

Prime Timers Needs Assessment

The Prime Timers Needs Assessment Project will provide an outstanding opportunity for a student intern to gain experience in conducting a mixed methodology community needs assessment. The outcomes of the student work will be used tangibly to develop a senior program at a well-established LGBT Community Center.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The Rainbow Center seeks to facilitate the development of a cohesive “Prime Timers” group within Pierce County. This group will consist of retired and aging LGBT community members. This group will be recruited for two purposes. Primarily, the Rainbow Center will conduct a qualitative needs assessment followed by a focus group process meant to develop a framework for future investigation and planning for service delivery to this population. Secondly, we will strive to create a cohesive social and support network among members of this population for the purpose of increasing a sense of integration of the LGBT community within Pierce County as a whole. We are interested in increasing our understanding of following among the aging LGBT population:

- Care-giving & Bereavement
- Rates of and attitudes about legal preparedness (including Registered Domestic partnership) and financial planning
- Current and desired social networks

MAJOR TASKS

Literature Review

Quantitative Questionnaire (including development, administration & analysis)

Qualitative Interviews

Drafting Findings Report

NOTE: After the conclusion of the Winter term, these data will be validated through a focus group process which will lead to the development of programs focusing on LGBT seniors in Pierce County. Continued student involvement to be negotiated.

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.

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