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**Office of the
National AIDS Policy Coordinator**

Correspondence Routing Slip

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Date Rcvd: NOV 28 1991

From: dean J. LABATE - CHP

Staff Action:

Jeff Levi **RCVD:** 11/28 **DONE:** 11/28

Assigned To: Gus - Scheduling

RCVD: _____ **DONE:** _____

Reviewed By: _____

Approved (Patsy): _____

Recommendation/Instruction:

*HOLD
FOR
possible
visit*

*PF - a day in NY -
meeting w/ adolescents from
various groups??
JK*

To Support Staff: _____

Date of Response: _____



November 21, 1994

NOV 28 1994

Patricia S. Fleming
White House Director of AIDS Policy
750 17th Street, NW - Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. ^{*Patricia*}Fleming:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as White House director of AIDS policy. Those of us who know and have worked with you on AIDS and AIDS-related issues in the past are greatly encouraged by this presidential appointment.

I invite you to visit Community Health Project, New York's only health center dedicated to primarily serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and HIV/AIDS communities. I invite you to a dialogue with the dedicated medical, social service and health education staff members and volunteers who provide care, and more importantly, with those clients/patients of our clinic who are HIV+/PWA's.

In 1985, CHP, in conjunction with Bellevue Hospital Center, opened the first community-based HIV primary care clinic in the nation. Former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop visited CHP in July of 1987 and acknowledged the uniqueness of our program - at that time the only one of its kind in the United States - and said he would inform his colleagues at the Public Health Service about CHP and its special qualities. (Former "AIDS czar" Kristine Gebbie, made a brief stop to CHP in October, 1993 while speaking to a group here in the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.)

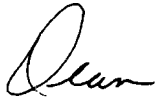
Due to the increasing demand for HIV early intervention services, CHP established its HIV/AIDS Early Intervention and Assessment Program in 1986. This program eliminated most barriers to accessing high quality, comprehensive care for those with an HIV diagnosis. It provides newly diagnosed HIV+ individuals, who are for the most part un/underinsured, with immediate medical examinations, laboratory assessments, access to approved treatments, medications and clinical trials, and HIV case management, support and health education services. Clearly a model that has been replicated throughout the country.

CHP is about to embark on one of our greatest challenges to date - to move into a new, larger and more dignified facility. We will ensure that those who are living with HIV/AIDS receive the care and compassion that they deserve; and that HIV/AIDS education and prevention efforts are strengthened and enhanced. We know that you share our goals and look forward to working with you and others in the Clinton administration.

(continued)

Once again, congratulations and best of luck in your new position. CHP stands ready, willing and able to assist you with the challenges that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dean J. LaBate
Executive Director

enclosures

P.S.: Before coming to CHP, I was at the William F. Ryan Community Health Center where I had the pleasure of working with you and the late, great Congressman Ted Weiss on many of these issues.



COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT (CHP) is New York City's only health facility dedicated to primarily serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and HIV/AIDS communities. For more than ten years, CHP has been one of the lesbian and gay community's most precious and important resources.

CHP's MISSION is to provide high quality, sensitive and comprehensive primary medical care and social services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and HIV/AIDS communities of the greater New York metropolitan area, in a caring, non-judgmental manner, regardless of any patient's ability to pay.

To date, there have been over 26,000 patients served by our six distinct programs:

- * **GENERAL MEDICAL CLINIC**
 - * **HIV/AIDS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**
 - * **HIV/AIDS PRIMARY CARE CLINIC (BELLEVUE SATELLITE)**
 - * **LESBIAN HEALTH PROGRAM**
 - * **PEER COUNSELING PROGRAM**
 - * **HEALTH OUTREACH TO TEENS (H.O.T.T.) PROGRAM**

CHP strives to break down as many obstacles and barriers in accessing quality health care services and empower our clients/patients to become educated health care consumers. To this end, CHP's dedicated staff (30) and volunteers (more than 120) are committed to individualized attention, trust-building and the development of positive self-esteem and self-image for all our patients, regardless of their lifestyle choices.

