

Putting 2SGBMSM Well-being on the Policy Radar

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Purpose



- The overall goal of this community-based research project was to document mental health and well-being needs in the 2SGBMSM community from their perspective.

Objectives

- Conduct a community-based environmental scan of current government policies, funded programs, and services available to 2SGBMSM in Ontario;
- Facilitate focus groups with Alliance members to discuss gaps in services, how they are being addressed, and what changes are needed;
- Present the results of this research to a forum of ASOs, service providers, and community members; and
- Work with the GMSH to summarize findings in order to influence policy makers and service providers.



Findings

GMSH is doing valuable work

2SGBMSM well-being is still underserved

- Mental health
- Social determinants of health
- Access to PrEP
- Service providers' "comfort" dealing with queer sex
- Services in non-urban areas

Organizational stress is a problem

- Low salaries, high turnover
- BIPOC communities are underserved and marginalized
- Barriers from senior management and funders to 2SGBMSM advocacy work
- High competition for limited resources

There is a lack of specific LGBTQ+ wellness policies

COVID has impacted wellness and wellness services

Discussion

Three areas of need were identified by GMSH, from funders, and from policy makers:

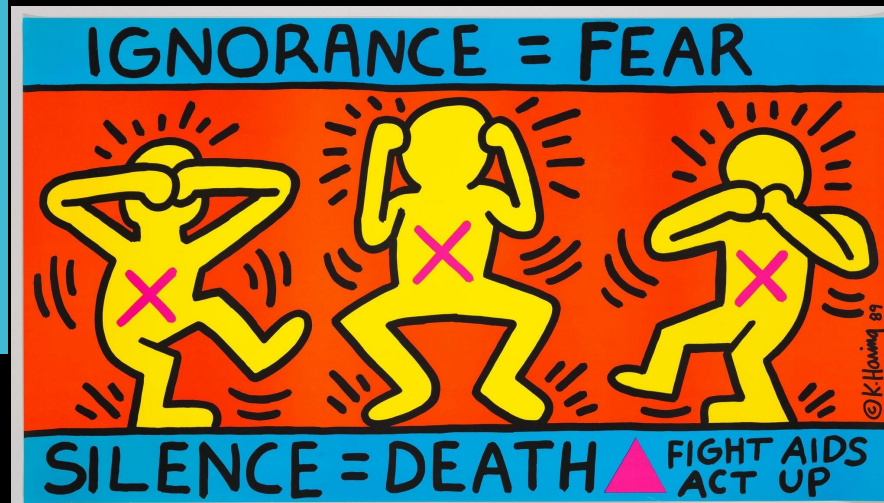
- Participants had suggestions for GMSH resource development and activities such as a detailed needs assessment/evaluation.
- Funders need to recognize the inadequacy of funding for salaries and services for these organizations.
- Policy makers should consider specific LGBTQ+ wellness policy which provides an opportunity for advocacy.



Next Steps?



Two-day workshop for GMSH Alliance members on community development and advocacy skills to begin to mobilize a movement



Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/asian-black-atlanta-history/2021/03/26/gf309ac-8d98-11eb-9423-04079921c015_story.html?fbclid=IwARoxfEx6RTPx7-f7U-XN4vDYjPRFc8XqgY5v07TXFq38t1UjBajOVrieYE