



TO: HHS LGBT Coordinating Committee

FROM: Health Resources and Services Administration

DATE: June 3, 2014

SUBJECT: Annual Update on LGBT Activities, Releases, Events, and Issues

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary federal agency for improving access to health care by strengthening the health care workforce, building healthy communities, and achieving health equity. HRSA's programs provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable—and this includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) populations. In fact, HRSA has been working on issues that impact LGBT communities for decades to better meet the health needs of these communities. The following is a list of HRSA-supported activities and accomplishments for 2013-2014. In communities across the country, HRSA remains committed to addressing the health needs of LGBT individuals.

Updates are organized according to the following topics:

1. Grants and Contracts
2. Policy Initiatives
3. Cultural Competency, Capacity Building, and Workforce Development
4. Data and Measurement Strategies
5. Stakeholder Outreach
6. Public Education and Communication Initiative/Efforts

1. Grants and Contracts

This section includes Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) that are LGBT-specific or explicitly inclusive of LGBT populations, and/or progress on funded projects with funding levels, number of awards, and fiscal years (FY).

- The Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) “Enhancing Access to and Retention in Quality HIV Care for Transgender Women of Color” initiative has completed its first 18 months. This \$3.2 million per year initiative funded by the HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) will identify, evaluate, and disseminate successful strategies to improve engagement and retention in HIV primary care for transgender women of color living with HIV. Nine demonstration project grants were awarded in four cities: two in New York, two in Chicago, two in Los Angeles, and three in the San Francisco Bay area. The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is serving as the Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center (ETAC), which will lead the multisite evaluation and also provide technical assistance to the demonstration sites. The ETAC and all nine demonstration projects have received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for the multisite and local evaluations. By the beginning of 2014, all nine demonstration projects had launched their identification, access, retention, and adherence interventions, and have begun enrollment of participants in the evaluations.
- HAB released a FOA for a Cooperative Agreement to compile, replicate, and distribute effective models and technical assistance resources for HIV clinical care and treatment for adult and young Black Men who have Sex with Men (Black MSM), ages 13-24. This two-year project (anticipated award July 2014) will specifically focus on integrated HIV prevention; effective models for HIV clinical care and treatment across the HIV care continuum; and best practices for comprehensive HIV clinical care for Black MSM. The primary objective is to inventory existing evidence-based interventions and strategies as a step toward identifying and disseminating best practices and models of care that work for this population. This inventory will serve as foundational material for technical assistance to current health services providers. The resources, models, and strategies will be broadly disseminated through webinars and other electronic and social media to HIV/AIDS providers, health centers and health departments, federally and non-federally funded organizations, and to HIV/AIDS stakeholders across the nation caring for Black MSM living with HIV.
- A National Cooperative Agreement is being funded through the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) in the amount of \$297,500 per year to the National LGBT Health Education Center (Fenway Community Health Center) to help health centers improve the delivery of health care services to LGBT populations through training and technical assistance. The Agreement is currently in year three of a three-year project period. A selected list of trainings created by the National LGBT Health Education Center is included in section three.

2. Policy Initiatives

This section includes development and dissemination of rules, guidelines, or other policy mechanisms that impact the LGBT community.

In response to the Supreme Court ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act (U.S. v. Windsor, 133 S. Ct. 2675) and subsequent guidance from the Department of Justice, HRSA revised all relevant program guidance. All FOAs will include a description of the policy and notice that a standard term and condition of award will be included in the final Notice of Award (NOA).

- In January 2014, the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)¹ issued its 2014 application guidance for loan repayment for both the National Health Service Corps and NURSE Corps. BHW updated the guidance to reflect that any reference to “spouse,” “couple,” or “marriage,” as well as any reference to “family” or “family member” now includes same-sex couples who are legally married in jurisdictions that recognize their marriages. The guidance applies regardless of whether the couple lives in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage or in a jurisdiction that does not recognize same-sex marriage. HRSA is disseminating this update to its current members through social media and on its website: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/corpsexperience/aboutus/policies/policyupdates/index.html>.
- BHW is updating guidance used to identify a “low-income family” for the purpose of determining eligibility for programs that provide health professions and nursing training for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. HRSA generally uses the income of the student’s parents to determine low-income status. Now that married same-sex parents will be recognized on equal terms to married opposite-sex parents, the incomes of married same-sex parents will be used to calculate low-income levels, thus affecting the eligibility of the student applying for the loan or scholarship.
- In March 2014, HAB issued Frequently Asked Questions for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) grantees on how to handle same-sex marriages if they decide to align their RWHAP financial eligibility requirements with the new Affordable Care Act Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)-based methodologies. The RWHAP legislation does not impose specific income eligibility requirements, but instead, allows the states to establish income eligibility criteria based on the state’s definition of individual and household composition. For this reason, the states have considerable flexibility and could decide to align eligibility requirements with the Affordable Care Act, or could choose to retain the requirements that currently exist. The FAQ is available at <http://hab.hrsa.gov/affordablecareact/samesexmarriagemagi.pdf>.
- BPHC added the following term to health center Notices of Awards as of April 2014: health centers are expected to recognize any same-sex marriage legally entered into or recognized in jurisdictions that recognize their marriages in one of the 50 states, the

