

Engaging the Community

THE SENIOR PRIDE NETWORK



Dick Moore

Trainer, Consultant
Port Colborne, Ontario



Early Days

- Community Soundings
- Findings and Mandate



Initial Gatherings

- Public |Health
 - Sherbourne Health Centre
 - Family Service
 - Women's College Hospital
 - Hassel Free Clinic
 - Central Neighbourhood House
 - Prime Timers
 - OLIVE
 - 50+ Toronto
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Interest and Willingness

- Organizations were generally committed to universal access, serving the whole person and client centered care.
 - They were unaware of Older LGBTTT people's special needs
 - When they became aware, they were willing to consider change.
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Community Forums (Fora)

- Health Aging
- Creating Community



Next Steps

- Outreach
 - to interested, involved older LGBTTT people and organizations
 - other health, social service organizations, faith groups
 - Presentations at conferences
 - Presentation to District Health Council's Placement Forum
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Growth in Small Steps

- Membership
- Meetings
- Training Requests
- Outreach to Colleges training Personal Support Workers
- Small Projects



The Visibility Project

A poster celebrating older LGBTTT people and their contributions to the community



Growth and Development of Network

- 200? day long planning session
- Develop Terms of Reference
 - Mission, vision
 - Membership
 - Structure
 - Meeting schedule
 - Decision Making



First Annual Conference 2006

- Opportunity for Learning and Networking
 - Sessions for both older LGBTTT people and service providers
 - Sponsorship by The 519, Homes for Aged Division of City of Toronto
 - Seniors come free
 - Reasonable fee for Service Providers
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Three subsequent annual conferences

- Similar format
 - Keynote speakers
 - Some paid presenters
 - More sponsorship
 - Staffing resources
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Recent Developments

- Establishment of an independent queer seniors advocacy .
- 519 proposes that Senior Pride Network become part of Older LGBTTT Program.



What is learned form the experience?

- Appeal to individual's and organizations commitment to professionalism, equity and fairness.
 - Provide support and encouragement for involvement.
 - Start small and grow.
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