Celebrating and Embracing LGBTQ+ Older Adults in the Aging Services Network

Thursday, December 10, 2020 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM Eastern Time





Introductions

Lisa Gurgone, MS, Executive Director Mass Home Care, Pronouns | She, Her, Hers

Lisa Krinsky, LICSW,
Director of the LGBT Aging Project,
Fenway Institute, Pronouns | She, Her, Hers

Lynn C. Vidler, BSW, MBA,
Director of Home and Community Programs,
Executive Office of Elder Affairs,
Pronouns | She, Her, Hers

Agenda

Learning Objectives

- Why LGBTQ Older Adults?
- What has Massachusetts done for LGBTQ Older Adults?
 - Legislative
 - Policy
 - Programs
- What can you implement in your community for LGBTQ Older Adults?
 - Replicate
 - Where to start?

How Many LGBT Older Adults?

Today: 1.4 to 3.8 million in U.S (Harley & Teaster, 2016)

2030 estimate: 3.6 to 7.2 million in U.S. (Harley & Teaster, 2016)

Massachusetts estimate: 65,000 LGBT Older Adults

Three Generations: Invisible -- the oldest old

Silenced -- greatest generation

Proud – baby boomers and beyond



What's So Different?

Elder Issues

- Healthcare
- Housing
- Medication Costs
- Social Network: Family, Friends
- Income
- Retirement / Work
- Social / Recreational Activities

LGBT Elder Issues

- Healthcare
- Housing
- Medication Costs
- Social Network: Family, Friends
- Income
- Retirement / Work
- Social / Recreational Activities



Aging Supports Spouse Children Family Faith Local Social Social

Community

Community Community

Services



& Grand

Of Origin

Partner

LGBT Aging Supports



Spouse Children Family Faith Local Social Social Partner & Grand Of Origin Community Community Community Services



LGBT Aging > Supports:

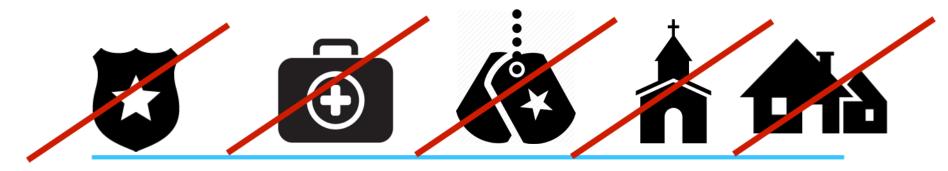
Boomers & Millennials







Mainstream Supports



Public Safety

Entrapment, Harassment Health Care

Mental Illness (until 1973) Institutionalization Military Service

Dishonorable Discharge

Faith Community

Sin **Immoral** Housing

Eviction Harassment





Anna Sarah

Born:	1930	1950
McCarthy Trials (1954)	24	4
Stonewall (1969)	39	19
APA/DSM (1973)	43	23
Harvey Milk Elected (1977)	47	27
Reagan Mentions AIDS (1987)	57	37
"Ellen" Comes Out on TV (1997)	67	47
Marriage Equality in MA (2004)	74	54
Don't Ask Don't Tell Repealed (2011)	81	61
DOMA Repealed (2013)	83	63
SCOTUS: Marriage Equality (2015)	85	65
November 2016 ongoingToday	90	70



Massachusetts Brief History of Collaborations

2003 LGBT Caregiver Outreach/Support (AAA funding) 2004 Café Emmanuel (AAA meal site funding) LGBT Cultural Competency Training ASAPs (Grant funded) 2006 EOEA Funded for LGBT Cultural Competency Training & technical assistance PHCAST Training Direct Care Workers 2011 2012 Population of Greatest Social Need 2014 LGBT Aging Commission 2018 ▲LGBT Awareness Training for Aging Service Providers Release of LGBT Aging Awareness Learning Module in MA 2019





2013 Legislation:

established to examine the impact of state policies and regulations on LGBT older adults making recommendations ensuring equality of access to treatment, care, and benefits; increasing provider awareness of the needs of LGBT older adults and caregivers; enhancing programming and services for LGBT older adults; examining best practices (in MA and other states) for improving quality of life for LGBT seniors; preventing premature admission of LGBT elders to institutional care; ensuring access to affordable and culturally appropriate community based care options; developing a plan for statewide training curricula to improve delivery of health care, housing, and long term support services to LGBT older adults and caregivers; and considering outreach protocols to reduce apprehension of LGBT elders and caregivers.