¹ The Bureau of Health Workforce was created in May 2014, integrating HRSA workforce programs previously housed in two bureaus: Health Professions and Clinician Recruitment and Service.

District of Columbia, a U.S. territory, or a foreign country. Specifically, same-sex spouses must be recognized as such as long as they have entered into a legally valid marriage in any jurisdiction. This applies regardless of whether the couple lives in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage or a jurisdiction that does not recognize same-sex marriage. However, this does not apply to registered domestic partnerships, civil unions, or similar formal relationships recognized under the law of the jurisdiction of celebration as something other than a marriage. Accordingly, health centers must review and revise, as needed, internal health center policies and procedures which include references to familial relationships, such as spouse, husband, wife, marriage, or other terms related to the recognition of a marriage and/or family, to reflect this recognition. In addition, HRSA will apply pertinent Health Center Program requirements, including those relating to sliding fee scale and conflict of interest, consistent with this interpretation.

- In addition, BPHC distributed the following summary information about this term through its Health Center Program wide newsletter, the Primary Health Care Digest: health centers will see a new term added to their NOAs regarding recognition of same-sex marriages legally entered into in jurisdictions that recognize their marriages in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory, or a foreign country and the need to review and revise, as needed, internal health center policies along with implementing procedures and training materials to reflect this recognition. These policies may include but are not limited to: personnel policies, sliding fee discount program policies, and conflict of interest policies. As an example of how same-sex spouse/marriage recognition may relate to Health Center Program regulations at 42 CFR 51c.304(b) and 42 CFR 56.304(b), conflict of interest policies must, at a minimum, require that no member of the board shall be an employee of the health center, or spouse, child, parent, brother, or sister of an employee. Regardless of whether the health center includes the term “spouse” in its conflict of interest policies related to board members, health centers must ensure that this restriction is applied to same-sex spouses. In addition, HRSA will apply pertinent Health Center Program requirements, including those relating to sliding fee scale and conflict of interest, consistent with this interpretation.

3. Cultural Competency, Capacity Building, and Workforce Development

This section includes trainings, webinars, conference calls, technical assistance initiatives, curricula development, and other publications and products that provide cultural competency training to HHS employees, program recipients, grantees, or others to improve capacity to provide quality services and research for LGBT populations.

- The National LGBT Health Education Center (Fenway Community Health Center) provides training and technical assistance on LGBT health needs and services to health centers across the nation. They offer a range of training topics that respond to needs expressed by health centers and that reflect current research findings and national initiatives affecting health centers locally and nationally. These trainings are conducted at a variety of venues including national conferences, regional trainings, national webinars, small group meetings, and local individual health centers. Many of the trainings are done in collaboration with fellow National Cooperative Agreements,

Primary Care Associations, and departments of public health. A number of the educational programs offer Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Education Units (CEU).

A monthly webinar series was launched that focuses on the needs and interest of health centers. The trainings can be viewed live or via archived trainings on their website: <http://www.lgbthealtheducation.org>. Sample topics include:

- Meeting the Health Care Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: The End to LGBT Invisibility (November 2013)
- Calidad de cuidado para lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgéneros y transexuales: Eliminando la invisibilidad y las disparidades en salud (April 2013)
- Optimizing LGBT Health Under the Affordable Care Act (August 2013)
- Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Mental Health in Children and Adolescents (October 2013)
- Transgender Medical Care: Advanced Case Discussion (December 2013)
- Behavioral Health Care for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People (January 2014)
- The Affordable Care Act and HIV: Maximizing Opportunities for Coverage and Care (February 2014)

