

OutReach LGBT Community Center Proposal: Justification for funding a full time staff position to work 50% on alcohol and other drug addiction (AODA) prevention, and 50% on issues of homelessness in the LGBTQ communities in Dane County

OutReach Inc. has had a long term contract with Dane County to provide support to LGBTQ individuals that struggle with AODA issues. We have also offered the Willma's Fund program since 2011, which provides small emergency grants to LGBTQ homeless individuals. The Fund has awarded grants to 150 LGBTQ individuals totaling over \$70,000, and has recently been awarded an annual grant of \$15,000 from UW Health, Unity and Quartz. OutReach has also been involved with the Homeless Consortium since 2009. For the past 18 months we have been working to build the Pride in Prevention Coalition (PIP-C) with Safe Communities, which addresses opioid addiction, AODA issues in local LGBTQ populations.

While we have had success with all of these programs, we recognize that both problems are substantial and require more attention and resources than we currently have to address them.

The Williams Institute of UCLA estimates that 3.8% of the Wisconsin population to be LGBTQ¹. For Dane County, this percentage translates to at least 20,000 adults, but local and other national sources suggest that this proportion is much greater in Dane County*. For example, a media kit produced by Our Lives, Madison's LGBTQ Magazine, estimates the LGBTQ population in the Madison Metropolitan areas at 60,000², which would be 11.5% of the population.

*Survey data and estimates typically reflect only LGBTQ individuals who are out, which further underrepresents actual numbers

There is substantial national data concerning the problem of AODA and homelessness in the LGBTQ communities. Dane County data is less available for both problems. The Homeless Consortium's *Point In Time* study has recorded as much as 10% of homeless individuals identifying as LGBTQ in the Madison area. According to the 2016 report by Madison/Dane County Public Health <https://www.publichealthmdc.com/documents/LGBTQHealthProfile2016.pdf>, LGBTQ+ populations in Dane County have the highest rates of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use.

The City of Madison and Dane County have substantial coalitions that address homelessness and AODA issues in the general population. Because of our small staff, two full time and four part time members, we do not have the staff capacity to connect in a meaningful way to the Homeless Consortium or Recovery Coalition of Dane County. We also have limited staff time to work with Safe Communities on the Pride in Prevention Coalition (PIP-C) work, which is to prevent and reduce opioid misuse and associated harms within the Dane County lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer* (LGBTQ) community. Having a full time staff person dedicated to this work would greatly increase our ability to address these problems and make an impact on them.

*Some individuals may prefer terms such as "queer" to describe a non-heterosexual sexual orientation, or a gender identity that falls outside the gender binary (male or female)

We request on-going Dane County funding \$50,000 annually to address LGBTQ health disparities in substance misuse and homelessness. The \$50,000 annual budget includes funding for a full time staff person housed at Outreach, agency administration costs, project materials and supplies, related travel, and public awareness and information activities. With this funding, we propose to broaden our prevention and intervention efforts to work toward:

- Connecting with existing AODA service to reduce alcohol, marijuana and tobacco misuse in the Dane County LGBTQ community

- Reducing harms associated with misuse and abuse
- Connecting with homeless service providers to ensure more services for LGBTQ homeless clients
- Connecting LGBTQ homeless clients to existing homeless service providers
- Ensuring existing homeless providers are culturally competent and welcoming to LGBTQ clients

Our efforts will focus on education and advocacy for LGBTQ individuals in Dane County.

There is a dearth of national, state and local behavioral health data for the adult LGBTQ population, and for the transgender and queer population it is nearly non-existent. However, national level data indicate significant health disparities between LGB individuals and their sexual majority (heterosexual) counterparts* in the incidence of substance misuse and abuse and mental health³:

- Use of illicit drugs (40.3% vs 18%)
- Misuse of prescription pain relievers (10.5% vs 4.5%)
- Use of cigarettes (32.2% vs 20.6%)
- Marijuana use (32.1% vs 13.8%)
- Binge drinking (36.2% vs 26.5%) and heavy alcohol use (9.3% vs 6.8%)
- Substance use disorders (16.4% vs 7.9%)
- Mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression (39.9% vs 18.1%), and
- A two-fold excess risk of suicide attempts compared to other adults.

*LGB individuals ages 18 and up versus the national average

While these are stark disparities, researchers suspect LGBTQ behavioral health disparities and inequities are underestimated because most data tracking and survey research systems have lacked the necessary sexual orientation and gender identity information.

The National LGBT Health Education Center, the Institute of Medicine, and the US Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020 initiative have documented disparities such as these and called for steps to address them^{4,5}, as has Public Health Madison and Dane County⁶. Health disparities facing LGBTQ populations are thought to stem from a lack of informed health care and minority stress. Minority stress refers to the discrimination, stigma, harassment, violence and internalized homo- and transphobia experienced by LGBTQ individuals in their daily lives⁴.

