

## **National LGBT Roundtable Report**

December 2009

Dear Roundtable members:

Over the last year, we have seen tremendous movement at the federal level regarding rights and access for LGBT people, including LGBT older adults.

### **MOVEMENT ON ROUNDTABLE'S GOALS AND OUTCOMES**

In 2008, the Roundtable identified these four areas as major goals:

- Amending the Older Americans Act to include LGBT older adults
- Amending the Family Caregivers Act to further include LGBT families
- Include sexual orientation and gender identity in all federal research
- Adding LGBT to the minority populations funded through the Administration on Aging.

In March 2009, we identified the following as our key areas for outcomes as they tie to the goals above:

- Increasing visibility of LGBT older adults issues by including more LGBT older adults on advisory councils of the Area Agencies on Aging
- Building Leadership in LGBT Aging
- Getting LGBT Older Adults Counted
- Policy

Work has progressed steadily in all of these areas, thanks to the efforts of Roundtable members.

### **AMENDING THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT**

Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act takes place in 2011. As efforts to include LGBT language throughout the Department of Health and Human Services increases, this is an opportunity to strategize on ways to move this work forward in the next year.

### **AMENDING THE FAMILY CAREGIVERS ACT TO FURTHER INCLUDE LGBT FAMILIES**

As reported, the Family Caregivers' Act does allow for LGBT family structures to be included under the Act. This work, however, needs to be moved more strongly through increased awareness within the LGBT community, and stronger relationship-building between the LGBT community and the aging services network. Movement forward in this area over the last year has included:

- A meeting with AoA to discuss the need for more explicit inclusion of LGBT family structures in the regulations and administrative procedures related to Family Caregiving
- Meetings with Senator Gillebrand's Office to ensure that the Health Reform Bill amendment for Family Caregiver Education and Training includes cultural competency trainings for non-traditional caregiving teams
- A NIH-NIA funded grant to study LGBT caregiving
- Recognition by major private funders of aging services for LGBT caregiving

Movement we should be ready to discuss in the future includes:

- Increasing activity at the state and local level for funding to LGBT programs working with caregivers

## **INCLUDE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY IN ALL FEDERAL RESEARCH**

Under the new administration, there has been significant movement in offering inclusive language in federal research. Movement in this area over the last year includes:

- Inclusion in the House Health Reform Bill of LGBT people as a health disparities population, which opens up data collection opportunities

Also happening this year of interest in the areas of research:

- **Outing Age:** the updated Outing Age is now available.
- **MAP Project on LGBT Aging:** The Movement Advancement Project will be publishing a report on LGBT aging issues in spring 2010. MAP's reports are primarily directed to funders and stakeholders, and will cover wealth, health, and accessibility.
- **Collaborative Study on LGBT People in LTC settings:** the National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) has conducted an on-line survey, and garnered over 600 responses. We have been able to connect NSCLC with a researcher

who may be able to conduct the follow-up analysis and interviews with the approximately 150 respondees who offered to be interviewed.

- **Hurtful and Harmful Behavior Affecting LGBT Older Adults.** Dr. Arnold Grossman of NYU has been working with Roundtable members to gather important survey data from LGBT older adults regarding abuse/neglect issues. His study should be available in fall 2010.
- **LGBT Caregiving.** Dr. Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen is conducting a NIH-NIA funded study on health disparities of LGBT caregivers, and anticipates completion of this project in 2011. In addition, Met Life Mature Market is expected to release an updated LGBT Baby Boomer study with additional caregiving information.
- **NIH Study on “Building Sustainable Community-Linked Infrastructure to Enable Health Science Research.”** Letters of Inquiry were due this month for this Study, which was written with language that invites LGBT opportunities. UCSF Institute for Health Aging is working with LGBT aging organizations in California to pursue a collaborative project. Hunter College’s Public Policy Department is also applying for an evidence-based evaluation project to measure efficacy of LGBT cultural competency trainings.
- **NIH Grant Opportunity for Health Disparities Research on Minority and Underserved Populations:** A group of Massachusetts LGBT aging in Massachusetts including Fenway institute is submitting a grant to NIH for accessing LGBT older adults for study.

Movement we should be ready to discuss in the future includes:

- Advocacy to include a measure in the Senate Bill similar to that in the House bill for LGBT inclusion as a health disparity population
- An LGBT Health Director located within the DHHS

## **ADDING LGBT TO THE MINORITY POPULATIONS FUNDED THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING**

The AoA’s funding announcement to develop a national LGBT resource center is one key step that addresses the 2008 goal of adding LGBT to minority populations funded through the Administration on Aging. This resource center RFA is similar to those given out to national minority aging organizations, and is a significant step in the inclusion of LGBT older adults within the fabric of minority elders with specific needs.

