

Overview

The Los Angeles County Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Collaborative (LBWHC) was created by individuals concerned about health disparities for lesbian and bisexual women in Los Angeles County. The LBWHC is made up of individuals and organizations with experience advocating for the health and well-being of lesbians and bisexual women. Members represent health care facilities, government agencies, community organizations, and academic institutions.

Lesbian and bisexual women's health was identified as a priority issue at the 2007 Women's Health Summit sponsored by the L.A. County Department of Public Health's Office of Women's Health. In 2008, the City Council of the City of West Hollywood adopted the Lesbian Health Bill of Rights, which was written by the City of West Hollywood's Lesbian Visibility Committee. Members of the Lesbian Visibility Committee worked with the L.A. County Office of Women's Health to host the first meeting of local key stakeholders in lesbian and bisexual women's health. This evolved into the L.A. County Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Collaborative (LBWHC), established in 2009. The LBWHC conducted focus groups with under-represented lesbian and bisexual women to solicit their health care opinions and experiences. The data collected from this study serves as the foundation for improving trainings and curriculums related to cultural competency targeting clinical providers and other health care professionals.

The objectives of the LBWHC are to:

- Develop a curriculum to train physicians and other health professionals in delivering culturally competent health care to lesbian and bisexual women
- Provide tailored training and education programs to health care facilities and health care providers about best practices for serving patients who are lesbian and bisexual women
- Host conferences for health care executives about best practices for systems approaches to health care for lesbian and bisexual women
- Supplement existing LGBT training programs and materials with information unique to lesbian and bisexual Latinas, African Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, veterans, and women ages 65 and over, using pilot data from the LBWHC's focus group studies
- Increase the number of health care institutions participating in the Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) Survey

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