

Creating Inclusive Housing Solutions for the LGBTQIA2S+ Community

October 31, 2023 Provider Conference

Notes:

Facilitators: Katie Cox and Johnnie Shaver from Equi Institute

Moderators: Katie DeSantis and Siniva Bennett

- Part of and founders of LGBTQIA2S+ housing collaborative
- Increase of Trans and Nonbinary folks leaving red states
- Data incomplete - queer folks not included in the system, VSPDAT
- Don't have enough queer specific services to meet the need of queer folks in homeless services in Portland. Seattle has a center to serve trans people of color
- No trans people in positions of leadership amongst homeless providers
- Queer Affinity Village the only queer community specific shelter
- More homeless services for queer and trans youth, under 24 than adults and creates problems as folks dont have enough support services as adults and leads folks to homelessness or carceral system
- Another gap, no queer and trans specific emergency shelter in Portland metro area. All shelters are gender binary and not safe for folks who fall outside that binary
- Bybee Lakes: poses a conundrum for us rooted in autonomy and liberation: rent required at Bybee lakes, folks have been harmed at Bybee lakes, folks dont feel safe leaving Rainbow room at Bybee lakes, we respond to recommendations and experience of community members at Bybee Lakes
- Larger orgs still get more access to funding as opposed to smaller orgs, queer serving orgs.
- Advocating to revise VI-SPDAT to capture data on queer community
- Need more data in general
- For non queer orgs, seek out trainings led by queer folks, partner with queer org include data gathering points in your system

Discussion:

How would your org need to change to better serve trans and queer folks?

What would it mean to your community to prioritize this work?

What does housing security look and feel like?

Feedback from Rahab sisters: practice radical hospitality, model learning together in community with folks, important to interrogate organizational practices with a partner and change as needed. Radical hospitality is rooted in joy.

Selected comments from the chat:

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[Facilitator] Just for clarity, Equi is no longer involved in the management of the Queer Affinity Village. The space remains an affinity space for LGBTQ+ people but is not managed by a culturally specific provider.

[Provider] Bybee Lakes Hope Center has a Rainbow Dorm specifically for the LGBTQIA+ community.

1[Provider] The Bybee Lakes Hope Center has a shelter & program space specifically for the LGBTQ+ community

[Provider] Dues are not associated with shelter, only Reentry.

[Provider] Yep! I've heard a lot of things through my clients about that :/

[Provider] New Avenues provides trainings and ongoing technical support for orgs to better serve the LGBTQIA2S+ community: <https://newavenues.org/bridge-13/>

[Facilitator] <https://translegislation.com/>

[Facilitator] "Passed" meaning passing as cisgender, for those that might not know
12:13:04 From Desiree Eden Ocampo to Everyone:

[Provider] hiring practices too - hiring folks who look like and are like the folks you want to serve

[JOHS] The JOHS adult system is looking at the gendered nature of much of our shelter system. Equi Institute, we would love to check in with you about that at some point in the near future.

[Provider] Representation (as Desiree pointed out)- We prioritize hiring folks with lived experience of houselessness and/or substance use but don't have specific call outs for LGBTQIA2S+

[Provider] Same with Bybee Lakes but several of our staff are part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

[Facilitator] I recently put together the first volume of a housing zine that might be of interest to folks

[Facilitator] There's a lot of benefit to affinity group spaces

[JOHS] housing security: a place to rest, breathe and thrive without threat or fear