

Upcoming PRIDE Meetings

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Locations rotate between North County and Central County to allow for maximum staff and client participation. Please contact the PRIDE Initiative chair for questions regarding meetings and locations.



PRIDE Initiative Membership

Participation in the PRIDE Initiative is voluntary. Members are expected to actively participate in meetings, whenever possible. All members are also encouraged to participate in a subcommittee of their choice.

Member responsibilities include:

- Provide input throughout the program development process and share in decision-making.
- Prioritize needs.
- Report trends in community attitudes and behaviors.
- Highlight local efforts.
- Review materials.

Contacts

www.smchealth.org/PRIDE

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The PRIDE Initiative is part of the Health Equity Initiatives under the Office of Diversity and Equity and is funded by the Mental Health Services Act.



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PRIDE Initiative

The PRIDE Initiative consists of individuals concerned about the well-being of LGBTQQI communities in San Mateo County. This initiative is led by Behavioral Health & Recovery Services staff and funded through the Mental Health Services Act.

If you are interested in LGBTQQI issues, please join us!



SAN MATEO COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH &
RECOVERY SERVICES

Mission

The PRIDE Initiative is committed to fostering a welcoming environment for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/questioning/queer/intersex (LGBTQQI) communities living and working in San Mateo County through an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach.



Vision

An inclusive environment based in equality and parity for LGBTQQI communities of San Mateo County.



2009 Accomplishments

- PRIDE Parade Contingent at the 2009 SF Pride Celebration.
- Conducted a LGBTQQ/Pride caucus at the 2009 Cultural Competence Summit.
- Made recommendations to include gender identity and sexual orientation questions in the County's electronic medical record.
- Showcased at the 2009 American Public Health Association Conference.



Future Directions

- Outreach efforts to engage LGBTQQI communities.
- Increase networking opportunities amongst providers.
- Workshops and educational events.
- Produce educational materials.
- Strategies to assess and address gaps in care.

Community Assessment

In 2000–2001, San Mateo County led a community task force in conducting a needs assessment for its LGBTQQ communities. After collecting surveys and holding focus groups throughout the County, the “*San Mateo County Rainbow Community Assessment Final Report*” was released. Below are statistics and quotes from this report:

- **57%** of respondents reported experiencing **harassment**.
- **19%** of respondents reported experiencing **violence**.
- **75%** of respondents under 18 years of age reported having sought service to help deal with **suicidal feelings**.
- Of the respondents who reported **discrimination** when obtaining services, **38%** believed it was due to their sexual identity.

“It would be wonderful to have a safe place to hang in San Mateo County... my biggest desire at this stage in my life is for more community...”

- Queer female, age 36-50

“Our community needs a touch-point in order to access services and resources.”

- Lesbian, age 51-64

“LGBTQQ people need to exert greater influence and political power over local institutions such as the educational system, justice system, and media in order to combat violence and harassment.”

To view or obtain a copy of the “San Mateo County Rainbow Community Assessment Final Report” please contact the Policy/Research Subcommittee.