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.

www.smchealth.org/PRIDE

PRIDE Initiative Co-Chairs:

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The PRIDE Initiative consists of individuals concerned about the well-being of LGBTQI 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 LGBTQI issues, please join us!
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.

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.

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.

“San Mateo County Rainbow Community Assessment Final Report” please contact the Policy/Research Subcommittee.