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OFFERING CULTURALLY SENSITIVE VIRTUAL HEALTH EDUCATION SEMINARS FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IN A STUDENT-RUN FREE CLINIC WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS

Background:

The Cardinal Free Clinics (CFC) provide care to marginalized populations, including sexual and gender minorities. Needs assessments of Bay Area counties emphasize the importance of programming that “fosters connection among and outside of” the LGBTQ+ community (Horizons Foundation, 2018). However, such resources are difficult to access in suburban regions served by CFC. Thus CFC can serve a unique role in offering more accessible events for the LGBTQ+ community.

We partnered with the San Mateo County Pride Center (SMCPC, <https://sanmateopride.org/>) and Stanford’s LGBTQ+ Health Program to offer Trans Talks (TTs) – a monthly, hour-long webinar on queer and transgender health.

Methods:

SMCPC surveyed the community to create a list of desired topics. Medical students in rotation with Dr. Laniakea prepared and presented a 40-minute talk, followed by a Q&A. Talks were publicized to local and national LGBTQ+ community centers. Community members provided feedback to improve the webinars.

Results:

Five TTs have been held on PrEP, trans-inclusive safer sex, gender-affirming surgery, voice therapy, and neurodiversity. The talks have reached an extremely receptive, national community. Attendance increased over 5-fold between the first and fifth talk.

Conclusions:

While LGBTQ+ community members have a safe space to discuss their health, students also gain the educational opportunity to increase proficiency in LGBTQ+ health topics. TTs provide a platform for queer and transgender community members to interact with allied physicians and physicians of similar identities. Through community events, CFC hopes to build trust between the LGBTQ+ community and healthcare providers.

Trans Talks registration and attendance has increased five-fold from the first talk to the most recent talk. Publicity and outreach efforts have become increasingly more effective and reach a wide audience, from college students to community leaders to healthcare professionals around the nation. Attendees are receptive to talks, have found these seminars to be informative and relevant, and are eager to request new topics. Some attendees have noted that not all their questions are answered, and that some talks are not accessible for the layperson. Webinars are recorded for individuals who are unable to attend, and an archive of resources is shared with all registrants. More specific results will be presented at the symposium.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

SAN MATEO COUNTY PRIDE CENTER