



NALGAP *Reporter*

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LESBIAN AND GAY ADDICTION PROFESSIONALS

SERVING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES SINCE 1979

Volume XVIII, No. 2

Fall, 2005

NALGAP NATIONAL GOES REGIONAL!

This fall, NALGAP will be well represented at two important regional conferences. From September 29th through October 2nd, NALGAP members Cheryl Reese, Emily McNally, Dana Finnegan, Joe Amico, Phil McCabe, and Don McVinney will present workshops at the Cape Cod Symposium on Addictive Disorders in Hyannis, Massachusetts. NALGAP will also hold a meeting for those members in the area who would like to get together and also for any interested parties.

Then, Joe Amico of Alternatives, Inc. of Los Angeles and President of NALGAP and staff from New Leaf Services for Our Community in San Francisco will present at the California Association of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (CAADAC) 24th Annual Conference in Sacramento, California from October 6-9. Their banner headline reads--*CAADAC Congratulates NALGAP for 25 Years of Serving the GLBT Community And Welcomes you to Sacramento for NALGAP's First Western Regional Conference.*

These conferences are exciting steps toward the realization of NALGAP's dream of developing strong regional representation and activity. Early in NALGAP's history, we had regional chapters in New Jersey, the Midwest, California, and New York. But over the years, these chapters faded away. Now, in our 25th year, NALGAP is reviving the dream of regional representation.

CAPE COD & CAADAC CONFERENCES

The Eighteenth Cape Cod Symposium on Addictive Disorders: "Hot Topics & Controversial Approaches: Challenging a New Generation" will occur on September 29, 30 & October 1, 2, 2005 at Four Points by Sheraton Hyannis Resort, Hyannis, Cape Cod, MA

The Symposium will offer over fifty workshops to be conducted by a faculty composed of nationally and internationally known presenters as well as those less known who have their own unique contributions to make. As in the past a special reduced weekend registration will be available for the non-clinician. For more information: visit ccsad.com/18th/

CAADAC's 25th Anniversary Conference, *Celebrating Professional Diversity*, will be held October 6-9, 2005 in Sacramento, CA. At this conference, CAADAC will sponsor NALGAP's first Western regional conference. CAADAC is pleased to have Joe Amico, NALGAP President; and staff members of New Leaf Ser-

vices presenting workshops during the conference For more information: www.caadac.org or call Danalee Lavelle at (916) 368-9429

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

Bob Brex, a NALGAP member from Connecticut, reports that he has created an all-day *Risk and Protective Factors for GLBTQI Youth* workshop with a training manual. He is entering his third year under contract with the CT Multicultural Leadership Council to give the workshops across the state. In addition, this year he is being asked to provide technical assistance to treatment/prevention/mental health agencies in the state that are deficient in providing culturally competent services to the GLBTQI population. Congratulations, Bob!

On September 1st, **Phil McCabe**, CSW, CAS, Vice-President of NALGAP, will present on *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Substance Use & Abuse* at a luncheon during LGBT Awareness Week at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, UMDNJ Piscataway Campus. This presentation is sponsored by the LGBT People in Medicine chapter of the American Medical Student Association.

NALGAP Board member **Rodger L. Beatty** has provided a lecture to medical students on LGBT substance use for the past several summers. This is a specialized program with the Institute for Research, Education and Training on Addictions (IRETA) located in Pittsburgh, PA. They are CSAT's funded Northeast ATTC. The program is through the Scaife Advance Medical Student Assistance-Ships in AODD. Medical students from across the nation participate in this 3-week program to learn about addiction medicine. Rodger says he is heartened to have students who express a desire and, even more, a need to understand addictions in providing medical care. Rodger provides a brief history of substance use in the LGBT communities, seminal and contemporary research as well as prevention and treatment efforts. Students are provided with plenty of references and materials, in particular a copy of the CSAT, *A Providers Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment in LGBT Individuals*, a document that many NALGAP members assisted in developing and composing.

On July 8th, at the 25th Anniversary Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together—Building Bridges in Our Communities and in Our Lives in Pittsburgh, PA, **Rodger** spoke on a panel *Building a Multicultural Gay Men's Health Perspective: HIV, STD's and a Whole Lot More*. "Knowing that participants were interested in 'club drugs' I addressed some basics with an emphasis on the continuing distress of crystal meth. In particular I utilized information from the poster session; 'Club Drug Use Among High Risk Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) in Multiple Venues' presented at the June National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, GA."

FROM THE PRESIDENT: WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

We welcome **Dr. Penelope Ziegler** as our newest member of NALGAP's Board of Directors. Adding a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine who is also certified in addiction psychiatry is a wonderful addition to our board as NALGAP continues to reach out to the medical community in our efforts to educate professionals on the needs of LBGT clients.

