Project Visibility – Raising Awareness of LGBT Aging

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Objectives

- Learn the unique needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders
- Learn about challenges faced in healthcare settings
- Learn how to be responsive to LGBT elders

Definitions

Categories

- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual
- Queer

GENDER IDENTITY

- Transsexual
- Transgender
- Male
- Female
- Queer
- Intersex
Unique Challenges for LGBT Elders

- Effects of stigma – past and present
- Reliance on informal “families of choice” who lack legal and social recognition
- Unequal treatment under laws and programs for older adults

LGBT Health Concerns

- Health disparities are overlooked and ignored
- Limited government and social support for families of choice (e.g., FMLA)
- Health care environments inhospitable to LGBT elders
- Nursing homes often fail to protect LGBT elders

LGBT Elder Strengths

- Share a common culture
- Self Reliant
- Create own support network
- Have developed coping skills in dealing with a hostile environment

How to be a LGBT Ally

- Communicate Effectively
- Create a Safe and Welcoming Environment
- Create An Inclusive Infrastructure
Providing Responsive Services

The ability to listen, respond and provide polite and considerate care to all clients regardless of personal feelings, beliefs or values about their character or behaviors.