Over the next few months, CHP will embark on our greatest challenge and effort to date - to move into a new, spacious and dignified facility. A new "home" will enable CHP to provide enhanced and expanded health services to ensure that our lesbian and gay community will **thrive....not just survive.**

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CHECK-UP

VOL 7/NO 2

SUMMER 1994



Paul Knowles

Salena Cummins, volunteer screener and Elizabeth Salazar, volunteer lab technician, doing their evening's work

Becoming Part of the Momentum

by Kimberleigh J. Smith

In the midst of pride, energy and activism—the celebration of events such as Gay Games IV, the affirmation of our human rights as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people around the globe, our dedication to making health care accessible to all people—there exists an opportunity to think about, and learn from, the history and context of gay and lesbian health care.

After all, clinics like the Community Health Project do not exist in a vacuum.

"The gay and lesbian health movement is a combination of the 'self-help' philosophy of the women's health movement, the 'get a piece of the pie' philosophy of the people of color health movement, and the 'let's break the door down' attitude of AIDS activism." So says Marj Plumb, health policy director of the Washington, D.C.-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, a leading gay and lesbian civil rights advocacy organization. NGLTF recently published

Continued on page 8

A CHP Wish List For the Future

by Jerry Barkan

As CHP celebrates ten years of service, several volunteers, members of the board and staff were asked to reflect on where they see CHP ten years from now. What they said begins here and continues throughout the newsletter:



JESSE BACKE

Volunteer, Front Desk

I'd like to see people lining up for the HIV vaccine and laughing about the bad old days. ♥ This scene would unfold in a new facility which would allow for the provision of more services by a greater number of providers, so I won't have to say on May 2nd that we're all booked for the month.

CHP: Happy Birthday!

by Stanley Ely

A decade, just a blip on the screen. Except maybe the first one, when each day offers challenges to step out further into the world. In those first ten years we learn to stand and walk, take bumps and falls, get up to try again. By the end of the first decade, with luck, we stride more firmly.

CHP is celebrating the end of its tenth year, and in it there seemed to be a new bump most every day. But the knocks were matched with growth. We inaugurated more ambitious programs, acquired more volunteers, employed new staff. At ten we've cut our teeth and are walking tall.

This special issue of "Check-Up" commemorates CHP's first decade with pho-

Continued on page 10

Community Health Project

208 W. 13th Street, New York NY 10011

For Appointments and Test Results
or to Volunteer or Donate

(212) 675-3559

CLINIC HOURS:

**Monday through Thursday
7 to 9 p.m.**

**Lesbian Health Program,
alternate Saturdays**

TTY users call through relay service:
1-800-662-1220

For routine syphilis, gonorrhea and hepatitis B screening, no appointment is needed. To see a physician, for Women's Services, or for the AIDS Assessment Program, please call to schedule an appointment.

HOTT PROGRAM

To make an appointment for free adolescent health services, call
(212) 255-1673 from 2 to 6 p.m.

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CHECK-UP

VOL 6/NO 3

AUTUMN 1993

THE MISSION

of Community Health project is to provide low cost, accessible and quality health care primarily to the lesbian and gay community of the greater New York metropolitan area in a caring, nonjudgmental and humane manner.



Paul Knowles

Mayor Dinkins at CHP, surrounded by, l. to r., Anthony Brownie, CHP board member; City Council Member Thomas Duane; State Assemblywoman Deborah Glick; Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger; CHP Executive Director Dean LaBate; Christine Rico and Stanley Ely, CHP board members

Dinkins, Other New York City Officials Tour CHP

by Stanley Ely

Affirming his concern for the health of gay and lesbian citizens of New York City, Mayor David N. Dinkins and several other key city officials paid the Community Health Project a welcome visit on the afternoon of August 23.

Besides touring the clinic, Mr. Dinkins requested to see CHP's HOTT-Van, parked in front. The mayor has a special interest in the van, since he allocated funds for its construction during his tenure as Manhattan Borough President. Fully operational for some time, and going out to give care to adolescents on the streets two nights per week, the mobile clinic has come to be an important health facility for New York City's street youth. The HOTT program, functioning both in the clinic and on the van, is always free of charge, and it is hoped that the two nights the van is used will soon be expanded to more.

As Richard Haymes, head of the HOTT program, pointed out while he guided the mayor through the van, the street youths who are HOTT's clients are often a difficult group to serve. "It may take a few visits, with free hot meals and condoms, before one of our clients will permit a nurse's exam," Richard explained.

The mayor, listening attentively, replied, "Yes, you have to build up their trust first."