Sample publications produced under this National Cooperative Agreement include:

- Optimizing LGBT Health Under the Affordable Care Act: Strategies for Health Centers – available at <http://www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/Brief-Optimizing-LGBT-Health-Under-ACA-FINAL-12-06-2013.pdf>
- Affirmative Care for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People: Best Practices for Front-line Health Care Staff – available at http://www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/13-017_TransBestPracticesforFrontlineStaff_v9_04-30-13.pdf
- Do Ask, Do Tell: Talking to your provider about being LGBT – available at http://www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/COM13-067_LGBTHAWbrochure_v4.pdf
- BHPf funds Public Health Training Centers (PHTC), Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), and geriatrics programs that offer LGBT-specific cultural competency and workforce development programs.

Public Health Training Centers Program (PHTC):

- South Carolina Public Health Training Center (SC PHTC): in 2012, SC PHTC developed a project that partnered with the SC Tobacco Collaborative to plan tobacco cessation activities for LGBT underrepresented minority groups. This ongoing project provides technical, evaluation, and data collection/analysis support.
- Connecticut-Rhode Island Public Health Training Center (CT-RI PHTC): this collaborative program, “Knowledge of Acute HIV Infection by At-Risk College Students 2012,” examined levels of HIV-related knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors

- in at-risk college students with a focus on knowledge about Acute HIV Infection (AHI). A survey was administered to a group of 250 college students who associated with LGBT advocacy or support groups. Study results provided baseline data on knowledge of acute HIV infection that informed the development of interventions aimed at improving AHI awareness among at-risk college-age populations. An example of a course developed from this study in April 2013 is entitled, “HIV Crisis among Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) in CT and RI: Terminology, Trends, and Innovative Programs” and can be found at <https://ct.train.org/DesktopModules/eLearning/CourseDetails/CourseDetailsForm.aspx?tabid=96&courseid=1043349&backURL=L0Rlc2t0b3BTaGVsbC5hc3B4P3RhYkI kPTk2>
- Puerto Rico-Florida Public Health Training Center (PR-FL PHTC): in 2013, teams of faculty and one or more of their students promoted applied research in the areas of population health and underserved populations like the LGBT community. These teams were ranked before a panel of faculty and other experts. One of the graduate students was awarded first prize in the Master Degree Category for his research on same-sex couples in Puerto Rico in the 33rd Annual Education and Research Forum, University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus. In addition, five local newspapers carried reports of study findings to further community dissemination.

Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC):

- New York ***Area Health Education Center Program*** (AHEC) Program: in May 2013, the regional Catskill Hudson AHEC center, affiliated with the New York AHEC program, held a health professions summit on the topic of “Improving Healthcare to LGBT Individuals and Families: Awareness to Action.” This program targeted all health professions, but emphasis was placed on physician practices in an effort to adapt a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Friendly Culture in their offices.
- North Carolina AHEC Program: the North Carolina AHEC program and its regional AHEC centers have offered symposia, continuing education, professional development trainings, and presentations that address LGBT health across the state for health care providers, social service providers, and the community. Topics have included understanding the needs of the transgender patients, school-based interventions and support for LGBTQ youth, ethics and counseling services, mental health needs, and serving the needs of LGBTQ elders.
- Northeastern Vermont AHEC center (NVAHEC) has conducted presentations to health care providers and to community gatherings about the special issues LGBTQ elders face as they age. They also screened the documentary film, “Gen Silent—the Generation that fought hardest to come out is going back in to survive,” facilitated discussion, and awarded continuing education credits to more than 260 physicians, nurses, nursing home administrators, social workers, mental health counselors, and direct care givers. NVAHEC continues to conduct two and three-hour “Train the

- Trainer” presentations designed to enable participants to return to their hospitals and long-term care facilities with the ability to increase awareness and provide better care.
- Vermont Regional Champlain Valley AHEC center developed and published the “Cultural Competency in Health Care Professionals” manual, a resource designed for health care providers to support understanding of how to best meet the health needs of a diverse population in practices. The manual’s special population chapters include racial and ethnic minority communities, refugees, LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex) populations, migrant farm workers, and elderly. The latest version is from January 2013 and can be found at <http://www.cvahec.org/app/wpcontent/uploads/PDFs/CulturalCompetencyforHealthcareProviders13.pdf>.
 - California AHEC Program: included in previous reports, California AHEC centers continue to offer webinars, presentations, and CME events that address LGBT health, including the San Francisco AHEC and South Bay AHEC centers. AHEC Centers have partnered with the San Jose AIDS Education and Training Center and the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center to offer CME events for clinicians.

