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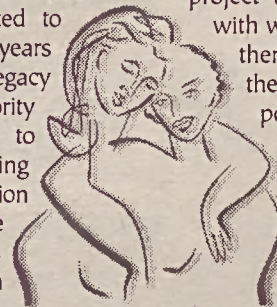


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Mautner receives huge grant

Lesbian health organization wins major funding for smoking prevention and cessation

WASHINGTON, DC — The Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer has won the largest grant ever awarded for lesbian-specific smoking prevention and cessation. The Mautner Project was selected to receive \$499,000 over three years as part of the American Legacy Foundation's \$21 million Priority Populations grant program to build and strengthen existing tobacco prevention and cessation efforts and develop creative solutions to populations currently suffering from tobacco's grip.



"Smoking kills more lesbians each year than hate crimes, suicide and breast cancer combined," says Mautner Project Executive Director Kathleen DeBold. "Tobacco equals death and we are sick to death of losing our sisters so needlessly. This grant will truly make a difference in our ability to change that."

A major focus of the Mautner Project's enhanced anti-tobacco program will be the development and implementation of a successful, sustainable, nationwide lesbian-focused anti-smoking media/countermarketing campaign. Two important facets of this project will be researching the most effective messages, media, messengers and identifying and utilizing existing networks for reaching our target population.

"People respond best to health

promotion and disease prevention programs and messages designed specifically for them by other members of their community, and delivered by messengers and media they are familiar with and trust," says DeBold. "The Mautner Project's anti-smoking programs will be lesbian-designed and lesbian-focused project (including all women who partner with women, regardless of how they label themselves) with a special emphasis on the double underserved and at-risk populations of butch/femme lesbians, non-urban lesbians, working-class lesbians and lesbians of color."

The Mautner Project is proud that Legacy has recognized the value of its long-term commitment to fighting tobacco use. "[Legacy] received an overwhelming response to this Initiative, which resulted in a highly competitive awards process. Thus, grants were awarded to applicants in the highest tier of excellence," says Adin C. Miller, Legacy's Director of Grants. Legacy received 335 applications as a result its request for proposals (RFP), first released in early 2001, titled Priority Populations Initiative, Expanding the Dialogue: Reducing Disparities in Tobacco Control, and relied on the guidance of professionals in relevant fields in evaluating the submissions of organizations whose work it supports through its grant programs. A total of 80 grants were awarded nationwide.

info:

www.mautnerproject.org

Guidelines for sex risk assessment

Medical group effort to slow down the rates of HIV and other STD transmission

by Ron Tierny

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association released two sets of medical guidelines regarding health care for Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM).

"While there is some disagreement on the rates of HIV and STD transmission," said Christopher E. Harris, MD, GLMA President, "there is no debate about the importance of reducing the number of people exposed to debilitating or life threatening diseases. One important contribution to that reduction is to make sure that health care providers know how to communicate with their MSM patients and how to properly assess health risk."

To this end, GLMA board member Jason Schneider, MD, developed two sets of guidelines for health care providers. One is *Creating a Safe Clinical Environment for Men Who Have Sex With Men*. The recommendations address the patient-clinician relationship, starting with the office and waiting room environment, continuing through the patient intake forms, and ending with the patient interview.

The second is the *MSM: Clinician's Guide to Incorporating Sexual Risk Assessment in Routine Visits*.

"It is not enough," said Schneider, "to know that this patient is an MSM, but that there are cultural differences as well within that population."

The guidelines discuss the effects of stigma that many gay-identified MSM face every day of their lives and also discusses other barriers to appropriate treatment that might stem from race, ethnicity and economic status.

"Failing to understand differences in cultures and how complex the interaction is between ethnicity, sexual orientation and sexual identity could mean failure to recognize health needs or failure to effectively communicate important prevention messages," Schneider said.

"One of the things we learned during our hepatitis immunization campaign," Harris said, "is that those people who are able to talk openly and honestly with their doctors are more likely to get the appropriate treatment. The questions are, do the doctors and other health care providers know how to create an open and honest environment and do they understand the health issues that MSM patients face? Many don't."

Guidelines are available on the website.

info:

www.glma.org/medical/clinical/msm_guidelines.html



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