CHP's Executive Director Dean LaBate escorted the visitors through the crowded upstairs quarters in which CHP functions, and the mayor laughed appreciatively when Dean pointed out, not wholly in jest, that some of our equipment is as old as the building. The mayor has established a committee which will fund the building and outfitting of new

Continued on page 8

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September 13, 1994

MEMO

TO: FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

FROM: DEAN J. LaBATE, Executive Director 

RE: P.C.D.C. SELECTION / FINANCING FOR CHP'S NEW FACILITY

+++++

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Community Health Project (CHP) has been selected by the Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC) for first-round funding and financing for the planning, development and construction/renovation of a new health facility.

At a July 29th press conference, Mayor Giuliani, PCDC's Chairman Richard Cotton and others spoke with great enthusiasm on the importance and need for additional primary care and primary care facilities throughout the City of New York. Funding from the PCDC, an independent, non-profit, public/private partnership, will make resources available for the development, construction and operation of new or expanded primary care centers, like CHP, in New York City's underserved communities to expand their range of health care services and their capacity for additional patients. (In this first round of financing, the PCDC selected CHP and fifteen other health facilities based on the health care needs of a specific neighborhood, community or underserved population.)

CHP, currently located in 2,500 square feet within the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, intends to relocate to a fully renovated 30,000 square foot building in the Village/Chelsea community, in order to expand and enhance our primary care, counseling, health education and outreach services and programs, and provide an additional 30,000 visits per year primarily to and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and HIV/AIDS communities.

All of us at CHP - our Board, staff, volunteers and patients - wish to sincerely thank the countless individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations who supported our application to the PCDC and have supported and assisted us throughout our ten year history. Further developments about CHP's plans to relocate will be reported as additional progress is made in these areas.

ABOUT CHP...

Community Health Project is New York's only health care facility dedicated to primarily serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and HIV/AIDS communities. CHP's mission is to provide low cost, accessible and quality health care primarily to the lesbian and gay community of the greater New York metropolitan area, in a caring, nonjudgmental and humane manner. Our current services and programs include: the General Medical Clinic, HIV/AIDS Early Intervention & Assessment Program, HIV Primary Care Clinic, Lesbian Health Program, Health Outreach To Teens (HOTT) Program and Peer Counseling Program.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CHP'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEAN J. LaBATE OR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RICHARD HAYMES AT (212) 675-3559.**

208 West 13th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011 212/675.3559

Giuliani Plans To Open 16 Clinics

Seeks to Help Hospitals Straining to Aid the Poor

By MELINDA HENNEBERGER

In an effort to improve health care for New York City's poor and to offer an alternative to overcrowded hospital emergency rooms, the Giuliani administration is planning to open 16 new health clinics to be run by private nonprofit agencies.

The clinics, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's first major health initiative, are expected to open in the next two years and will provide additional basic care by expanding capacity by 500,000 medical visits each year. Several studies have estimated that the unmet need for routine care amounts to three million visits a year.

The plan, to be announced today, will test an innovative financing scheme that uses \$250 million in state bonds to help the nonprofit companies build the clinics. The bonds will be paid off over time through Medicaid reimbursements and fees. Under the plan, the city would pay only \$17 million for planning and development.

Largest Expansion Yet

The administration hopes to build a total of 30 clinics in the next five years.

The public-private partnership was conceived by the Dinkins administration and is one of the few Dinkins initiatives that Mr. Giuliani has embraced so far.

Both advocates for the poor and hospital officials applauded the plan, the city's largest expansion of primary-care services yet.

For years, hospitals in poor neighborhoods have provided the bulk of routine care to local residents who had nowhere else to turn.

But using emergency rooms and hospital clinics for sore throats and other minor ailments is very expensive, impersonal and medically inefficient. For instance, unnecessary tests are often ordered because the hospital has no record of the patient's medical history.

In recent years, the city has begun other efforts to expand routine care for the poor, including new city-run clinics that were proposed by the Dinkins administration and several pilot programs to enroll welfare recipients in health maintenance organizations.

