

INVITATION LETTER

To: Transgender Youth Services Providers

From: The Youth Evaluation Services Center (YES), GWU
Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS), HRSA

Re: Transgender Youth of Color and HIV
National Conference Calls



The YES Center at George Washington University, in collaboration with the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) funded initiative “Outreach, Care, and Prevention to Engage HIV Seropositive Young MSM of Color” would like to invite you to participate in a four-call series on “Transgender Youth of Color and HIV.” National leaders in transgender health and services will be presenting on the following topics:

- Transgender Youth 101
- Access to Medical Care for Transgender Youth
- Social Service Needs of Transgender Youth
- Advocating and Referring Transgender Youth

Transgender youth have been long overlooked for HIV prevention messages and referral into clinical care. Yet, transgender youth are significantly impacted by HIV. Several factors account for the high rates of HIV within the transgender community including: stigma and discrimination; drug and alcohol abuse; injection of hormones; survival sex; lack of access to medical care; economic hardships; and poor safer sex negotiating skills.¹ Even with high HIV rates among transgenders, they self-identify as having a low risk for HIV.²

However, a recent study of ethnic-minority MTF transgender youth aged 16-25 supports that these factors play an important role in HIV transmission. Participants in the study reported: a history of incarceration (37%); homelessness (18%); sex in exchange for resources (59%); forced sexual activity (52%); difficulty finding a job (63%); and difficulty accessing health care (41%). Of these transgender MTFs, 98% reported having sex with men; 49% had unprotected receptive anal intercourse; and 53% had sex under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Substance abuse was overwhelmingly marijuana use (71%) and alcohol (65%). Twenty-two percent (22%) of those in the study were HIV positive.³

These factors lead to low self-esteem, which increases substance abuse and other risky behaviors. Social marginalization, which these factors promote, can result in a lack of access to

¹ Melendez, R., Spencer, V., and Whittier, D. (2005). Transgender Persons and HIV Prevention: Academy for Educational Development.

² Nemoto T., Luke, D., Mamo L., Ching A., and Patria, J. (1999). HIV risk behaviors among male-to-female transgenders in comparison with homosexual or bisexual males and heterosexual females. *AIDS Care*, 11, 297-312.

³ Nemoto T., Luke, D., Mamo L., Ching A., and Patria, J. (1999). HIV risk behaviors among male-to-female transgenders in comparison with homosexual or bisexual males and heterosexual females. *AIDS Care*, 11, 297-312.

and denial of education, employment, and housing.⁴ Poverty and social marginalization lead to survival sex and a yearning for acceptance.

The calls will be moderated by Ben Singer, who bring 15 years of experience in study of transgender issues, development of programs for transgender youth, and training of youth service providers. Please join us on the following dates to share information and discuss these issues:

- ⇒ **Call #1: Transgender Youth 101**
Wednesday, June 14th, 2pm EST
- ⇒ **Call #2: Medical Care and Access for Transgender Youth**
Thursday, July 6th, 2pm EST
- ⇒ **Call #3: Social Service Needs of Transgender Youth**
Wednesday, July 26th, 2pm EST
- ⇒ **Call #4: Advocating and Referral for Transgender Youth**
Wednesday, August 16th, 2pm EST

The calls will be audio and video. Please follow the instructions below to join the conference calls by phone and to log onto the conference calls via the web.

Participant Instructions

Audio: Call 1-866-295-5950. When asked for the participant code, enter: 8628941#. You will be asked for your name, then connected. An operator will moderate the calls and provide a time for participants to ask questions. Direct discussion between participants will not be possible due to the number of individuals on the call.

Video: The slide presentations will be available for participants to view during the call. Follow these instructions:

1. Go to <http://www.budgetconferencing.com/fastweb/join.php>
2. Click the "**Join a WEB Conference (Participant)**" radio button
3. Enter the "**Participant Passcode (8628941)**", "**Name**", "**Company**", and "**E-mail Address**"
4. Click the "**Join**" button
5. A new page will be displayed. Press the **Start**
6. A "**Conference Connection Status**" screen will appear
7. Your session is now live (if an error message appears please contact the host to confirm that the session has been "Started")

If your computer has significant firewall protections and/or is an older model computer, you may have trouble connecting to the website. The website provides a systems check that can be accessed by entering the site and clicking on the join button and then clicking "Fast Web Systems Check". This can be done at any time before the conference call.

⁴ Office of Public Health and Science. (2006). HIV/AIDS and Transgender Persons. Fact sheet accessed at: <http://www.osophs.dhhs.gov/aids/factsheets/transgender.html>.

