

QSPOT – Program Administration & Evaluation

In late 2006, the Rainbow Center, Tacoma's GLBT Community Center noticed a shift in demographics of their patrons. Requests for referrals and services were increasing among young adults. Simultaneously, Pierce County AIDS Foundation's (PCAF) Oasis program was seeing a shift to a younger subset of the youth they served. A work-study student at PCAF's Oasis program partnered with the Rainbow Center to conduct focus groups to identify how the needs and desires of the young adults (20 somethings) were changing. Since that time, PCAF and the Rainbow Center have entered into a formal memorandum of understanding for the purpose of creating a safe space for young adults – those that are transitioning out of Oasis but who desire a community. The result is QSPOT. This program focuses on creating community for young adults while creating connectivity to mentors, life skills workshops, volunteer opportunities and organized recreational alternatives.

This project will provide a student intern the opportunity to learn about organizational strategic planning, basic budgeting, program planning and evaluation.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

QSPOT has been meeting on the first three Thursdays of each month for planning and casual activities at the Rainbow Center, and the last Saturday of the month "out on the town." The group initially desired an organic development of leadership but this has been challenging. This project will seek to explore leadership strategies that will create continuity and sustainability for the QSPOT group.

MAJOR TASKS

- Meet with current members
- Conduct strategic planning sessions
- Develop a strategic plan including a projected activities budget
- Design (and potentially implement) a program evaluation method

SUPERVISION

Students will be supervised by the Rainbow Center Executive Director, Aimee Welch. Ms. Welch possesses a bachelor's degree in social work, a master's degree in public administration and a juris doctorate. Additionally, Ms. Welch has enjoyed a fifteen year career in case management, program development, program and policy evaluation and non-profit administration. Ms. Welch serves the City of Tacoma as a member of the Human Rights Commission.