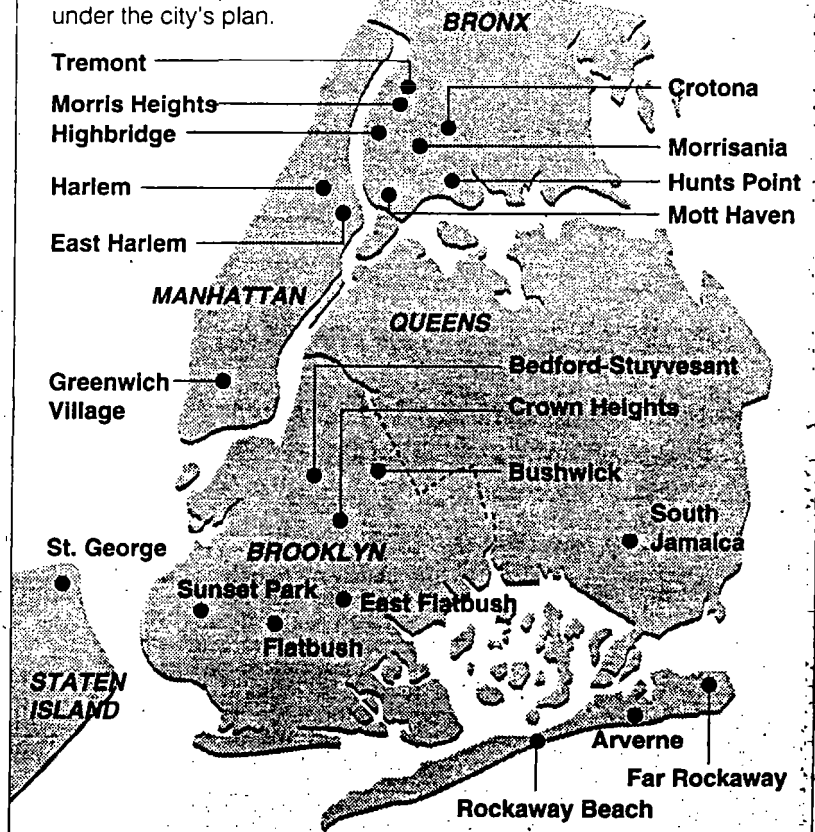
The new initiative is managed by the Primary Care Development Corporation, an independent corporation formed last year to open new clinics.

Richard Cotton, chairman of the corporation, yesterday named the agencies and hospitals that would build and operate the

HELP FOR THE POOR

Filling a Need for Health Care

Neighborhoods that will be served by primary-care clinics to be built or expanded under the city's plan.



The New York Times

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1994

The New York Times

first 16 clinics. Mr. Giuliani and corporation officials are to announce the projects formally at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center in Brooklyn, which now operates in overcrowded offices, where on a recent afternoon, patients leaned against the walls and stood three-deep around the reception desk, waiting to see a doctor. A planned expansion will triple the clinic's space and allow it to double its staff, said Ulysses S. Kilgore 3d, the executive director, whose own offices are located in a converted parking garage adjoining the clinic.

"We've been having problems with waiting time," which can be up to three hours, he said. "We need more doctors, but there's no space."

David R. Jones, a longtime supporter of primary care and the vice chairman of the Primary Care Development Corporation, called the expansion of clinics like the center in Brooklyn "a quantum leap forward."

New Model for Care

He said the clinics would not only meet a desperate need, but would also develop a new model for delivering basic care to the poor. In the new clinics, patients will have their own personal doctor. By getting preventive care, they could avoid needless hospitalizations for easily treatable conditions.

But Mr. Jones, president of the Community Service Society of New York, an agency that is an advocate for the poor, also expressed concern that stringent standards have kept many grass-roots organizations from joining the new program.

The organizations that will run the new clinics include several community groups, like the Caribbean Women's Health Association in Brooklyn. Hospitals will run about half the new clinics.

Though the Primary Care Development Corporation was formed last year, it has only now begun developing any clinics.

The 16 organizations chosen to run the clinics will receive money for planning and development from the

city. Construction, which is expected to begin in about a year, will be financed by state bonds sold by the Medical Care Facilities Finance Agency on the condition that the city guarantee the clinics' lease payments to the state.

Maria K. Mitchell, the Mayor's director of health services, said Mr. Giuliani lobbied in Albany for legislation that allows the state agency to issue the bonds. As a result, she said, Mr. Giuliani "feels particular ownership" of the plan.



Norman Y. Lono for The New York Times

To ease the crowded conditions the city's poor face when they seek medical care, plans for 16 new health clinics were announced. At the Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center in Brooklyn yesterday, the wait was a long one.