Commission is convened by the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs; Commission includes the following Members or designee:

House Chair of Joint Committee on Elder Affairs Senate Chair of Joint Committee on Elder Affairs **Executive Office of Elder Affairs** MA Department of Housing and Community Development MA Department of Public Health LGBT Aging Project Fenway Health Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders New England Association of HIV Over Fifty MassEquality Mass Home Care AARP MA Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging Massachusetts Senior Care Association

Appointed by Governor:

LGBT Public Policy Expert
LGBT Law Expert
Transgender Older Adult
LGBT Older Adult representing Cape
Cod
LGBT Older Adult representing W MA





Home Care Aide Council

Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) -State Unit on Aging

- EOEA promotes the independence, empowerment, and well-being of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers.
- EOEA develops policy, funds, oversees, administers various programs & initiatives
- Aging Network:

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

350 Councils on Aging (COA)

25 Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs)

Massachusetts AAA/ASAP Network



Baypath Elder Services, Inc.

Boston Senior Home Care

Bristol Elder Services, Inc

Central Boston Elder Services

Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.

Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.

Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands, Inc.

Elder Services of Merrimack Valley and North Shore, Inc.

Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc.

Ethos

Greater Lynn Senior Services, Inc.

Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc.

HESSCO Elder Services



Services Provided Through the Massachusetts AAA/ASAP Network

Home Care Program & Services

Group Adult Foster Care (GAFC)

Adult Foster Care (AFC)

Personal Care Attendant Program (PCA)

Geriatric Support Services

Coordinator for Senior Care Options

(SCO) enrollees

Family Caregiver Support Program

Chronic Disease Self Management

Programs

Options Counseling

Elder Protective Services

Long Term Care Ombudsman

Program

Supportive and Congregate Housing

Elder Nutrition

Money Management Programs

Senior Community Service

Employment Program (SCSEP)

Serving the Health Information

Needs of Elders (SHINE)

Information & Referral

Elder Mental Health

EOEA, ASAPs & Home Care

- Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) questions:
 - Mid -2016 added in assessments
 - I & R and Home Care (4 total)
 - The Fenway Institute staff trained EOEA and ASAP staff
 - Recorded webinar in how to ask SOGI questions
 - Collect these data elements
- Ongoing access to the recorded training for ASAP utilization for current/new staff
- EOEA through its ASAP contract included requirements related to LGBTQ diversity in two key areas:
 - ensuring access to services for consumers through LGBTQ awareness training
 - 2) staff training on LGBTQ awareness

SOGI Assessment Questions

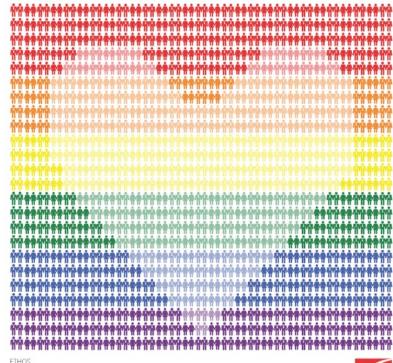
BB Ge	ender		
a.	What was your sex at birth?		
	0 - Male		
	1 - Female		_
b.	What is your current gender identity? (select one)		
	Male		
	Female		
	Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans wom	an	
	Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man		
	Genderqueer, neither exclusively male nor female	C.	Sexual Orientation: Do you think of yourself as:
	Other gender category		Heterosexual or Straight
	Did Not Answer		H
	Unable to ask during visit		Lesbian, Gay or Homosexual
			Bisexual
			Not Sure
			Other Sexual Orientation
			Did Not Answer
			Unable to ask during visit

