COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH WITH LGBTQ POPULATIONS: SHARING EXPERIENCE

HÉCTOR TORRES, PSY.D.
CENTER ON HALSTED

Established in 1973
The largest and most comprehensive LGBTQ center in the Midwest.

Serving the ever-evolving needs of the LGBTQ community, including a newly opened senior housing complex, comprehensive HIV testing program and state-wide HIV/STD hotline, legal services, behavioral health services, job training, domestic violence prevention services, and programming for women, seniors, youth, and transgender individuals.
COLLABORATIVE HISTORY

Informal Collaboration: Recruitment for KIU! study

May 2011: IMPACT began conducting research studies at Center Halsted as a resident partner
  ▪ Initial needs assessment
  ▪ Re-engaged Research Review Board

October 2012: First LGBTQ Health Conference held

July 2013: Nation’s first clinical internship track in LGBT health launches at IMPACT and COH

December 2014: Construction of new bio-behavioral research center at Center on Halsted
GOLDEN RULE OF COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH

- Respect
- Relationship
- Reciprocity

Beneficence: Equity, Mutual Legitimacy

Justice: Investment

(Kirkness & Barnhardt, 1991)
CHALLENGES

- Time involved
- Everyone is busy!
- Different communication styles
- Defensiveness towards the academic world
- Possibility of overtaxing clients or them feeling “used”.
- May challenge efforts to create community
- Limited involvement in the community
OPPORTUNITIES

- The possibility to offer a good opportunity/service
- Capacity building
- Mutual learning
- Forward thinking
- Contributing to future solutions that are relevant
KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Reciprocal relationship
- Mutual respect
- Shared values
- Belonging
- Openness to innovation and learning
- Strong credibility
- Competency
- Integrity of our work
ANNUAL LGBTQ HEALTH AND WELLNESS CONFERENCE

Fostering application of emerging research into practice

Attended by up to 180 clinicians, researchers, students, and community members

Nationally renowned speakers from CDC and NIH

Continuing education units, student research awards, networking opportunities

This year’s keynote will be Gregorio Millett, MPH, vice President and Director, Public Policy, amfAR
PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP IN LGBTQ HEALTH

1st clinical psychology internship track focused on LGBT health in the United States

Training sites at COH and the IMPACT Program

The internship offers (1) integrated training in mental healthcare for LGBTQ clients in a community setting, (2) consultation and liaison services focused on gay and bisexual men living with HIV/AIDS in an infectious disease clinic, and (3) LGBT public health research and services.

Funded by HRSA, through the McGaw Medical Center at Northwestern University
SPECIFICS ABOUT THE LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

- Homogeneity
- Oppression (External and Internal)
- Acculturation and Internalization
- Binary, Invisibility and Sensitivity