Finally, we are pleased to offer an invitation for all participants to visit the www.YESCenter.org website to test their knowledge of transgender issues (based on the conference calls) in order to receive a certificate of completion. An exam will be available on the YESCenter.org website after each call. Participants will receive their certificate six-weeks after the last call. You may complete one or all of the exams. The certificate will list which exams were completed.

The YES Center and SPNS staff look forward to your participation on the call. If you have questions, please contact me using the contact information below.

Sincerely,

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Transgender Conference Call Schedule and Topics

Call #1 – Transgender Youth 101

June 14th, 2PM EST, 1PM Central, 11AM PST

Aidan Dunn, Executive Director

Youth Gender Project, San Francisco

Transgender basics:

- Transgender movement and social change
- Sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression
- Subcultures; diversity amongst communities
- Issues particular to TG youth (family, school, consent, etc.)

Cecilia Chung, Deputy Director

Transgender Law Center, San Francisco

Social context of risk and increasing access to services:

- Obstacles (bathroom access, housing, employment, violence, etc.)
- Survival activities that put people at risk
- Best practices (client centered, inclusive data collection, documentation)
- Building relationships with the most marginalized (e.g., runaways)
- How to make your agency more accessible

Bali White

NDRI “Transgender Project” and Columbia University, New York City

House/ballroom community

Call #2 – Medical Care and Access for Transgender Youth

July 6th, 2PM EST, 1PM Central, 11AM PST

Dr. Robert Garofalo, MD

Howard Brown Clinic, Chicago

Clinical care issues:

- General health issues and risk factors
- Transgender-specific medical issues and treatment (hormones, silicone, HIV and hormones)
- Clinic protocols and access to care

Dafna Wu, RN

Dimensions Youth Clinic, San Francisco

Access and advocacy:

- Barriers to care
- Lowering the threshold of access to care
- Psychosocial issues of trans youth
- Provider and parent relations

Call #3 - Social Service Needs of Transgender Youth
July 26th, 2PM EST, 1PM Central, 11AM PST

Jessica Xavier, MPH

Virginia Transgender Health Initiative Study, Virginia

Social context and co-factors leading to HIV risk:

- HIV prevalence rates (needs assessment overview)
- Co-factors driving risk behaviors (homelessness, lack of employment, kicked out of family home or school, etc.)
- HIV and STI risks (sex work, exchanging sex for resources, unprotected sex, injection risks, etc.)

JoAnne Keatley, MSW, Program Manager

Correctional Medicine Consultation Network, San Francisco

Case management and care management for TG youth:

- Barriers to care
- Working with TG clients
- Effective referral techniques
- Prison issues, medical treatment and advocacy

Earline Budd

Miracle Hands Ministries, District of Columbia

Minority communities and HIV

Call #4 – Advocating and Referral for Transgender Youth
August 16th, 2PM EST, 1PM Central, 11AM PST

Rick Feely, Program Coordinator

Trans-health Information Project, Philadelphia

Outreach and Programming:

- Effective outreach strategies
- Other supportive services (housing, medical, drug treatment, etc.)
- Program models that work

Sabina Neem, HIV Prevention Specialist

Attic Youth Center, Philadelphia

Working with other service providers, making effective referrals and expanding resources:

- Locating pre-existing resources and allies
- Effective referral mechanisms and techniques
- Expanding resources for transgender populations

Transgender Conference Calls: Presenter Biographical Information

Moderator

Ben Singer is a PhD Candidate in English at Rutgers University working on an ethnographic dissertation: “On the Medical Margins: Transgender Risk Reduction in Public Health.” Since 1993, he has worked as a consultant and trainer in the public health sector, specializing in reducing health disparities through improving access to culturally competent care. He integrates academic tools, leadership building and group facilitation skills with evidence-based research, case studies, harm reduction philosophy and diverse experience in multiple communities. He has applied these techniques to projects ranging from HIV/AIDS prevention to threshold reduction for access to healthcare services in government, academic, community and private settings. He has consulted on local, state and national levels with the CDC, HRSA, Philadelphia Department of Health, AIDS Activities Coordinating Office, and other health and human service organizations. Mr. Singer has applied his knowledge to the successful design and implementation of government-funded projects that includes founding the Trans-health Information Project (TIP), a program of Prevention Point Philadelphia and the Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative, with funding by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. From 2002-2004 he served as Director of TIP, contributing to program design, authoring curricula, managing staff, overseeing utilization of direct services, and presenting consumer based health information workshops, as well as technically assisting other local social service providers. In addition to presenting on transgender issues to government and community-based organizations across the country, Mr. Singer most recently taught *Transgender Queries in Medicine, Law, Politics and Culture* at Barnard College, in New York City. Contact: bsinger@critpath.org and 215-243-0459

