



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



JANUARY 2011



We're excited to share another newsletter with lots of activity. Earlier this fall, The Network met with HHS staff to ensure adequate inclusion of LGBTs in the forthcoming [\(first ever\) HHS Tobacco Strategic Plan](#) and later attended the launch of the inclusive plan.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services took an important step as they unveiled [Healthy People 2020 \(HP2020\)](#), the blueprint for national public health prevention and policy goals for the next decade, which is (for the first time) inclusive of LGBT health and health disparities. The Network's been part of a small group meeting with the HP2020 organizers for years now. We formally participated in the tobacco workgroup, and it was through one of our advocacy meetings that we pushed them to propose a new HP2020 LGBT workgroup ([which we then helped draft justification](#)).

For our most important announcement, we are very pleased to announce that our Steering Committee, as part of the recognition of our increased wellness work, has finished consideration of our name and has voted to change it slightly to [The Network for LGBT Health Equity](#). More on that change is available on our [blog](#) and [discussion listserve](#).

Lastly, Season's Greetings and Happy New Year! This winter if you have some great news to share, don't leave us in the cold. Shoot us an email so we can highlight your work in our newsletter or maybe you even want to write a guest [blog](#) article about a great event in your community. You are the most valuable part of The Network, and we want to take every opportunity to showcase the work happening in your communities.

Your friends at [The Network for LGBT Health Equity](#) / the former Network for LGBT Tobacco Control

A proud project of The Fenway Institute
Boston, MA

the
NETWORK
for LGBT health equity

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CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES



- **ACTION ALERT:** [Tell the government to include trans folk & include LGBT people in the new health plan!](#) It takes only 2 minutes to complete, but the **Deadline is January 13th!**
- **ACTION ALERT:** [The Joint Commission needs stories of bad LGBTQ healthcare!](#) This is the agency that is able to make a difference in how hospitals are accredited, so if you have experienced LGBT-discrimination or exclusion, [share your stories](#).
- Multiple funding opportunities in health disparities are [available](#) through the National Institutes of Health.
- [Aimee Van Wagenen](#) of Fenway Health's **Population Center** is looking for unpublished (or published) data on acceptance or effect of LGBT smoking cessation media campaigns.

Study Participants Needed

- **TransOhio** is asking members of the Ohio transgender community to complete a [needs assessment](#). The [assessment](#) is open to transgender people, their partners and allies, who are current or previous Ohioans.
- LGBT smokers needed for a national [LGBT Cigarette Smoking Survey](#) on reasons for adult LGBT tobacco use.
- LGBTQ volunteers needed for a study on current smokers and those who recently quit. Please contact [Dean Anderson](#).
- Is there an outstanding LGBT-focused project in your community? Would you consider it a Best Practice Program? We are looking for good LGBT tobacco projects, so if you know of any that should be highlighted [email us](#).

PROJECT + RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

Healthy People 2020 Launch

Washington, DC
December 2, 2010



- We are pleased to announce the release of our 4th edition of our **Sharing our Lessons** series: "[From Queer Youth to Public Health Leader: A Case Study of Engaging and Mentoring LGBT Youth into Tobacco Control Leadership](#)." An interview of **Ernesto Dominguez** by **Kitty Jerome**. With our [Sharing our Lessons](#) series we highlight activities happening in the field of LGBT tobacco control. If you would like a hard copy and are not on our mailing list, please [email us](#).
- The Department of Health and Human Services' [Health People 2020](#) launched its goals for national healthcare in the next ten years. These goals have universal implications as they strongly influence national healthcare, services and programs. Thus it is incredibly exciting that there is a section on LGBT Health with fact sheets on each [Lesbian](#), [Gay](#), [Bisexual](#) and for the first time [Transgender](#) people. The Network proudly advocated for these inclusions which were announced December 2nd and we were [personally congratulated](#) by the **Surgeon General** for our advocacy efforts.
- New Aboriginal Two-Spirit and LGBTQ Migration, Mobility and Health Research Project: Winnipeg [Final Report](#) was released in November 2010.
- If you have a great project you are working on or some great resources you would like for us to upload to the resource library, [email us](#) and we would love to showcase your great work.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

- Our cultural competency trainings will be translated into Spanish and will be

used to train 700 Puerto Rican doctors this March following the first ever LGBT Wellness Summit to be held on March 2nd in San Juan, PR!