Geriatrics Programs:

- The UCSF/Northern CA Geriatric Education Center sponsored a conference entitled, “Equality: Opportunities Now.” The conference included discussion on the striking down of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA); culturally-competent care post-DOMA; federal taxes, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, Medicare; best practices; HIV in older adults; and local resources. Materials from the conference are available at <http://www.ioaging.org/education-training-and-expert-speakers/lgbt-aging-conference>.
- The University of Texas at San Antonio, funded under the Geriatric Training for Physicians, Dentists, and Mental Health Professionals program, screened the documentary film, “Gen Silent,” and cultural competency training was provided to help care for LGBT clients. All fellows participate annually in a two-hour training session using the training kit which can be ordered at http://stumaddux.com/gen_silent_TRAINING_ORDER_PAGE.html.
- The University of Washington, School of Nursing, funded under the Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program, offers several activities in support of educating health care providers on the health needs of LGBTI populations. The project maintains a blog called Culture and Health: A Festival of Ideas and Resources. More information can be found at <http://cultureandhealth.wordpress.com/about/>. Postings on the blog include:
 - Healthy People 2020 Spotlight on LGBT Health: Transgender Health
 - LGBT youth: Resources for Families and Schools
 - Health disparities among LGBTI youth

In addition, the grantee has built an online resource center called the Geriatrics Information Portal (<http://nursing.uw.edu/de-tornyay-center-healthy-aging/geriatrics-information-portal>) that serves as a central site where resources can be found to inform geriatrics care.

Included in the 2012-2013 report, but curriculum/training is still utilized:

- Nurses Health Education About LGBT Elders Curriculum, funded under the Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program since 2009, is a six-module, online course in the health care needs of LGBT elders. An additional module condenses all six modules into Spanish. A comprehensive reference list is also included. Continuing education credits for nurses are available only if the learner attends the in-person session. A “Train the Trainer” curriculum is also available. More information can be found at http://www.howardbrown.org/hb_services.asp?id=2224.
- Training to Serve (Geriatric Education Centers) offers trainings in a variety of formats, and the curriculum provides information on the history of the LGBT population, unique aspects of LGBT aging, and take-home resources. The website lists resources and ongoing research projects on LGBT populations and is available at <http://www.trainingtoserve.org/index.html>.
- Project Visibility (Geriatric Education Centers) is a nationally recognized program developed by the Boulder County Aging Services that offers structured discussions and practical solutions for improving the care of the LGBT older adult. Trainings are provided in-person only. More information can be found at <http://www.bouldercounty.org/family/seniors/pages/projvis.aspx>.
- Gay and Gray: Unique Challenges Facing LGBT Elders (Geriatric Education Centers) is a webinar that provides information on unique challenges facing LGBT elders and can be found at <http://www.okgec.org/>. Once on the site, click on “On-Demand Webinars” and then click on “Visit the Complete OKGEC Webinar Catalog Now.”
- Health Issues in the LGBT Aging Community (Geriatric Education Centers) is a lecture that explains the appropriate terminology, disparities, and special health concerns for the LGBT aging community. It consists of a streaming video presentation, Q&A, presentation slides, and a five-point quiz on the material. The training is available at <http://preview.huskyweb.washington.edu/educational-opportunities/lectures/online-videos/health-issues-in-lgbt-aging-community>. To access this lecture, register on the NWGEC website at <http://www.nwgec.org/>. Registration is free.

4. Data and Measurement Strategies

This section includes questions on sexual orientation and/or gender identity (*already in use or in development*) on surveys, forms, grant reporting mechanisms, etc. This section may

also include the results of data collected on LGBT communities, how they were analyzed, and whether or not population-specific methodologies were used.