208 West 13th Street
New York, New York 10011

Dean J. LaBate
Executive Director

(212) 675-3559 phone
(212) 645-0013 fax

CHIP

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT



THE MISSION OF *Community Health Project* is to provide low cost, accessible and quality health care primarily to the lesbian and gay community of the greater New York metropolitan area, in a caring, nonjudgmental and humane manner.

Community Health Project
208 West 13th Street
New York, New York 10011

phone (212) 675-3559
fax (212) 645-0013



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Medical Director

Community Health Project (CHP) is New York's only community-based clinic dedicated to meeting the specific health care needs of gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals. Formed in 1983 after the merger of St. Mark's Community Clinic and the Gay Men's Health Project, CHP now represents a nearly twenty-year tradition of high quality, compassionate, and low cost health care.

Since its founding as a small grassroots STD (sexually transmitted disease) clinic, CHP has evolved to meet the challenges of its patients' growing health care needs. A paid staff of 30 and a 150-person volunteer corps provide a wide range of medical services to over 20,000 registered patients. CHP's volunteer pool, the organization's backbone and lifeblood, includes licensed medical providers and trained lay persons.

The majority of CHP patients are un- or under-insured gay men and lesbians who cannot afford private health care. However, a portion of the population includes men and women who, although they may be able to afford private medical providers, have chosen to rely on CHP's nonjudgmental and sensitive care.

Currently, CHP offers ~~six~~ distinct programs to serve a diverse and growing client base:

1. The General Medical Clinic, run by an all-volunteer staff, which provides routine and acute health care, walk-in STD screening and treatment, hepatitis B prevention, HIV/AIDS education and peer counselling, and general health education.
2. The HIV/AIDS Assessment and Intervention Program, also run by volunteers, which provides immediate medical assessment, health education, case management, and benefits advocacy to women and men who are HIV-positive.
3. The HIV/AIDS Primary Care Clinic, which provides ongoing health care and comprehensive social services to people living with HIV/AIDS.
4. The Lesbian Health Program, which provides general medical, gynecological, and HIV/AIDS-related health and educational services from an all-women team of volunteers.
5. Health Outreach to Teens (HOTT), a free, comprehensive medical program which delivers primary health care and education to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other sexual minority youth, both on-site at CHP and on board a mobile medical van.
6. The Peer Counseling Program, which provides sensitive counseling, as well as concrete and immediate referrals to community resources.



GENERAL MEDICAL CLINIC

The General Medical Clinic is the oldest, largest, and most well known of CHP's five clinical programs. Since its founding in 1983, the clinic has provided low cost, high quality health care to nearly 20,000 registered patients.

Started as a walk-in screening and treatment center for STDs (sexually transmitted diseases), the program has grown and expanded dramatically, now offering physical examinations, vaccinations (hepatitis B, flu, pneumovacs, tetanus-diphtheria), HIV health education, and medical referrals. Providers also treat acute medical (bronchitis, ear aches, colds) and dermatological needs. The clinic recently instituted a peer counseling program, allowing walk-in clients to discuss their concerns about HIV, STDs, and safer sex.

Operating Monday through Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., the General Medical Clinic is like a large gay and lesbian family practice. With one exception. Its 100-person staff of internists, dermatologists, general practitioners, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, counsellors, screeners, laboratory technicians, and receptionists is all volunteer. As diverse as the community they serve, these volunteers share a common commitment: to provide sensitive and professional health care to all gay and lesbian New Yorkers.

AIDS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

CHP's HIV/AIDS Assessment and Intervention Program (AAP) is like an HIV 101 course for asymptomatic patients without access to private health care. AAP provides its patients, many of whom have recently tested positive, with immediate medical assessment, treatment, case management, and health education. AAP is conducted on Thursday evenings as an adjunct to CHP's General Medical Clinic and is staffed by an all-volunteer corps of doctors and nurse practitioners. Since its founding in 1986, the program has treated over 1200 patients.

During his/her initial appointment, an AAP patient receives a comprehensive medical examination that includes a battery of laboratory tests. Subsequent clinic visits address the development and implementation of a patient-specific medication regimen, as well as ongoing monitoring of the patient's HIV infection. AAP patients also work with CHP's two full-time benefits advocates, who guide them through the maze of governmental entitlement programs.

With its focus on assessment and monitoring, AAP is not designed to provide primary HIV care. When an AAP patient becomes symptomatic, the CHP staff works closely with him/her to find an appropriate and affordable source of long-term HIV care. Most often, the patient is enrolled in CHP's daytime HIV/AIDS Primary Care Clinic.