## **INCREASING VISIBILITY OF LGBT OLDER ADULTS ISSUES BY INCLUDING MORE LGBT OLDER ADULTS ON ADVISORY COUNCILS OF THE AREA AGENCIES ON AGING**

SAGE received a substantial grant from Atlantic Philanthropies to increase civic engagement by LGBT older adults. This grant will be shared out with five SAGE affiliates around the country on advocacy opportunities unique to each program. Details on this work will be presented at the April Roundtable meeting.

## **POLICY**

The Roundtable requested an ambitious overview of state laws on aging and on LGBT anti-discrimination to assist with state-based advocacy efforts. The Task Force took this project on, and will be unveiling a comprehensive guide at Creating Change this year that will include an overview of how aging services are funded and administered in each state. Not resting on their laurels there, the Task Force will also be providing an update of its “Finding the Federal Dollars” guide. Hats off to Laurie Young for making this happen!

This work means that 2010 can provide an excellent opportunity for collaborative work between state equality federations, state AARP chapters, and LGBT aging programs. If you are interested in pushing this work further, please contact Laurie Young or Karen Taylor.

On the federal front, SAGE is hiring a Federal Director for Legislative Affairs. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please visit [www.sageusa.org](http://www.sageusa.org) and click on “About Us.” Our job announcements are located there.

## **MOVEMENT ON MEDICAID**

Another exciting collaborative that is beginning to gain some speed is related to Medicaid. Some work developed under the ACLU, who reached out to Lambda, the National Senior Citizens Law Center, and SAGE, regarding proposed policy changes to Medicaid administrative procedures. A letter to CMS has been crafted that outlines the harmful disparities that exist between the treatment of Medicaid beneficiaries with an opposite-sex spouse and the treatment of Medicaid beneficiaries with a same-sex partner. In particular, the letter suggests that CMS exercise its authority to clarify that a state may offer some protections to Medicaid beneficiaries with a same-sex partner without violating the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), because, the law does not

reserve such Medicaid protections to spouses, and same-sex partners need not be deemed spouses for such protections to be offered.

We had a “Medicaid Policy” call on December 21<sup>st</sup>, when Natalie Chin updated people on this work. Please watch your emails for additional phone calls.

## **HIV AND AGING – UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES**

### **White Paper Development**

SAGE has developed a white paper on HIV/AIDS and older LGBT people based on the discussions held at the Roundtable convenings in 2008 and 2009. The draft is attached, and will be discussed on an upcoming conference call in January. Please watch your email for date and time of the next call!

## **REGIONAL REPORTS**

**Midwest:** The Midwest Team is gathering information on outreach to AAA offices and state aging departments. Examples: Howard Brown Health Center just completed training with the Illinois State Department on Aging and case managers. GLBT Generations is continuing to involve area AAA offices and surveying service providers in regard to readiness to service LGBT older adults; and SAGE Metro St. Louis recently submitted recommendation for LGBT inclusiveness within the Missouri State Aging Plan to the Division of Senior and Disability Services.

**California:** the Aging Workgroup of Equality California, which is comprised of LGBT aging organizations, is advocating with the California Department of Public Health to identify the best way to draft regulations for SB1728, which would require licensed health professionals who have constant interaction with seniors in nursing homes and senior care facilities to receive training to better understand how to foster an environment that is free from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Boston:** We thought you'd be interested in Outtake Voices' interview with Lisa Krinsky, Director of the LGBT Aging Project in Boston on the effect Massachusetts' marriage laws have on the rights and benefits for the commonwealth's LGBT seniors. Visit [OUTTAKE VOICES™ - http://voices.outtakeonline.com](http://voices.outtakeonline.com)



## **New Roundtable Members This Year**

We are happy to welcome

- AIDS Community Research Initiative of America, represented by Executive Director Dan Tietz.
- National Center for Transgender Equality, represented by Policy Counsel Harper Jean Tobin

All Roundtable members represent organizations that have committed time, resources, services and/or advocacy efforts to LGBT aging, and have the authority to speak on behalf of their agency. If you know of an entity that meets these requirements and should be invited to participate, please contact Karen Taylor.

An updated list of contacts is available.

## **Next Roundtable Meeting – April 2010 in Washington, DC**

Please keep your calendars open the last two weeks of April 2010. We are working on a 3-day gathering in Washington DC that will include a Hill Visit and a Congressional Briefing on LGBT Aging. Once we have obtained a date for the briefing, we will give you definitive dates.