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Helping families and individuals live independent and productive lives through the interaction of vital client programs and services.

LifeCare: Medical Care and Treatment Management, Licensed Mental Health Counseling, Sandy Lanier Nutrition Center Nutritional Counseling, Minority Outreach, Housing Assistance, Legal Assistance, Insurance Continuation Program, Peer Advocate Program, Support Groups, Transportation Assistance, and Youth/Children Programs.

Helping reduce the transmission of HIV, educating the community, and alerting them to changes in the AIDS epidemic.

Confidential HIV Testing, HIV/AIDS Outreach and Prevention Education, Special Community Awareness Events, Professional Workplace Education, Information Hot Line, and Internet Home Page in English and Spanish.

History

AIDS Outreach Center (AOC) is a 501(c)(3) community-based organization founded in 1986 as the Fort Worth Counseling Center. The agency was founded by Tarrant County's gay and lesbian community to help provide mental health and legal support for those suffering from HIV/AIDS. For the first two years, the agency was staffed solely by volunteers with no funding. In 1988, the agency received its first grant from the Texas Department of Health (TDH) for the provision of HIV/AIDS services, which enabled the agency to hire its first two staff members.

Since its inception, AOC's budget, staff and client base have grown substantially. Our 40 member staff, along with hundreds of dedicated volunteers, are responsible for providing a wide range of social services, outreach activities, testing and counseling, prevention education programs and public policy advocacy. AOC serves men, women and children living with HIV, and their families, in Tarrant and eight surrounding rural counties.

Due to its long-standing history of quality and comprehensive support services, AOC has become the most highly utilized nonmedical referral destination for more than 1,300 persons per year living with HIV/AIDS in Tarrant County and the surrounding areas. Current services include: mental health counseling, support groups, nutritional support, youth services, minority outreach, case management, legal assistance, transportation, housing, emergency assistance, insurance continuation program, information line, community education and prevention services, including confidential and anonymous testing, HIV negative and HIV positive prevention programs.

Along with traditional services, AOC continues to adapt and meet the emerging needs of the community with innovative and state of the art programming and services. AOC maintains an office in Arlington as well as in the Fort Worth Medical District. Individuals with HIV are living longer due to advances in both medical treatment and drug therapy. Many individuals are returning to work, and as a result, greater advocacy for these individuals is needed in the workplace and in housing sectors. As such, our legal referral and advocacy services have grown. The face of HIV/AIDS has shifted, affecting minorities in greater numbers. AOC is successfully intervening in our communities of color with targeted outreach, prevention and educational programs along with aggressively meeting client social service needs.

Direct Client Services**Outreach and HIV Prevention Education**

AIDS Outreach Center's Outreach and HIV Prevention Education Program is designed to serve those individuals in our community who are determined, statistically, to be at a high risk of HIV infection. This program allows us to be able to reach those who make up the largest growing populations of HIV infected individuals in Tarrant County. This program seeks to engage individuals in a nonthreatening manner to increase the level of trust between AOC's HIV Risk Reduction Specialists and the person who is engaging in at-risk behavior. Outreach and HIV Prevention Education is comprised of HIV testing to find out an individual's current HIV status and Risk Reduction Counseling.

HIV Risk Reduction Specialists conduct testing and risk reduction counseling in a multitude of venues. There are set office testing hours, but staff is responsive to individual needs beyond