



Enhancement, Prevention, and Technology Center

Inside we have!!!!!!!



Training Center



Board/Meeting Room



Full Kitchen



Kitchen Serving Area



Food Services



Computer Lab



“Land Of Rock” Community Based Recording Studio and Media



64 Track Digital Recording Studio



Youth Camp “Land Of Rock”



Youth Camp "Land Of Rock





LGBTQ CONNECTS

A Pilot Project of South Central Educational Development, Inc

GOALS OF LGBTQ CONNECTS

- To Create Safe Spaces
- LGBTQ communities tends to be isolated and not acceptable in the mainstream of communities (accepted as a population as long as they act like average people) unacceptable is PDA, flamboyance, Etc.
- LGBTQ Communities tend to be surrounded by stigma's, including being a marginalized population, disconnected/shunned by the mainstream rural communities.
- LGBTQ's tend to be an underground population in the Central Appalachian Region, (with limited safe spaces socializing tends to be house to house interactions).

GOALS OF LGBTQ CONNECTS

- To Create LGBTQ Communities in Rural Counties.
- Stigma attached to the LGBTQ communities hinders the socialization of this marginalized population, which impedes these residents from seeking mainstream resources, and or just accept what is direct toward the community, i.e. inadequate health care, lack of specific services, mental health services, infectious disease services, etc.
- LGBTQ Connects aims to work with rural LGBTQ's leaders and stakeholders to develop pockets of communities throughout rural communities and counties by providing community building resources.

GOALS OF LGBTQ CONNECTS

- To Provide LGBTQ Resources to Central Appalachian.
- In Southern WV, we have a lack of resources for general populations let alone specialized care for alternative populations. Living in rural area's were everyone knows each other, it is harder to received basic services such as HIV/Hep C testing.
- As we work to develop Safe Spaces and smaller communities, we are constantly providing LGBTQ Resources, in person and on LGBTQ Connects-Facebook page.

LGBTQ CONNECTS-TAKING “SOCIAL” OUT OF MEDIA

- During planning committee meetings it was mentioned that social media is one of the very limited ways that LGBTQ residents in rural area's can be connected to the larger LGBTQ populations.
- It was also mentioned that these sites are utilized to find LGBTQ's for anonymous sexual hookups, that may or may not lead to unprotected sexually encounters and is the usual means to meetup with other LGBTQ's and or Men on the Down low.
- It was also noted that sometimes these social media site are the only outlet available for some LGBTQ's that are not openly Out in their communities, and an avenue for those do not consider themselves part of the LGBTQ Community.

TAKING “SOCIAL” OUT OF MEDIA

- After brainstorming the committee suggested
- 1. There needs to be safe spaces created.
- 2. In these safe spaces we need to build the LGBTQ Communities, through identifying and recruiting leaders, stakeholders, and Allies, while giving space for social networking.
- 3. Have readily available resources, i.e. HIV/Hep C testing, a local resource fact sheet/manual, linkages to food and housing to meet the immediate needs of the LGBTQ Communities.

LGBTQ CONNECTS-GATHERING

Recruit LGBTQ Leaders

LGBTQ planning committee identified and invited 10 community leaders, stakeholders and allies to a gathering December 22nd, 2017 this gathering was to collect community level information pertaining to community development and needed resources.

The committee designed resources bags including condom and lubrication, printed HIV prevention and general information, local resource fact sheets.

Gathering Implementation

10 allies was invited and 31 participants attended.

Participants enjoyed dinner and dessert.

Guest speaker Roxy Todd spoke about working for NPR/PBS and how she was interested in the development of the LGBTQ Community in Southern WV. She also informed the participants that we was working on a story about the community and wanted to know if anyone was interested in being interviewed.

HIV Testing

3 attendees requested to be provided the HIV rapid test.

All participants agreed that these types of gathering are needed to create a cohesive community and make HIV testing readily available.

Participants suggested Hep C Screening.

All participants agreed that we needed to continue to plan larger events, and we had 5 attendees agree to participate in the planning process.



OUTCOMES!

- The following question were asked of the participants?

WHAT DOES COMMUNITY MEAN TO EACH PERSON?

- Love
- Communication
- Good food
- Honesty
- Dealing with people
- Being accepted by others
- Shared values
- Friendly
- Like minded people

WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY?

- Working together
- Unity and forgiveness
- Helping others
- Selflessness
- Prayer
- Gatherings
- Outreach
- Housing
- Access to resources

WHAT HELPS DESTROYS A COMMUNITY?

- Dishonesty
- Back stabbers
- Drugs
- Negative people
- Bad parenting
- Hate
- Greed
- Ism's
- Selfishness

WHAT IS NEEDED TO KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM HIV/HEP C

- Funding in Southern West Virginia
- Education/messaging/prevention promotions
- Togetherness
- Enrichment
- Being accepted
- Stigma reduction
- Better HIV Testing/Outreach
- Resources
- Housing
- Quality Health Care

LGBTQ CONNECT-TAKING "SOCIAL" OUT OF
MEDIA

IS A PROJECT OF SOUTH CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL
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