Sources

- 1 Equality Maps The Williams Institute UCLA School of Law http://lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/lgbt_populations
- 2 Our Lives Media Kit. Retrieved at http://ourlivesmadison.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2019_OL_MediaKit.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0VAsSWbgep6NXzvAFWEBg7QfNwE09mGxJHBAdFdGSV99XVRLqHaBG4kqc
- 3 Medley, G , Lipari, R N , Bose, J., Cnbb, D. S , Kroutil, L. A , & McHenry, G (2016, October) Sexual orientation and estimates of adult substance use and mental health Results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health NSDUH Data Review Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-SexualOrientation-2015/NSDUH-SexualOrientation-2015/NSDUH-SexualOrientation-2015.htm>
- 4 Suicide Risk and Prevention for LGBTQ People (March 2018) National LGBT Health Education Center The Fenway Institute, Boston, MA Retrieved from <https://www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Suicide-Risk-and-Prevention-for-LGBTQ-Patients-Brief.pdf>
- 5 Understanding the Health Needs of LGBT People (March 2016) National LGBT Health Education Center The Fenway Institute, Boston, MA Retrieved from <https://www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/LGBTHealthDisparitiesMar2016.pdf>
- 6 Dane County LGBTQ+ Health and Wellness Profile (March 2016) Research and Recommendations. Retrieved at <https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/LGBTQHealthProfile2016.pdf>

OutReach's Homeless and AODA Advocate proposed position

Full time position with benefits.

LGBTQ Homeless Advocacy (50% of the position)

- Interface with the Homeless Consortium and other homeless service providers in City of Madison and Dane County. Attend meetings and become active with the Consortium.
- Develop relationships with other homeless provider organizations in the Consortium to provide better services for LGBTQ+ clients. Develop Memorandums of Understanding with these homeless service providers to develop new collaborative programs.
- Update OutReach's information on services offered by homeless providers and staff members to contact for our office so we can make better referrals to clients.
- Provide information on OutReach's Willma's Fund and Building New Beginnings programs to clients and providers to increase awareness of these programs. Seek new funds for these programs.
- Work with LGBTQ homeless clients and help them to find services. Advertise OutReach's homeless services so clients and other providers become more aware of our work on homelessness.
- Work with Dane County and City of Madison to increase services available for LGBTQ homeless clients.

LGBTQ Alcohol and other drug addiction advocacy (50% of the position)

- Interface with Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction (AODA) providers in Madison and Dane County
- Develop relationships with other AODA providers in order to provide better services for LGBTQ clients that have AODA problems.
- Become active in the coalition. Develop MOUs with AODA providers and develop new collaborative programs.
- Update OutReach's information on AODA service providers so we can make referrals to them and they can make referrals to OutReach.
- Provide information on the AODA activities that OutReach offers.
- Reach out to LGBTQ clients that are struggling with addiction and help them find services.
- Work with Dane County and City of Madison to increase services that are available to LGBTQ AODA clients.

Statement to Dane County Board: 2020 Human Service Budget Hearing
September 11, 2019

Hello. My name is Barbie Jackson. I'm a 50-year voter and resident of Madison, a member of MOSES and a peacemaker speaking as an individual.

I am speaking to support expansion of the Community Restorative Court throughout Dane County and to promote the limitation of arrests where possible. This should include outreach and training for law enforcement to use alternatives such as the Community Restorative Court.

Dane County's Community Restorative Court has realized some success in its early years of implementation. More recently the county has expanded funding and staffing, which has resulted in improved coordination, communication and engagement of community members in the restorative justice process. It follows a proven model of success that addresses victim harm, reduces recidivism, and increases respondent engagement in repairing harm. This creates better opportunities for respondents to become successful members of our society.

It is important for this program to be expanded to those communities that have not yet entered into memoranda of understanding to enable implementation in their communities. MOSES members are endeavoring to support this expansion through their contacts. Additionally, it is time to consider expansion of the program to a broader set of charges and perhaps a wider range of ages. To accomplish this kind of expansion, the CRC will need additional funding and professional staff. It will also need to develop strategies and practices for more fully engaging law enforcement in the benefits of restorative practices.

The current limitation of charges to misdemeanors was undertaken to assure a successful and safe startup of the program, including community and law enforcement understanding and acceptance. Expansion to certain lower-degree felonies where community safety is assured would not only be an effective strategy for repairing harm and reducing recidivism, it would also help to reduce the number of people incarcerated in the Dane County Jail and the associated costs. This is a win for everyone.

The current range of ages served is based on studies of the developing brain in teens and younger adults. This supports using restorative justice practices to be used as a teaching moment for respondents with a high likelihood of success and it also includes a higher percentage of those involved in encounters with law enforcement. Nevertheless, restorative court can also be effective with older adults. Expansion to a wider population also requires additional financial and staffing resources.

During your deliberations, please consider increases in funding and staffing to prepare for these suggested expansions of Dane County's Community Restorative Court.

Thank you.