- OWH, in collaboration with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), developed the 12th edition of Women's Health USA (2013). The data book provides readers with a user friendly collection of current and historical data on some of the most pressing health challenges facing women, their families, and communities. The data book is intended to be a concise reference for policymakers and program managers at the federal, state, and local levels to identify and clarify issues affecting women. The 2013 edition features new special population pages highlighting data on the characteristics and health of lesbian and bisexual women.
- BPHC plans to include questions related to gender identity in the upcoming 2014 Health Center Patient Survey (i.e., Patient Survey) to be fielded in the late summer or early fall. The Patient Survey was posted in the *Federal Register* for public comment (due June 4, 2014) and the wording used in the survey instrument is still subject to change.
- HRSA recruits subject matter experts to serve as peer reviewers to objectively evaluate a competitive group of grant applications against the published criteria in HRSA FOAs. Reviewers are chosen based on their knowledge, education, experience, and any criteria included in the FOA that the applicants must respond to. Interested individuals may register online in the HRSA Reviewer Recruitment Module located at <https://rrm.grantsolutions.gov/AgencyPortal/hrsa.aspx>. In the profile section, individuals may select that they are “affiliated with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender Community.”
- The Healthy People 2020 LGBT Workgroup, which is co-led by HRSA and the HHS Office of Minority Health, is tasked with developing the content for the new LGBT Health topic area and monitoring progress on the objectives. In April 2014, the Federal Interagency Workgroup, which is the governing body for Healthy People, approved two new LGBT Health objectives proposed by the workgroup. The new objectives set a target of doubling the number of surveys that collect data on (or for) LGBT populations, by 2020. With the baseline year set at 2008, this means going from six to 12 surveys for LGBT populations, and going from two to four surveys for transgender populations. These new objectives will enable the counting of all surveys that identify LGBT populations even if those questions are not in the survey's core set of questions. The new objectives also do not require the use of a standardized question since there is no federal agreement on a standard question for sexual orientation or gender identity. More information is available at <http://healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicid=25>.

5. Stakeholder Outreach

This section includes meetings, speaking engagements, conference calls, and other outreach to external stakeholder organizations.

- On June 13, 2013, staff of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) served on a panel at the National Institutes of Health 2013 Pride Observance: Painting Kinder Tomorrows Today, Eliminating Bullying through Education, Practice, Research, and Advocacy. HRSA's contribution to the panel centered on the latest science around best practices in programs and policies designed to stop bullying.
- On February 16, 2014, MCHB staff served on a panel at the Human Rights Campaign Time to Thrive conference, an event that attracted over 600 participants from across the country. HRSA's presentation included research on the increased bullying risk experienced by LGBT youth, or youth perceived as LGBT. In addition, HRSA described free resources available to the public to help drive effective policies and programs that can keep youth safe from bullying, such as the StopBullying.gov Training Center launched in January 2014.
- On March 26, 2014, HRSA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) held a webinar open to the public and professional audiences focusing on the needs of children and youth with mental challenges. The webinar was entitled "A Guide to Inform Local Efforts to Support and Affirm LGBTQI2-S Children, Youth, and Families" and included Andy Hunt (SAMHSA), Jeff Poirier (SAMHSA), Sylvia K. Fisher (HRSA) and Jeremy Long (youth presenter).
- Sylvia K. Fisher of HRSA's Office of Planning, Analysis, and Evaluation (OPAE), is a charter and regular member of the National Workgroup on Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, or Two-Spirit (LGBTQI2-S) Youth, and Their Families, which is sponsored by SAMHSA. This National Workgroup includes an extensive membership of behavioral health care professionals and providers, youth, family members, and other constituencies who focus on the development of resources and culturally and linguistically appropriate resources and interventions to address the needs of LGBTQI2-S youth with mental health challenges.

HRSA Office of Regional Operations (ORO) Activities:

- The New York (Region II), Philadelphia (Region III), Dallas (Region VI), Denver (Region VIII), and San Francisco (Region IX) Offices have been actively engaged with local, state, and national LGBT organizations.
- HRSA's San Francisco and Denver Regional Offices regularly present on the ACA to providers and communities for LGBT populations.
- The New York Regional Office collaborates with the New York Gay and Lesbian Physicians (NYGLP), most recently to share information about the ACA and HRSA's support of LGBT health at NYGLP's quarterly meeting in March 2014. Founded in 1995, NYGLP provides support and networking opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender physicians, medical students, and residents. The New York office shares information with NYGLP about HRSA resources, grant opportunities, and the ACA.

