

GLBT...It's not a sandwich.

- Sexual Orientation
 - Gay / Lesbian: Attracted to members of the same sex
 - Bisexual: Attracted to either sex
- Gender Identity
 - Transgender: Umbrella term for non-conventional gender expression

Overview

- Pre-Stonewall life experiences
- Different from Baby-Boomers
- Estimated 2.8 million nation-wide



Isolation

- Live Alone (2X that of total population)
- No Life Partner (2X)
- No Children (4X)
- No Crisis Contact (10X)



Reluctance to Access Service

- GLBT elders are 5 times less likely to access social services than larger population
- Tend to wait for crises
- Feel need to return to closet
- Heterosexuality assumed
- Cisgender assumed



Assumed Heterosexual and Cisgendered

- Informs programming/service delivery
- Limits language for intake
- Limits discussion of relationships
- Limits life reminiscing
- Marginalizes/alienates GLBT elders



Policy Impact– GLBT Families

- Marriage-related benefits very valuable in old age
- Married, heterosexual families receive:
 - Medicaid spend down protections
 - Housing
 - FMLA benefits
 - Inheritance
 - Hospital visitation
 - Employee health benefits
 - Soc Sec survivor benefits



Is aging different for GLBT elders?

- Face old age alone
- Lack traditional family supports in times of crisis
- Invisible to service providers/policy makers
- Discriminated against because they are gay or transgender
- Shunned because they are old

Local Activities

- 2002 GLBT Elder Needs Assessment
- 2007 Metro Service Provider Readiness
- 2008 Training to Serve



GLBT Needs Assessment Survey

Description of Study

- 29-question survey instrument
- Recruited 10 GLBT organizations
- 2900 surveys delivered (2002)
- 584 surveys returned

GLBT Needs Assessment Survey

- Do you feel that existing senior social services would be sensitive to you as a GLBT person when you are old?
Yes 10% No 36% Don't Know 54%
- Would you be more inclined to use these existing senior social services if you knew that staff members were GLBT sensitive?
Yes 95% No 5%

GLBT Needs Assessment Survey

- Do you feel that existing senior housing providers would be sensitive to you as a GLBT person when you are old?
Yes 5% No 50% Don't Know 45%
- Would you be more inclined to use existing senior housing providers if you knew that staff members were GLBT sensitive?
Yes 93% No 7%

MAAA/UM SURVEY

Results of Metropolitan Aging Services Providers Study

MAAA/UM SURVEY

Description of study

- Providers of aging services in metropolitan area: MAAA, hospice, senior centers, adult day care
- Online survey
- Early 2007
- 152 providers invited, 97 responded, 84 completed

MAAA/UM SURVEY

Results

- 3 out of 5 believe in addressing GL-specific issues
- Only 5 target outreach and only 2 target services
- 3 out of 4 would offer training
- Less than 1 out of 5 have provided training

MAAA/UM SURVEY

Results

- 3 out of 5 believe older GL people welcome at senior centers
- Evenly divided on separate or integrated services
- Written themes:
 - Don't ask, don't tell
 - Same service to everyone
 - What problem?

What's Next?

Training

- Summer 2008 - Develop Materials
- Fall 2008 - Train Trainers
- Winter 2009 - Training Available

What are some things you can do?



Things You Can Do

- Intake Forms, Assessment Tools
- Pamphlets, publicity, outreach materials
- Physical Environment
- Include Created & Extended Family
- GLBT Programming
- Staff & Resident Sensitivity Training