Penny is Medical Director of Williamsburg Place and The William J. Farley Center in Williamsburg, VA. Since 1996, Penny has been Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Medical College of Virginia.

An impressive list of publications on topics relevant to our membership along with frequent speaking engagements makes her a wonderful ambassador for NALGAP. We are honored that she is willing to take time out from her incredible schedule to share her time and talent with our board.

I was privileged to attend the 4th (California) State Conference on Co-Occurring Disorders in Long Beach this Spring. Penny did such an excellent job of presenting on psychopharmacology in the LGBT population, I thought, "We need her for our NALGAP presentation at our national conference." I was delighted when she quickly agreed to become more active in NALGAP by coming on the board as well as presenting at conferences on our behalf.

You, go, Penny. Lead the way for others in our organization. Who will be our next board member? Speak to me at our gatherings this fall in Hyannis and Sacramento, or email me at: joe@joeamico.com.

Joe Amico, President

LGBT GROUPS JOIN WITH PEOPLE OF COLOR IN SEEKING TOBACCO FUNDS FOR ANTI-SMOKING INITIATIVES

Members of various minority groups, including the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community, have filed a friend of the court brief demanding that the settlement in the Department of Justice lawsuit against the tobacco industry provide over \$50 million to remedy the ill health effects caused by smoking in minority populations.

The brief was coordinated through the Praxis Project, the Center on Race, Healthcare and the Law at the University of Dayton (Ohio) Law School. Groups who signed onto the amicus brief include the Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment and Leadership, the National African American Tobacco Prevention Network, the National Coalition for LGBT Health, and The National Tribal Tobacco Prevention Network. The filing marks a milestone venture between advocates in LGBT and racial and ethnic minority groups to seek joint legal redress in a case that pitted the federal government against the tobacco industry..

Makani Themba-Nixon, the executive director of the Praxis Project, a nonprofit organization that builds partnerships between local advocacy groups who seek policymaking input, said that "minorities have not been heard on this issue. We have watched these settlements again and again without any directed resources to our community. We can't let this happen again."

For the minority groups to be successful in this case, the justice department must prove that the tobacco industry disproportionately targets the African-American, Asian, Latino, American Indian and LGBT communities for tobacco sales. The MSA forced tobacco companies to publicly disclose its documents and marketing strategies, paving the road for a case like this.

The American Legacy Foundation, a non-profit organization established in March 1999 as a result of the MSA and funded primarily by the settlement, uncovered the tobacco industry campaign, dubbed Project SCUM (Sub-Culture Urban Marketing), which was aimed at gays and homeless people.

Statistics on smoking in the LGBT community confirm that lesbian, gay and transgender people use tobacco at higher rates than do their heterosexual counterparts. In one study in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, the rates were 40-70 percent higher. In addition, 45 percent of adolescent lesbians and 35 percent of gay teens report being smokers, compared to 29 percent of the general youth population.

These high rates are likely a result of the tobacco industry's concentrated marketing efforts targeting youth in both minority and LGBT communities. "If you look at where minors are being sold cigarettes and being actively marketed to, it is happening in minority and LGBT communities," Themba-Nixon said.

Dr. Scout, an independent LGBT health consultant who works with the National Coalition for LGBT Health, said that the reasons why high rates of LGBT people are smokers is a complex issue, but that specific marketing by tobacco companies of the LGBT community is part of the answer. "When there was a struggling LGBT newspaper or pride guide, the tobacco industry stepped in early to advertise," he said. "The LGBT community was happy they were being paid attention to and have stayed very loyal to those patrons."

As a result of all of this big tobacco money, smoking is the most lethal health risk facing the LGBT community, said Dr. Scout, who pointed out, "many find it harder to quit smoking than to stop using drugs or alcohol. Tobacco is a deeper-rooted addiction." To combat this epidemic in the LGBT community, Dr. Scout believes that the LGBT community needs "cessation programs that are socially competent and that includes access to medications, doctors, and support groups." But the problem is that "a lot of people in the LGBT community do not have access to that."

Themba-Nixon is hopeful that the money won from this lawsuit could go to instituting a comprehensive prevention program. "We need community coalitions at the local level to work with policy makers," she said. "Most importantly, though, we just need programs that help people in these communities quit."

From: "Health" by Hannah Seligson in Gay City News, 75, 30, July 28 - Aug. 3, 2005.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ Business Phone(____) _____
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Individual Membership: \$35 Agency Membership: \$50
 _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____ Gift Membership Total enclosed: _____

Provide a gift membership: (Enter your name and address above and gift name and address below)

NALGAP is a not for profit, tax exempt organization which allows you to deduct your membership dues and donations. Please consider making an additional donation.

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