HIV/AIDS PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

CHP's HIV/AIDS Primary Care Clinic opened its doors in 1985, the result of a unique partnership between New York City's only community-based gay and lesbian health clinic and the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation. Operated jointly with Bellevue Hospital, this daytime program has served close to 2500 men and women with HIV. With its multifaceted approach to HIV care, the program has been cited and duplicated nationwide as a health care model.

The core of this model is the consistent relationship between the client and provider. All CHP patients are assigned one provider (doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) and this relationship forms the basis for the development of the clinic's care plan. The client also has an ongoing relation with the clinic's nurses, whose expertise in HIV treatment, nutrition, and health education is an essential component of the program.

The HIV Primary Care Clinic also addresses its clients' emotional and financial needs. A mental health team, comprising a psychiatrist, community liaison worker, and social workers, provides crisis intervention, ongoing therapy, support groups, and linkages with community support services. CHP's benefits advocates, with their extensive working knowledge of local, state, and federal welfare systems, guide clients through the maze of public agencies. By ensuring that clients receive every governmental penny possible, our benefits advocates help to avert the financial crises that so many people with AIDS face.

While the HIV Primary Care Clinic provides client care in an intimate, compassionate setting, its affiliation with Bellevue Hospital offers all the advantages of a large urban medical center. When clients need x-rays, lab tests, or the services of a medical specialist, they have an "in" at Bellevue without having to endure the chaos and protracted delays of an emergency room.

Clients of the HIV Primary Care Clinic represent the diversity of the New York area's HIV population. In fact, our clients' only common denominator is their lack of adequate health insurance. CHP's reputation for high quality, low cost, and compassionate health care, combined with a profound respect for patient confidentiality, has led to patient referrals from all of New York's major medical institutions and AIDS service organizations. However, the clinic's most telling referrals come from patient word of mouth.

LESBIAN HEALTH PROGRAM

In healthcare, as in every aspect of society, lesbians are invisible. Lesbians have been ignored in medical research, overlooked in most women's clinical programs and unreached by instruction on preventive health care. The failure of the medical industry to recognize (let alone address) lesbian health needs means that we are at higher risk for breast cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease and other common serious illnesses. In addition, lesbians who come-out to their doctors report being treated with fear, hostility and violence.

All this boils down to one thing. Lesbians are not getting the healthcare they need.

Responding to this dearth of sensitive, affordable care, CHP implemented the Lesbian Health Program in 1990. The goals of the Program are to provide medical services in a lesbian-positive, feminist space and manner; to educate lesbians about healthcare needs and preventive care; and to aid lesbians in understanding and asserting their rights with other healthcare providers.

Community need has ensured the program's rapid growth: over 500 women have become registered clients. The personal experiences shared through the program fuel our commitment to expanding lesbian health services. Our average client has not had a pap smear in over five years, if ever. She has never had a mammogram. And before coming to see us she didn't know anything about how to protect herself from HIV, because she had always heard that lesbians don't get AIDS. Ninety-eight percent of CHP's lesbian clients do not have any health insurance and typically have incomes below \$20,000 per year.

On three evenings each week, lesbian health services are provided alongside the general medical clinic, and on two Saturdays a month the clinic is transformed into an all women's space by the Lesbian Health Program. Appointments with providers are available for pap smears, pelvic exams, general medical and HIV-related services. Treatments for STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) and vaginal infections are available on a walk-in basis. The all-woman staff includes one full-time coordinator and 30 volunteers including licensed providers, CHP-trained screeners, lab technicians and administrators ("front desk workers").

Peer counselling is provided at the clinic on a wide range of issues including lesbian STD transmission and safer sex, preventive healthcare, and patients' rights. Community referrals are also made for health services beyond the scope of what the Program can now provide. Volunteers are available to speak on lesbian safer sex and preventive care.

With these basic services in place, the Lesbian Health Program plans an aggressive outreach effort for 1993. Our two-part goal is to ensure that we are accessible and well-known to the women most in need of our services and to learn from lesbians how we can improve our services to meet their specific health needs. In doing this outreach, the Lesbian Health Program is collecting data critical to understand the health needs of lesbians—an area completely ignored by medical research and traditional health care settings.