Call #1 – Transgender Youth 101

Aidan Dunn is currently pursuing a BA in Community Studies at City College of San Francisco. Since 2003, he has served as Executive Director of the Youth Transgender and Intersex Educational Services (TIES), San Francisco. He is Vice-president of San Francisco Pride, Chair of the Intersex Committee, a member of the LGBT Advisory Committee to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and serves on the Intersex Task Force of the Committee. The Committees’ mission is to advise the San Francisco Human Rights Commission on human rights issues related to LGBT people. Mr. Dunn presents trainings on transgender issues across the country, including “Beyond Binaries: Youth and Gender Identity” at Yale University, as well as “Transyouth and Transadults: Bridging the Age Gap” and “Transyouth 101 for Providers.” He consults with local, state, and national health and human service agencies, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on transgender issues. Mr. Dunn’s previous work includes serving as an intern for LYRIC youth agency and as a peer educator at the Cole St. Clinic. He presently works with San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentorship (SFTEAM) to develop leadership in transgender communities. Contact: aidan.dunn@sbcglobal.net and 415-865-5625.

Cecilia Chung earned her BA in International Management at Golden State University, and received “Community Health Outreach” certification from the California State Office of AIDS.

Since 2005, she has served as Deputy Director of the Transgender Law Center (TLC), a civil rights organization advocating for transgender communities. TLC's mission is to connect transgender people and their families to culturally competent legal services, increase compliance and enforcement of laws and policies that protect California's transgender communities, and to change laws and systems that fail to support transgender individuals. In her capacity as Deputy Director, she oversees transgender client utilization of direct services, public policy advocacy, and educational efforts to advance the rights and safety of diverse transgender populations. Ms. Chung is an openly HIV-positive transgender woman from Hong Kong, who has been an advocate for people living with HIV for the past 15 years. She is currently a San Francisco Human Rights commissioner, and has served as member of the San Francisco HIV Service Planning Council. She has consulted with University of California, San Francisco, the National Minority AIDS Council and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on transgender HIV prevention, and on the HIV issues of Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Contact: cecilia@transgenderlawcenter.org and 415-865-0184.

Bali White received a BA from Columbia University in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, and she will be entering the Environmental Policy master's program in the fall of 2006. She is Research Associate on The Transgender Project (www.ndri.org/transgender) of the National Development and Research Institutes in NYC. This is the largest study to date of male-to-female transgender individuals. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Silvia Rivera Law Project, which provides free legal services for transgender people of color and low-income trans people. Ms. White's decade of public health experience includes a focus on the health factors impacting global transgender communities. Most recently she has served as Assistant Project Director on the House Ball Study (HBS), an ethnographic study of the House/Ball queer people of color social network in New York City. She has also worked with the NYC Department of Health and Housing Works, an organization that advocates for homeless populations in New York City. Ms. White is a community organizer and advocate addressing transgender identity, legal, healthcare and social concerns at the local, state and national levels. Contact: bali@tmo.blackberry.net and 646-286-9740.

Call #2 – Medical Care and Access for Transgender Youth

Robert Garofalo earned his M.D. at New York University and a Master of Public Health at Harvard University. He is Deputy Director at the Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago, the Medical Director of HIV Services at Children's Memorial Hospital, and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Preventative Medicine at Northwestern University's Fienberg School of Medicine. Dr. Garofalo's clinical and academic career is devoted to the care of HIV infected adolescents and other at-risk teen populations. At Howard Brown and Children's Memorial Hospital, Dr. Garofalo conducts federally-funded clinical and prevention-based research with HIV+ and LGBT youth. Since 2001, he has been actively involved in the *Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group* (PACTG) where he is a member of their Adolescent Research Advisory Committee. In 2003, Dr. Garofalo received a 3 year NIH-supported Mentored Clinical Scientist Award to pursue behavioral research specific to HIV and HIV prevention in at-risk youth populations. He also received an individual NIH award to test the utility of a Social-Personal theoretical model in explaining HIV risk behaviors in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, and is currently working with the NICHD-sponsored Adolescent Medicine Trials Network

as the Principal Investigator on the Transgender Research Youth Project, a study examining coding and risk among male-to-female transgender youth. Contact: rgarofalo@childrensmemorial.org and 773-388-8661.

