

  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Making a Connection with the Latino Transgender Community

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Kathy Donovan  
Milwaukee, WI

---

August 26, 2008  
Ryan White Grantee Meeting  
Washington, DC

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 Sixteenth Street  
Community Health Center

- Located in Milwaukee, WI
- Most densely populated zip code in WI
- Urban FQHC
- Serves 30,000 patients
- >80% of patients are Latino
- Issues related to language, poverty, literacy, culture, unemployment, immigration
- HIV Department is totally grant-funded
- Staff of 12 includes 3 HIV-specialist physicians

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## How we got started

- Interviewing for Outreach Specialist
- Bilingual, knowledge of Latino culture
- Representative of target population
- Some experience

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Raising Our Consciousness

- M-F Transgender individual hired
- Open and willing to educate us
- Introduced us to a new population

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## So much to learn

- Staff very interested
- Informal discussions at Outreach Center
- Shared her ongoing personal challenges
- Realized how little we knew

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Structured Learning

- Developed a list of topics
- Regular staff in-services
- Connected with statewide network

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Topics we discussed

- Physical changes
- Surgical interventions
- Hormone use
- “Passing”
- Cultural stigma
- Social isolation
- Limited job opportunities
- Day to day difficulties

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Recognized the Need

- No other agencies providing services
- Need a “safe place”
- Information without judgment
- Someone who understands issues

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Building Trust

- Appreciated our concern and interest
- Tailored prevention services
- Included them in our activities

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## How Could We Help?

- Needs Assessment
  - Isolation
  - Stigma within Latino community
  - Not accepted by LGBT
  - Jobs
  - Restrooms
  - Relationships
  - \*Mistreatment by medical providers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Actions Initiated

- Educate physicians and staff
  - "All Staff" training (panel and video)
  - Basic screening information
  - Resources
- Additional education for staff
  - National speaker
  - Transgender group in Milwaukee
- Develop support group
- Stock hormone needles in exchange

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Support Group

- Transgender specific
- Educational and social
- They choose topics
  - Behavioral health issues
  - Legal Aid
  - Hormones
  - Health screenings

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Special Events

- Prevention focus
- Improve self-image
- Job opportunities – Latino nights
- Ms. Diva Latina
- PrideFest parade float
- Talent show
- LGBT Picnic

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## How They Help Us

- Photonovellas
- Social Network Testing
- Promote testing at clubs
- Presentations

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Future Plans

- Publish findings
- Develop educational materials
- Develop prevention intervention
- Continue community education

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Benefits

- HIV Department
  - Increased sensitivity and understanding
  - Diversity of program
  - Sense of satisfaction
  - New friends
- Transgender community
  - Advocacy
  - Support System (individuals and agency)
  - Less fear
  - Increased opportunities

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Contact Information

- Kathy Donovan  
HIV Director  
Sixteenth Street Community Health Center  
1337 South 16th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204
- (414) 672-1353, x445
- [kathleen.donovan@sschc.org](mailto:kathleen.donovan@sschc.org)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---