- The New York Regional Office engages in ongoing ACA outreach and enrollment activities with Out2Enroll. Out2Enroll is a coalition of organizations that want to help LGBT people stay healthy by making sure that one of the major benefits of the ACA, access to affordable comprehensive health insurance coverage, reaches LGBT communities. Outreach activities began in FY 2013 and continue into FY 2014.
- The New York Regional Office participates in ongoing collaboration with the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, a HRSA-funded community health center in Manhattan with a large LGBT population. Outreach activities began in FY 2013 and continue into FY 2014.
- On December 12, 2013, two events were held to address the ACA and Philadelphia's LGBT community:
 - Event #1 was designed for Navigators, Certified Application Counselors (CAC), and other in-person assisters. The session offered information on how LGBT individuals are being impacted by the ACA and the Health Insurance Marketplace.
 - Event #2 was designed for Philadelphia LGBT individuals to offer information about insurance, address LGBT-specific questions, and provide on-site assistance (offered by Certified Application Counselors) with enrollment. ORO assisted with promoting the events to local stakeholder organizations, which were held at Jefferson University and attended by approximately 65 individuals. The event was co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Out2Enroll and hosted locally by Mazzoni Center, the LGBT Elder Initiative, and the William Way LGBT Community Center. The events were acknowledged in a recent article in the Washington Post, available at http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/on-health-care-white-house-and-others-reach-out-to-lgbt-americans/2013/12/16/6223d136-667c-11e3-8b5b-a77187b716a3_story.html.
- On February 10, 2014, the Philadelphia Regional Office convened a meeting for staff who manage, plan, or conduct Health Insurance Marketplace outreach and enrollment activities for consumers in Philadelphia. Forty-five people attended from 25 Navigator Organizations, Certified Application Counselor Organizations, and Health or Social Service Organizations conducting Marketplace outreach and offering in-person assistance. Among attendees was the Director of Safeguards, a Philadelphia-based organization created to: enhance the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and communities; advance the knowledge of health issues affecting these communities; and develop public health programs that promote healthy change on an individual, group, and institutional level. Attendees shared best practices and resources. Further, attendees discussed outreach and enrollment needs and partnership opportunities.
- On October 18, 2013, the Philadelphia Regional Office visited Philadelphia FIGHT, a HRSA new-access point grantee, as well as a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part C grantee. Located in the center of Philadelphia's "gayborhood," organization leadership discussed with HRSA its approaches to providing culturally-competent health services, including several LGBT-specific initiatives.

- The Philadelphia Regional Office conducted several meetings with the Executive Director of the William Way LGBT Community Center, a Philadelphia-based organization which seeks to encourage, support, and advocate for the well-being and acceptance of sexual and gender minorities through service, recreational, and cultural programming. Meetings were intended to explore collaboration opportunities, one of which included the above-mentioned Marketplace Outreach event on December 12, 2013.
- HRSA's Dallas Regional Office, in collaboration with SAMHSA, is planning a site visit in September to the Montrose Counseling Center in Houston, Texas, which partners with a Federally Qualified Health Center to provide behavioral health services to the LGBT community. This visit is in response to the SAMHSA and HRSA collaboration which partnered on curricula to help primary care practitioners assess, treat, and refer LGBT clients in a culturally-competent manner.

6. Public Education and Communication Initiatives/Efforts

This section includes website content, brochures, fact sheets, or other documents educating the LGBT community and/or the general public about HHS LGBT-related programs via traditional or social media.

- The HRSA Bullying Prevention Training Module is designed to educate local community leaders on the latest science in bullying prevention and support collaborative action planning to increase the adoption of best practice policies and programs. This training resource cites the results of a recent National School Climate Survey, administered by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, describing the prevalence and characteristics of bullying victimization among youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. The training module also points to available research on federal policies related to bullying and discrimination. All of these materials are located free to the public on the StopBullying.gov Training Center.
- HRSA has continued its decade-long collaboration with the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network in the promotion of No Name Calling Week, an annual weeklong event with educational activities aimed to stop name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to eliminate bullying in their communities. In recent years, HRSA's contribution has been to increase awareness of No Name Calling Week through blogging on <http://StopBullying.gov> and supporting the campaign messages through Stopbullying.gov Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Sylvia Fisher (OPAE) is a co-author of "A guide for understanding, supporting, and affirming LGBTQI2-S children, youth, families," published in 2014 by the American Institutes for Research. This guide, funded by SAMHSA, is available online at http://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/A_Guide_for_Understanding_Supporting_and_Affirming_LGBTQI2-S_Children_Youth_and_Families.pdf.