Imagining a Tomorrow with Choices

Mapping a Trajectory for YMSM Access to PrEP Based on the History of Reproductive Justice

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The Center for LGBTQ Youth Advocacy and Capacity Building
Hetrick-Martin Institute
Hetrick-Martin Institute is the oldest and largest non-profit agency serving LGBTQ young people for more 35 years.

We have two locations, one in Manhattan and one in Newark, NJ.
Our History

- HMI was founded in 1979 by Damien Martin and Emery Hetrick.
- Dr. Emery Hetrick, a psychiatrist, and Dr. Damien Martin, a professor at New York University, heard the heartbreaking story of a homeless 15-year-old boy who had been beaten and thrown out of his emergency shelter because he was gay.
- They were so moved that they gathered a group of concerned adults and created what was then called the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth (IPLGY) to assist this group of youth who desperately needed support.
Historical Timeline

1979 - The Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth is founded

1985 - The Harvey Milk School is founded as a GED retrieval school with just over a dozen students from Hetrick-Martin in collaboration with the New York City Board of Education.

1992 – Hetrick-Martin Institute + Harvey Milk School move into their current location at Astor Place, which for the first time anywhere, provides an environment specifically designed to support LGBTQ youth.

2003 – HMHS becomes a four-year, fully accredited New York City Department of Education high school.

2012 – Hetrick-Martin Institute introduces the Advocacy & Capacity Building Department to build ability on how to better serve LGBTQ young people, and work with decision makers on challenges facing LGBTQ youth.
Our Youth Population

- LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13-24 and their families
- 98% youth of color; primarily African American and Latino
- 80% living at or below the poverty line
- Travel from over 300 zip codes to participate in HMI programs
- Services provided to more than 2,000 youth each year
THE HMI Program Model

• Membership is the Model!

• When we refer to youth as “members,” we recognize their agency.

• When youth take up membership, they embrace their agency, their decision-making power and their responsibility to themselves and the community.
# HMI Youth Service Programs By Track

## INTAKE & ASSESSMENT

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## CAFÉ HMI

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**HETTRICK-MARTIN INSTITUTE**

EMPOWERMENT, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY FOR LGBTQ YOUTH
Harvey Milk High School

HMHS is a fully-accredited transfer high school operated by the New York City Department of Education

Scale and Scope

- Approximately 100 students
- 9th to 12th grade
- Most students have left other schools prior to their graduating
- HMHS serves as a “transfer school” which students must both choose and show commitment to before being admitted
- HMHS is hosted by HMI and retains full use of HMI facilities

Positive Outcomes

- Average 92% graduation rate
- 64% college acceptance rate vs. NYC public school average of approximately 50%
- 1:12 teacher/student ratio
- Average class size of 11 students
Center for LGBTQ Youth Advocacy & Capacity Building

• Return to historic roots of agency working in community to address the void left by NYAC — born at HMI

• Focus on lifting the voices of LGBTQ youth on a national level to prioritize their needs within the movement

• Advocacy, Data, Capacity Building, Replication
Engaging gay, bisexual, queer and same gender loving youth of color in HIV prevention/testing/treatment

In community with youth
Strength-based
Trauma-informed
Holistic approach
Reproductive Justice

• Difference between reproductive rights and reproductive justice
• The impact of shifting perspective
Sexual Health Justice

- Centers the struggle within the context of race/gender/class/heterosexism
- Centers the needs of youth to develop a healthy sense of their sexuality
- Includes the needs of the entire person
- Values the sexual histories of communities
Creating access to choices

- Public education
- Policy advocacy
- Create political will
- Create access that is responsive to the needs of the community
Creating political will

- Lifetime treatment cost of an HIV infection is estimated at $379,668 (in 2010 dollars)

- PrEP Cost: $8000 - $14,000 a year
Our Young Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Same Gender Loving Men deserve

• A healthy sense of their sexuality
• Access to accurate information
• Access to high quality sexual health care within the context of their overall health
• To have their contextual realities be considered when the public health community is working to address health disparities
On love and trust...

We can create space to imagine a world where black lives are valued and even cherished for the great resources they are. Can we not struggle and love our way into an America that does this for gay and bisexual brown and black men? We are not talking for Utopia or a New Jerusalem. Rather, we are putting on the agenda that we can create a nation safe for love in its diverse and surprising forms.

These young men deserve this minimal act of solidarity and decency. In fact, their very lives depend upon on it as does our own. Why not create a society that does not mean one falls ill as one searches for love? And if one does fall ill, let there be embracing arms to break that fall.
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