Information and Referral Resources for LGBT Older Adults & Caregivers



LGBTQ Aging Resources provide programs, services, & vital info to the LGBTQ community in & around Boston

LGBT ELDERS RESOURCE GUIDE



HOS 55 Amory Street maica Plain, MA 02130 617.522.6700 617.524.2899



Staffing & Community **Training & Education**

PHCAST Continuing Education Module: LGBT AGING

PHCAST Continuing Education Module: **LGBT AGING**

Handouts

Activity 1. Introduction/Goals/Agenda

Handout 1 **LGBT Aging Training Goals**

Handout 2

Group Agreements: How Will We Work Together?

Handout 3 LGBT Aging Training Agenda

Activity 2, LGBT Aging Terms and Definitions/Differences

Handout 4 **Quick Terms and Definitions**

Handout 5 Terms and Definitions for LGBT Aging and Caregiving

Activity 3: Beliefs and Attitudes About People Who Are LGBT

Handout 6 **LGBT Symbols** PHCAST Continuing Education Module: LGBT AGING

Brainteaser: Beliefs and Attitudes about People Who Are LGBT

Handout 8

Answer Sheet: Beliefs and Attitudes about People Who Are LGBT (Distributed by Instructor - Not Included in Participant Workbook)

Activity 4: What Do You Say?

Handout 9 "What Do You Say?" Scenarios

Activity 5: What Will You Do?

No Handouts

Activity 6: Lessons Learned

No Handouts

LGBT ELDERS IN AN EVER CHANGING WORLD 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Click Here To Register

Friday, March 15, 2019

workshops

Featuring Keynote Speaker Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, Ph.D.

Registration Is Now Open At: www.lgbteldersconference.org













Friendly Volunteers & Peer Mentors









FRIENDLY VISITOR

Find companionship, relieve loneliness, and share common interests with an LGBT Friendly Volunteer Companion who will visit you in your home one hour each week, for a minimum of six months.

What can an Ethos Volunteer Companion do?

- · Visit with you in your home and provide weekly companionship
- · Escort you to medical appointments, if pre-arranged with Volunteer Coordinator
- Read your mail, books, newspapers, magazines
- · Prepare a light meal or snack
- Accompany you on a walk or to a social activity
- Share a hobby such as knitting, stamp collecting, etc.
- · Play cards or other games with you

To learn more, or to be matched with an LGBT Friendly Volunteer Companion, please contact: Miriam Michelson, Volunteer Coordinator 617-522-6700 x540 mmichelson@ethocare.org

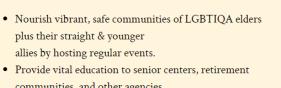
Become a Friend of the Rainhow Flders!

We invite you to become a Friend of the Rainbow Elders today!

Help the Rainbow Elders, a program of LifePath, continue to:

- plus their straight & younger
- communities, and other agencies regarding the elder LGBTIQA experience and needs.
- · Advocate for the rights of LGBTIQA elders.

Click here to learn more about becoming a Friend of the Rainbow Elders.







ETHOS IS A BOSTON BASED NOT-FOR-PROFIT AGENCY that has served the elderly and disabled since 1973. We help elders stay at home as long as possible by ensuring that they- and their caregivers- have access to continuum of life-enhancing support services. Each service we provide makes a real difference in the every day lives of our clients.



ETHOS | 555 Amory Street J am aica Pl ain, MA 0213 0-2672 | T: 617.522.6700 | w w w. ethocare.org

Community Meals & Supper Clubs

Rainbow
Supper Club



First Tuesday of each month 6:00-8:00pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester 90 Holden Street, Worcester

All are Welcome!

