

COLUMBIA

Gay Health Advocacy Project

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Proposal for Committees 20 October 1987

What follows is a proposal that committees be created to distribute work. Some of the following will be continuing committees and some will be for special (possibly one-time only) projects. New committees can be started or old ones disbanded as needed. Names listed after the committee title are of those people who indicated tentative interest at the last meeting — people should feel free to change committees for a while.

Committees should have their first meetings soon to brainstorm, hash out the issues, and plan an initial proposal to be discussed by the whole membership at a regular group meeting. After getting feedback, committees write up their proposals for approval by the whole group. Committees will report regularly to the group and discuss issues before making major decisions. All committees will ask the whole group for needed help. Shitwork should be shared as much as possible.

"Coming Out Safely" Campaign: Bradley Zodikoff, Harrison Brace, Kevin Hall, Laura Pinsky, Winston Dong

The campaign should be specifically targeted at young gay men who are in the process of coming out. Anecdotal information and preliminary data from our NELGSU survey seem to indicate that one common pattern of sexual behavior is to adopt safe sex after about 6 months to a year of unsafe sexual activity. In New York City this may be fatal. This project would aim to link support for safer sex with support during coming out by fostering in young men a sense that they can manage socially in the gay world while insisting on safe sex.

Crisis Intervention Team: Dan Tamulonis, Fred Neuhouser, Kevin Hall, Laura Pinsky, Paul Lerner, Tom Lescinsky

Goal: provide interim emergency psychological support and referral services to patients in the Columbia University Health Service who receive a diagnosis of AIDS. The intervention would include psychological assessment and help with medical referral by Laura Pinsky and short term "buddy" services by an advocate. For example, the advocate can spend time with the person on the day of diagnosis, help the person link up with GMHC and PWAC, and pass on other crucial information regarding social services. The Crisis Intervention Team will be specially trained with help from outside sources, and will make plans with Dr. Carlson to implement the intervention strategy in the University Health Service. Gerard Ilaria will be coordinating the development of a manual containing relevant information and resources.

Campus Discrimination Task Force: Bradley Zodikoff, Deborah Alexander, Harrison Brace, Paul Douglas, Margaret McCarthy, Thaddeus Grimes-Gruczka

The Task Force's goal is to document, publicize, and ultimately reduce AIDS-related bias, intimidation, harassment, and discrimination on the Columbia campus. The Task Force will seek to join forces with other groups on campus that face discrimination such as women, blacks, and ethnic or religious minorities. Case workers will be trained to help victims of harassment fight their cases through the administration channels and, if necessary, through outside agencies such as the Commission on Human Rights. The Columbia community should learn not only that we offer help to victims of bias after the fact, but that we actively advocate punishment of people who discriminate against or harass others.

Fundraising Committee: Paul Douglas, Winston Dong

CGHAP's need for funding is increasing rapidly. To meet this need the Fundraising Committee will explore several avenues in parallel:

- Continuing and increasing support from the University