HOTT (HEALTH OUTREACH TO TEENS)

Developed by CHP in 1988 to address the special health care needs of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, Health Outreach to Teens (HOTT) has provided nearly 2500 adolescents with free direct medical care, health education, and non-medical support. The HOTT team, consisting of a full-time administrator, coordinator/driver, nurse/health educator, and a part-time physician, has worked hard to earn the trust of young patients who too often are abused by adult society.

HOTT patients are primarily cultural and/or sexual minority youth, frequently runaways or throwaways living on the street. HOTT is especially sensitive to cross-dressing and transgender youth who largely are unwelcome at other youth service organizations. Responding both to their unmet medical and health education needs, as well as to their institutional mistrust, the HOTT team befriends these often friendless young people, giving them confidence, a sympathetic ear, and the tangible support of free hot meals, bag lunches, clean clothes, and free condoms and dental dams.

One of HOTT's most significant innovations is the way it delivers health care to where its service population congregates. With monies appropriated by the Manhattan Borough President, CHP designed, purchased, and outfitted the 34-foot "HOTT Van," replete with reception and consultation areas, examining rooms, mini-lab, and a bathroom with shower. The HOTT Van brings health care literally to the streets of New York.

Frequently, a HOTT client will visit the mobile van three or four times before any health care or education occurs. It can take that long to earn his or her trust. Once that trust is earned, however, subsequent visits may also take place on-site at CHP. The CHP staff and volunteers, welcoming to all who come to the clinic, have been specially trained to make the clinic a safe and nurturing space for these young patients.



PEER COUNSELING PROGRAM

Sexually transmitted diseases, relationships, coming-out, HIV and AIDS, self-esteem, keeping up safer sex, jobs, sexual assault and discrimination...these are some of the issues that face gays and lesbians in our community today. Gay people deserve to talk and be heard in a caring, nonjudgemental and humane manner.

The Peer Counseling Program at CHP provides just that. Peer Counselors create the space for gay people to come and talk about their issues. Counselors provide concrete and immediate community resources and referrals, information on STDs, support to keep up safer sex, and HIV/AIDS education.

The Peer Counseling Program operates at CHP's evening gay and lesbian clinic and at the Lesbian Health Program. Walk-in, no appointment necessary and no-charge.

Peer Counseling at CHP is not to be confused with on going therapy. It is one-session or very short term in nature. It is designed to empower clients with tools, information, or referrals.

Volunteer Peer Counselors possess sensitivity, genuineness, and warmth, all that are necessary to effective counseling. They are trained and supervised by CHP's Health Educator and are knowledgeable of community resources and referrals.

The goal of the Peer Counseling Program is to empower, promote self-determination, and listen and respond to the needs of gay and lesbians in our community.

TRIBUTES

I'm an artist, and don't have any health insurance. At CHP, I found affordable health-care. The quality of care is excellent, and it's homo-friendly! I love CHP!

Kelly K.
ACTUP member

Women come to CHP to get respect, which is a first step to good health. Each woman is considered an expert about her body, and as a volunteer screener, I encourage women to take active roles in their own health care. Working with women in this way is an invaluable investment in my future and the future of women's health care.

Salena Cummins
CHP volunteer

My doctor was patient and understanding and really took time out to explain what I didn't understand. I felt comfortable discussing issues regarding my sexuality. The people at CHP made me feel comfortable about asking questions that other doctors made me feel stupid about.

In the past I felt embarrassed talking to doctors and staff about my sexuality but at CHP I felt comfortable and relaxed.

Leah R.
Bisexual, age 26

Unemployed. Uninsured. Returning to NYC after 15 years, healthy and determined to stay that way after a decade of ill health. There was/is only one place you can get friendly basic, preventive care, where you can get an appointment in a month or less, where they will take the time to teach you self-help methods, answer all your stupid questions, seriously answer all your petulant complaints: CHP.

Thank God I'm a lesbian!

Danielle Zora



TRIBUTES

The Community Health Project is an incredible asset to the Lesbian and Gay community. The staff and volunteers are tireless advocates for the health and well being of our community. Their grassroots efforts on behalf of the community's health issues deserve tremendous support from everywhere possible.

Tom Duane
Manhattan Counsellmember

CHP fulfills a vital need in our community by providing accessible, culturally sensitive health care to lesbians gay men and bisexuals. It is critically important that we have safe and caring environments like CHP to learn about our health care needs and how to take better care of ourselves.

Deborah Glick
New York State Assembly Member