Dafna Wu, RN, graduated from the University of California—Santa Cruz in English Literature with Biology minor, and completed her graduate studies in Nursing from San Francisco State University. Since 1994, she has served as staff nurse at the Castro Mission Health Center, where she works with a substantial number of transgender youth clients. She was on the founding team of Dimensions Queer Youth Health Clinic, a program of the Castro Mission Health Center that serves LGBT and questioning youth. Her ongoing advocacy work is dedicated to providing a nurturing and safe space where LGBTQ youth can seek and receive quality primary care. Contact: dafna_wu@sfdph.org and 415-487-7506.

Call #3 - Social Service Needs of Transgender Youth

Jessica Xavier, MPH, earned her Master of Public Health at the University of Maryland. Currently she is a co-investigator and field manager of the Virginia Transgender Health Initiative Study (THIS), a statewide initiative to improve the health of the transgender population of Virginia, implemented by the Community Health Research Initiative of Virginia Commonwealth University for the Virginia Department of Health. THIS is the first state-wide initiative assessing HIV, substance abuse, violence and suicide risks in a transgender population in the U.S., and includes qualitative and quantitative surveys, provider trainings and a provider resource and referral database. Ms. Xavier has worked in the HIV/AIDS epidemic for the past 22 years, both in treatment and in prevention. During that time she has co-founded several transgender-specific organizations, including Gender Education & Advocacy (GEA), a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of all gender-variant people, regardless of their sexual identities. She has presented on transgender issues both nationally and internationally, and has consulted with local, state and national health and human service organizations, including the CDC, HRSA and the NIH on transgender health issues. From 1998 to 2000, she was Principal Investigator for the bilingual Washington, DC Transgender Needs Assessment Survey. This ground-breaking study documented a 32% rate of HIV infection among male-to-female persons of color living in the District of Columbia. Contact: jessicax@earthlink.net and 301-949-6049.

JoAnne Keatley received her MSW from the University of California, Berkeley. Since 2005, she has been Program Manager of the Correctional Medicine Consultation Network (CMCN), Family and Community Medicine Department of UCSF. The CMCN program is a collaborative project between Regents of the University of California and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). This new 5-year program, funded by the State of California, includes 32 correctional institutions from across the State. The CMCN will assist in providing on-site medical consultation for selected California CDCR patients with complex high-risk medical issues, including transgender individuals. Ms. Keatley is a nationally known presenter who has consulted with health and human service agencies and governmental bodies throughout the country, including the CDC, SAMHSA and HRSA, on transgender health and sensitivity issues. Her previous work includes co-founding Health Studies for People of Color at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) at UCSF. She is also the founder and former Director of the Transgender Resources and Neighborhood Space (TRANS), a project of CAPS

that provides culturally- and gender-appropriate substance abuse intervention, HIV prevention, and mental health services to transgender people in San Francisco. In that capacity she managed client cases and conducted workshops for program participants on substance abuse treatment, HIV, job training and other life skills. Ms. Keatley is founder and co-chair of San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentorship (SFTEAM), a peer-based project focused on leadership development in transgender communities. She also serves on the Board of Directors of New Leaf and SalvaSIDA, and is on the faculty of the San Francisco AIDS Education Training Center. Contact: jkeatley@fcm.ucsf.edu and 415-476-2145.

Earline Budd is a long-time transgender and HIV/AIDS advocate living in the District of Columbia. She is currently serving as Program Coordinator of Transgender Support Services for Miracle Hands, providing case management and discharge planning services for transgender ex-offenders, under a Ryan White Title 1 grant. Previously she coordinated the transgender support program for Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc., an African-American AIDS Service Organization in DC. She also served as the principal survey administrator for the Washington Transgender Needs Assessment Survey. She co-founded Transgender Health Empowerment, the first organization dedicated to providing services to transgender people of color in the District. She has extensive consulting experience, working with organizations such as the CDC, CSAT and many agencies of the DC Government. She also conducts cultural competency training for various health care and social service organizations with transgender clientele. Contact: earline_budd@yahoo.com and 202-832-5352.

