T-LISH: Transgender Ladies Initiating Sisterhood


TRANS: THRIVE Program
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center
T-LISH: Trans Ladies Initiating Sisterhood

- The AIDS Healthcare Foundation subcontracted with the A&PI Wellness Center under a 3-year grant from the CDC to adapt the Mpowerment intervention for transgender youth of color ages 14-24
- Staff hired in September, 2008
- Program launched in December 2008
- Participants re-named the program T-LISH
T-LISH Project Space
Challenge: Who is this program for?

- The CDC says this is an HIV-prevention program for trans youth of color
- CDC does not distinguish between FTM, MTF, and gender variant trans youth
- Keeping in mind that this is an HIV prevention intervention, we had to decide whether to 1) focus on transwomen or 2) be inclusive of all trans youth
Argument 1: Focus on Transwomen

- This is an HIV-prevention program, and there are MUCH higher rates of HIV among transwomen (23-56%) than transmen (2%).
- There are several other queer youth programs in San Francisco already that are reaching FTMs, but none of them are reaching significant numbers of young MTFs.
- Transwomen may not be as comfortable discussing sex & HIV if there are FTMs present.
Argument 2: Be inclusive

- In our needs assessment, some youth said that it is important to them to have friends of all genders, not just people like them
- Trans youth are very diverse, we don’t want to divide the community
- New studies show that many FTMs are having unsafe sex with non-trans gay men, so while HIV rates are low now, HIV prevention is important!
Our decision

- We had many discussions about this topic and weighed all of the pros and cons.
- We decided to prioritize reaching young transwomen of color due to high rates of HIV.
- In order to create a program that is truly by and for young transwomen of color, some of our services needed to be just for them.
- We wanted to also offer some of our services to FTMs, genderqueer youth, friends, and partners.
How it looks now...

- Core Group and M-Groups are just for transwomen, at any stage of transition
- Small, Medium, and Large Events are open to all trans youth, as well as their friends and partners
- We emphasize outreach at venues where transwomen of color hang out
- Our staff and peer leaders reflect transwoman of color communities
Core Group
How it’s going

- We have 15 clients total, 71% identify as transwomen of color
- On average, about 4 participants attend Core Group and the T-LISH Lounge (Small event)
- Very high retention & client satisfaction, and they do bring their partners to events.
- So far we have fully implemented Core Group, Small Events, Medium Events, & Publicity
Publicity

LOGO CONTEST
T-LISH
SAN FRANCISCO

WINNER WILL RECEIVE A $100 VISA CARD

Deadline for submissions: Saturday February 21, 2009

Use your creative juices to design the T-LISH logo. What does sisterhood or transgender inclusion mean to you? Use any media you like and design an image that represents Transgender Ladies Initiating Sisterhood.

Entries may be mailed, emailed, or dropped off. Original artwork will not be returned. Artwork may be digitally altered or changed for editing and printing purposes.

Send your entry to T-LISH: 815 Hyde Street, Suite 201, San Francisco, CA 94115. For more information about T-LISH, email Fiona @ asp@wellness.org or check out our website: www.aspwellness.org

The Bay Area’s premiere social club for transgender women of color ages 14 to 24

Because a sister has a unique sense of taste.

mypace.com/transsisterhood
415.408.4101 x118
What’s Next for T-LISH

- Piloted MGroups in March, implement in April
- Large Event April 4: Catwalk Fashion Show
- Formal Outreach starts in April
- Youth CAB members joining the TRANS: THRIVE CAB at April Meeting
- Increase participation overall!
Current and future questions:

- How do we include and welcome all trans/LGBT youth at events, but still maintain the focus on transwomen of color?
- Will we get enough attendance at MGroups if we keep them just for transwomen?
- How do we do formal outreach when our participants can’t (legally) get into clubs?
- How can we increase participation of Spanish speakers?
Contact information

Luke Woodward, luke@apiwellness.org
Akira Jackson, akira@apiwellness.org
Fiona Torres, fiona@apiwellness.org
Bionka Stevens, bionka@apiwellness.org

www.myspace.com/transsisterhood
www.transthrive.org
www.apiwellness.org