

Workshop #1

Presentation Title: HIV Prevention: Is PrEP right for me?

Presenter Name: Christian Klimas

Brief outline or description of presentation:

The intention of this presentation is to educate the LGBT community about PrEP, highlight the importance of PrEP as an HIV prevention tool, and offer replicable best practices for agencies and providers interested in providing PrEP services. The presentation will begin with a brief overview of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) as a powerful tool of HIV prevention that is available to individuals who are sexually active and seeking additional protection against contracting the HIV virus. Presented by Metro's Lead PrEP Navigator, Christian Klimas will share his experience working with patients, providers and pharmacists to educate the community and assist patients in obtaining this vital prophylactic medication. Further, Christian will provide an overview of Metro's PrEP Program, offering recommendations of replicable best practices with an emphasis on increasing access to PrEP for the broader community. Highlighting the common misconceptions and misinformation about PrEP that is present within the LGBT community, as well as common barriers to care, Christian will speak on how Metro is working to address the stigma associated to PrEP and best practices in navigating the system of care to increase access to PrEP for all.

Short biography of presenter:

Christian Klimas has spent 10+ years working in LGBTQ centered organizations, organizing community involvement groups on large and small levels. For the last 2 years he has worked hand-in-hand with Metro's clinical team in growing the PrEP Program by educating and engaging the community on this new form of HIV prevention



Workshop #2

Presentation Title: Successful Long Lasting Relationship

Presenter Name: Jerald Cohen

Brief outline or description of presentation:

Jerald Cohen, who has been with his partner/husband for over 28 years will share the ups and downs that made their relationship endure, and grow. This includes discussions on legal protections, power of attorney on Health Care, wills, communication strategies, financial planning and consideration. ANYONE can have a LONG Lasting lifetime relationship and feel secure and protected for anything that can happen.

Short biography of presenter:

Jerald Cohen, has a Bachelors degree in Social Work from NTID at RIT, Masters Degree from Columbia University Teachers College. Jerald has worked in the social work, human service and Education fields for over 25 year. He is now a licensed realtor for the states of Florida and Pennsylvania. He can be reached at JeraldMCohen@gmail.com.



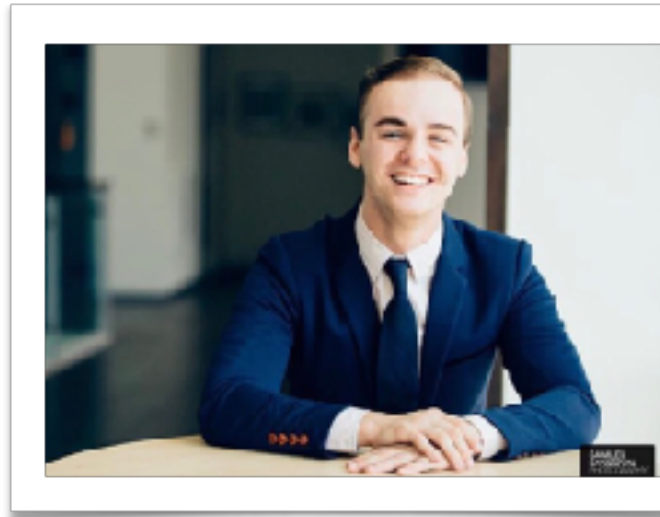
Workshop #3

Presentation Title: Now It's Time

Presenter Name: Jeffrey Spinale, Jr.

Brief outline or description of presentation:

For generations, we Deaf LGBTQ+ are often neglected by hearing people when it comes to fighting for our own rights. Hearing LGBTQ+ are advancing by gaining their rights, and we are grateful for their support and help. However, we have so many issues that we cannot solve with the lack of understanding from hearing LGBTQ+. We need to be able to talk to somebody who can empathize, who can be able to provide support and refer us to right resources. This workshop will be primarily focused on lack of statistics, lack of resources, and the vision of the resource center. It'll be presenter oriented.



Workshop #4

Presentation Title: Resource Center for the Deaf LGBTQ+ : Action is Needed!

Presenter Name: Jeff Spinale, Jr.

Brief outline or description of presentation:

Have you ever experienced struggles as a Deaf LGBTQ+ person? When you do, were you able to find resources the provides support you needed? If you did, was it deaf-centered? Many Deaf LGBTQ+ are faced with multiple negative experiences, and they are struggling to belong in one common place. Why aren't there any resource centers that is run by paid staff who are able to provide the best service that we needed? We often find several of them online or in. Person, but they usually are short lived or hearing-oriented. The issue that we are facing right now is the lack of statistics on Deaf LGBTQ+. Because of that, we are unable to bridge gaps and break barriers. This workshop will function as a community forum where the presenter and the audience will have a discussion about why is it extremely important to have a resource center for Deaf LGBTQ+.

Short biography of presenter:

Jeffrey Spinale Jr, is a proud native of Indiana. He graduated from Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) in 2014 with honors. During his high school years, as a staunch advocate for deaf LGBTQ rights, he founded the Gay-Straight Alliance organization, recognizing the need of establishing a safe place for deaf queer students. At that point and on, he immersed himself in LGBTQ studies. During his journey of self-discovery, he felt that there are insufficient resources for deaf LGBTQ individuals and it is an issue that the deaf queer community needs to come together and work on creating solutions. After graduating from ISD, he enrolled at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and majored in Criminal Justice, then switched to International Business in hopes of becoming a civil rights lawyer. During his two years as a RIT student, he was actively involved in the community as the President of Suits organization (a business organization that serves students who want to establish a start-up) and the President of Spectrum (a LGBTQ club). Jeffrey also was the chairperson of ColorFEST – a LGBTQ collegiate conference for the deaf – conference. He is currently a student at Gallaudet University majoring in Government with a Specialization in Law. While he served in a wide variety of groups in the deaf community, he faced struggles and discrimination as a deaf gay male individual. He aims to work towards establishing a national queer resource center for the deaf. Jeffrey plans on collecting data and creating dialogue with the deaf queer community. With that information collected, he plans on working with a wide variety of organizations and establish an online national queer resource center for the deaf.