- Network members **Joseph Lee**, **Nicole VanKim** and **James Padilla** published a hugely influential study on "[Adding Sexual Orientation Questions to Statewide Public Health Surveillance in New Mexico](#)." This study shows that participants are generally comfortable answering questions on sexual orientation.
- NIH Director Announced [Reorganization of Substance Use, Abuse and Addiction Research](#). On November 18, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins announced that he would proceed with the reorganization of substance use, abuse and addiction research at the NIH by creating a single institute that would include the research portfolios of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).
- The Legacy Foundation recently recognized **Naphtali Offen** with an honorable mention for the [2010 Legacy Community Activist Award](#). Legacy honored Offen for his "significant achievements in promotion of the health and well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in the Bay Area."
- The Network responded to hateful speech relating to the Surgeon General's HP 2020 launch, which we reacted with a [press announcement](#) responding to their bigoted and incorrect claims.
- The National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC) sat their National Youth Leadership Committee "**Youth Kicks!**" This group will be working together toward developing a campaign to address the effects of smoking in the LGBTQ Youth community. We would like to congratulate our fabulous program associate, **Emilia Dunham** who was not only selected to be a member of this committee, but named NYAC's Youth Kicks Committee Chair.
- Our blog has many great stories from guest bloggers such as [Jaime Delavan](#) reporting on the **American Public Health Association** meeting in Denver and [JC Vega](#) who provides some insight on his activities in [DC](#) and [Puerto Rico](#) . For the latest in news from the Network make sure you check out the [blog](#) often.
- **The North Carolina Health & Wellness Trust Fund's Diversity Working Group** with the **Research Triangle Institute (RTI)** and led by staff from the **NC Commission on Indian Affairs** revealed [The Heritage Month Toolkit](#). The toolkit is designed for use in teen tobacco prevention empowerment work to highlight diversity and tailor media.



NEWS FROM THE NETWORK



In October, Scout gave testimony at the [Open Advisory Council Meeting](#) for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in DC leading to the addition of **LGBT youth** as a priority population in their strategic objective on suicide prevention objectives.

We have had three [BrownBag](#) webinars this fall. Our October Webinar: [Quitlines Serving Youth](#) with **Seth Kirby** discussed a success story of youth leadership, creativity and collaboration of best practices from other quit programs. For November, in recognition of Transgender Day of Remembrance, we held [Transgender Inclusion within Organizations Serving the LGBT Community](#) with cultural competency trainers **Susan Forrest** and **Talia Mae Bettcher**. Our most recent BrownBag call centered on [Federal LGBT Surveillance](#) focusing on next steps for including LGBT people in federal surveys. If you have stories of Lessons Learned from LGBT inclusion in state surveys, please [let us know](#) about them as there is an opportunity to advise the federal government on these practices.

On December 5th, The Network submitted comments to [The National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy \(National Prevention Strategy\)](#) framework draft. The Council will use the framework to guide development of the National Prevention Strategy. There is now another comment opportunity to comment on the [second \(non-inclusive\) draft](#). There were exciting updates from the [2010 National Coalition for LGBT Health Meeting](#). From this meeting, The Network generated an impactful [action alert](#) wherein if LGBT people submit stories of LGBT-related discrimination, it can affect how hospitals are accredited by the Joint Commission. [Gustavo discusses the struggle of federal data inclusion](#) in health care programs like those through the Affordable Care Act. Following the Coalition meeting, staff and Network members attended NCI's Tobacco Research Network on Disparities [\(TReND\) meeting](#).

Finally, as part of state collaboration, we've continued our ongoing work with Minnesota, Missouri and Georgia. This month we debuted a model **LGBT Community Wellness Policy Scan** survey for states that would standardize similar instruments and helps us compile data. In another score, we helped Minnesota advocates garner support for potentially adding an LGBT health expert to Minnesota's Department of Health management team! We're also helping the **Arizona Department of Health** as they draft a forthcoming RFA to invest significant funds in local LGBT tobacco work there.



WHAT'S ON OUR CALENDAR?

- **January 30, 2011:** Scout will be appearing on the radio show [Rainbow Radio](#)—The Real Gay Agenda at 8:00am to discuss The Network and LGBT health. Tune in!
- **February 2-6, 2011:** The 23rd National Conference on LGBT Equality: [Creating Change](#) in Minneapolis
- **February 9, 2011:** FDA CTP Open [Stakeholder Discussion Series Sessions](#) in Oakland
- **February 25, 2011:** [UNC Minority Health Conference](#)
- **March 2nd, 2011:** First LGBT Wellness Summit in San Juan, PR
- **April 5th, 2011:** Tobacco Research Intensive Lecture Series [TRILS lecture](#) at West Virginia University
- **May 10-12, 2011:** Sixth Annual [National Smokeless & Spit Tobacco Summit](#)

HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED

The best way to stay informed is by joining our discussion [listserv](#). If you are on Twitter, please add us at [@lgbttobacco](#)! Or become our friend on [Facebook](#)!

Is there anything you want us to put in our next newsletter? News from the field? Opportunities? Some resource you want to highlight? Please hit us at lgbttobacco@gmail.com or 617-927-6452

Peace,
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