Call #4 – Advocating and Referral for Transgender Youth

Rick Feely is a dual admissions student at Community College Philadelphia and Temple University, where he is pursuing a BA in English and Communications. Since 2005, he has served as Director of the Trans-health Information Project (TIP), a program of Prevention Point Philadelphia and the Gay and Lesbian AIDS Education Initiative, with funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. TIP is a comprehensive HIV prevention and health education program that provides transgender individuals with accurate information about safer sex and safer injection techniques, case management services, and health education workshops for program participants. Mr. Feely oversees utilization of direct services and educational programs serving diverse transgender populations in the Philadelphia EMA. For the past five years, Mr. Feely has frequently spoken on transgender issues to other Philadelphia service providers, as well as to local, state and national health and human service agencies. He has delivered presentations on “Transgender and HIV” issues at the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference and at The Ryan White National Youth Conference on HIV/AIDS. He is currently the program developer, curriculum author and trainer of training staff for the Trans-homeless Access Project (TAP), a municipally funded program in Philadelphia that conducts transgender cultural competency trainings in city homeless shelters. He also serves on the Philadelphia Office of HIV Planning’s Community Planning Group, an advisory body that makes HIV policy recommendations to the City of Philadelphia, Department of Public Health. Contact: rick@preventionpointphilly.org and 267-549-6494.

Sabina Neem earned her BA in Anthropology from Barnard College, and is currently pursuing a dual masters degree in Social Service and Law and Social Policy, at the Bryn Mawr Graduate

School of Social Work and Social Research. She is an HIV Prevention Specialist at the Attic Youth Center in Philadelphia, an organization serving LGBTQ youth. As a Prevention Specialist, Ms. Neem works with transgender youth on a variety of concerns including HIV risk, body transformation, family, school, and harassment issues. Ms. Neem has been an advocate for LGBT health access and social justice for over a decade, and during that time has provided training for local and national health and human service organizations on transgender and youth issues. From 2004 to 2006 she was caseworker for the Trans-health Information Project, a program of Prevention Point Philadelphia and the Gay and Lesbian AIDS Education Initiative, with funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There she assisted transgender individuals in navigating the social service system, changing legal identity documents, securing housing and employment, in addition to promoting HIV and health education. From 2004 to 2005 she served on the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference planning committee. She is currently co-chair of the Mayor's Taskforce on Homeless Services, Sexual and Gender Minorities Committee, and in this capacity advocates for transgender inclusion policies in the Philadelphia shelter system. She also provides trainer training through the Trans-homeless Access Project (TAP), a municipally funded program that conducts transgender cultural competency training in city homeless shelters. Contact: sabina_transhealth@yahoo.com and 215-545-4331.

YES Center

Blaine Parrish is a Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Health Policy's Center for Health Services Research and Policy (CHSRP) at GWU. He holds an MA in Humanities from the University of Texas at Arlington. He received his undergraduate degree in Education from the University of Central Oklahoma and is currently working on his dissertation "The Effects of Funder Mandated Organizational Activities on Minority AIDS Community Based-Programs" in the doctoral program in the School of Business at Capella University. His HIV work over the last 15 years includes academic research, direct client services, administration, and project planning, coordination, management, and evaluation on local, state and Federal levels. Parrish served as executive director of AIDS Resources of Rural Texas for seven years, project officer for the Program Development Branch in the HIV/AIDS Bureau at HRSA, and as a project director for GWU's Forum for Collaborative HIV Research before coming to CHSRP. During his tenure as executive director of AIDS Resources of Rural Texas (ARRT), he developed prevention and HIV counseling/testing programs for at-risk youth. The programs were designed to provide local community colleges and universities an opportunity to partner with ARRT to bring these services to their campus medical clinics. Prevention-to-care programs were then developed by Mr. Parrish as individuals were identified for services. As the organization grew, Mr. Parrish designed youth support groups, activities, and outreach programs specifically designed for hard-to-reach rural youth, especially Hispanic and African-American adolescents. Mr. Parrish completed his work at ARRT by opening a Title III medical clinic to provide care to underserved rural and minority individuals living over 37 counties and 54,000 square miles. During Mr. Parrish's service in the HAB, he provided support to grantees preparing to begin primary medical services to rural and underserved populations, including 60 organizations funded through the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI). Mr. Parrish has extensive project manager experience having directed several projects for the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research, including the CDC/OAR-funded "Sex and Gender in HIV" project and the HRSA/CDC-funded

“Quality of HIV Care” project. Mr. Parrish is co-author of “Quality of HIV Care – Closing the Gap,” a report on the status of HIV primary care in the US, including for hard-to-reach and underserved communities. He currently manages projects for the CHSRP including “Routine HIV Testing in the Clinical Setting” and “External Quality Review of Medicaid Managed Care Organizations in the District of Columbia.” Contact: blainep@gwu.edu or 202-530-0286.