* 50 years old and older; younger partners, friends, allies











CAFES

Out4Suppe

1st Tuesday of each month 5:30-8:30p Mount Pleasant Home, 301 S. Huntington Ave. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Out2Brunch for Women & Friends First Saturday, 11:00-1:00p

Roslindale House, 120 Poplar Street Roslindale, MA 02131

Third Saturday, 11:00-1:00p Goddard House,165 Chestnut Street Brookline, MA 02445

Café Emmanuel

Every Thursday, 11:00-1:00p Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 15 Newbury Street Ethos is proud to announce the opening of Café Pride, a monthly supper club for older LGBT people of color and their friends!

When: The 2nd Wednesday of each month, 5pm to 7 pm, with a social time from 4 to 5 pm

Where: Whittier Street Health Center, 1290 Tremont St, Roxbury, MA 02120

For more information about LGBT Friendly Cafes to RSVP for any Café please contact the Ethos Nutrition Department: 617-522-6700 x306

ETHOS IS A BOSTON BASED NOT-FOR-PROFIT AGENCY that has served the elderly and disabled since 1973. We help elders stay at home as long as possible by ensuring that they—and their caregivers—have access to continuum of life-enhancing support services. Each service we provide makes a real difference in the every day lives of our clients.



ETHOS | 555 Amory Street J am aica Pl ain, MA 0213 0-2672 | T: 617.522.6700 | w w w. e t h o c a r e . or g









HEALTHY IDEAS

Ethos has a new, <u>FREE</u> program that can help you feel happier! If you have felt down, low, or blue in the past few weeks or months, we want to help!

Healthy IDEAS is an evidence-based program that offers face-to-face, in-home counseling services to elders. An Ethos staff member will work with you to find meaningful and positive activities to enhance your mood.

Each Ethos staff member is trained by the LGBT Aging Project in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender cultural competency.

Program benefits:

- · Fewer symptoms of depressive symptoms
- Decreased physical pain
- Better ability to recognize and self-treat symptoms
- Improved well-being through achievement of personal goals

If you are interested in learning more about the Healthy IDEAS Program or have a friend who may benefit, please contact: Claribette Del Rosario, Mental

Manager 617-522-6700 x344 cdelrosario@ethocare.org www.ethocare.org

Health Services Program

ETHOS IS A BOSTON BASED NOT-FOR-PROFIT AGENCY that has served the elderly and disabled since 1973. We help elders stay at home as long as possible by ensuring that they—and their caregivers—have access to continuum of life-enhancing support services. Each service we provide makes a real difference in the every day lives of our clients.



Healthy Living Evidence Based Programs

Councils on Aging & Senior Centers



May 31, 2018 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

"A Welcoming Place for All: No One Is A Single Story"

Unconsciously, we may gravitate toward people who look like, think like, and our own. We are raised with beliefs and values that influence, consciously ar respond to others and how we make decisions throughout our lives. Our cult think about aging. We may believe that we should "age gracefully," by remain sufficient as possible. Or we may believe that aging earns us the right to be I reliant on family and others. Yet even when cultural backgrounds are similar, program will consider culture (what is culture exactly?), the role it plays in ou can create more welcoming places for all!



Virtual Programming During COVID19



Surviving & Thriving Through These Times: Virtual Rainbow Elders Gatherings

Friends - we hope you are adapting well to the many changes required in these days of pandemic. In lieu of the in-person gatherings we had to cancel, we now plan to offer the opportunity to share with other LGBTIQA elders, friends, and providers in a virtual fashion.

Every Thursday, we chat, share support and resources, reflect upon our LGBTIQA+ experience, and connect with friends

we have made or yet wish to make. We encourage you to register to receive weekly meeting announcements and other periodic mailings. When you do, you will receive instructions for how to attend each week's Virtual Gathering, which utilizes the Zoom platform. You may participate by computer (with a microphone/webcam), smartphone, or telephone. Please note that meeting announcements are currently sent out weekly on Tuesday evenings.

