see if it can be modified for LGBT clients.

Best Practices

5. Do train staff in correct pronoun usage for transgender inclusion.
6. Do review your policies and definitions of "family."
7. Do promote diversity and inclusion.
8. Do create a welcoming environment.
9. Do promote cultural competency training.

Resources

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 • SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) - sageusa.org
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 • Inclusive Services for LGBT Older Adults
<https://www.sageusa.org/files/NRCInclusiveServicesGuide2012.pdf>
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 • Inclusive Questions for Older Adults
https://www.sageusa.org/files/InclusiveQuestionsOlder%20Adults_Guidebook.pdf
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 • National Resource on LGBT Aging - lgbtagingcenter.org

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Center on Halsted's deep commitment to supporting the LGBTQ community is reflected in both the mission and vision of the organization.

MISSION

Center on Halsted advances community and secures the health and well-being of the LGBTQ people of Chicagoland.

VISION

A thriving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community, living powerfully in supportive inclusive environments.

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