We gather at 12:30 each Thursday to offer technical support, begin sharing time at 1 p.m., and continue until 2:30 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the meetings, including if you require any technical support in advance, please contact the Rainbow Elders at 413-773-5555 X1242 or 978-544-2259 X1242, or by emailing us at rainbowelders@lifepathma.org.

If you or elders you know are experiencing challenges with daily living due to the onset of this pandemic or for any other reason, please feel free to reach out to LifePath's Information and Caregiver Resource Center at 800-732-4636 X1230, 413-773-5555 X1230, or 978-544-2259 X1230.



THE RAINBOW SUPPER CLUB IS MEETING VIRTUALLY DUE TO COVID-19.

Due to COVID-19, we have suspended our monthly in-person dinners and shifted to weekly virtual gatherings. We appreciate your understanding.

Meetings/events take place on Wednesdays from 5-6pm

Interested individuals can participate from a phone or computer/iPad/tablet.

Event Series Information

Meet Up Page

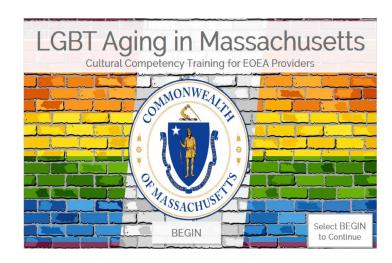
An Act Relative to LGBT Awareness Training for Aging Service Providers

Legislation passed 2018

SECTION 13. Chapter 19A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after 130 section 42 the following section: Section 43. The department shall develop a curriculum and training program on the prevention and elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression and on improving access to services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender elders and caregivers. The training program shall be completed by all providers of services who contract with or receive funding from the department, aging services access points or the MassHealth's office of long term care or whose services are certified by the department. Within 12 months after commencing employment, providers shall complete the training program.

LGBT Aging Training

- 2019 EOEA & the LGBT Aging Project contracted
- to develop and deliver an LGBT Cultural Competency Training curriculum on:
 - (1) the prevention & elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation & gender identity & expression, &
 - (2) improving access to services for LGBT elders by providing relevant training to their caregivers in furtherance of creating a welcoming/affirming environment for LGBT older adults engaged with EOEA & its contracted providers



LGBT Aging Training Scope & Content

Coming Out, Social Isolation, & LGBT-Friendly Programming

What do you think Carol should do in this situation?

Let's look at 2 different ways Carol could respond to Sandy.

Click continue to watch the first possible response.

Continue

Participants are asked to consider how someone could respond to a situation.

- Approximately 1 hour in length
- SOGI/expression
 - Definitions of common terminology
 - Practical skills about addressing with older adults, caregivers and other professionals
- Historical, cultural, institutional forms of discrimination many LGBT older adults have and continue to face
- Impact of discrimination on current engagement with health care, social services, community resources, friends & family
- Attention to transgender older people's unique experiences with mainstream institutions & individuals
- Distinction between personal beliefs & professional responsibilities if/when they are in conflict
- Best practices -working with LGBT older adults/caregivers
 - for individuals
 - for organizations
 - Scenarios that model best practices

LGBT Aging Training

Audience: (200,000 +people)

Assisted Living Facilities
Nursing Facilities
Adult Day Health Providers
ASAPs
COAs
AAA
Senior Care Organizations
In Home Providers
Certified Home Health Providers
& Many others . . .



Implementation: Multi-faceted Roll-out

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) is committed to ensuring that all individuals receiving services are treated with respect and compassion regardless of race, creed, gender identity, or whom they love.

- Curriculum was completed amid COVID-19
- EOEA announced the launch of the online training September 2020
- Free, available to organizations for adding to their own LMS

What Supports Resilience?



Ability to be authentic
LGBT inclusive and affordable health care
Safe and affordable housing
Social network and community
Meaningful engagement
Livable income



Thank you!

Lisa Gurgone, MS <u>LGurgone@springwell.com</u>

Lisa Krinsky, MSW, LICSW Lkrinsky@fenwayhealth.org

Lynn Vidler, BSW, MBA
Lynn.vidler@mass.gov