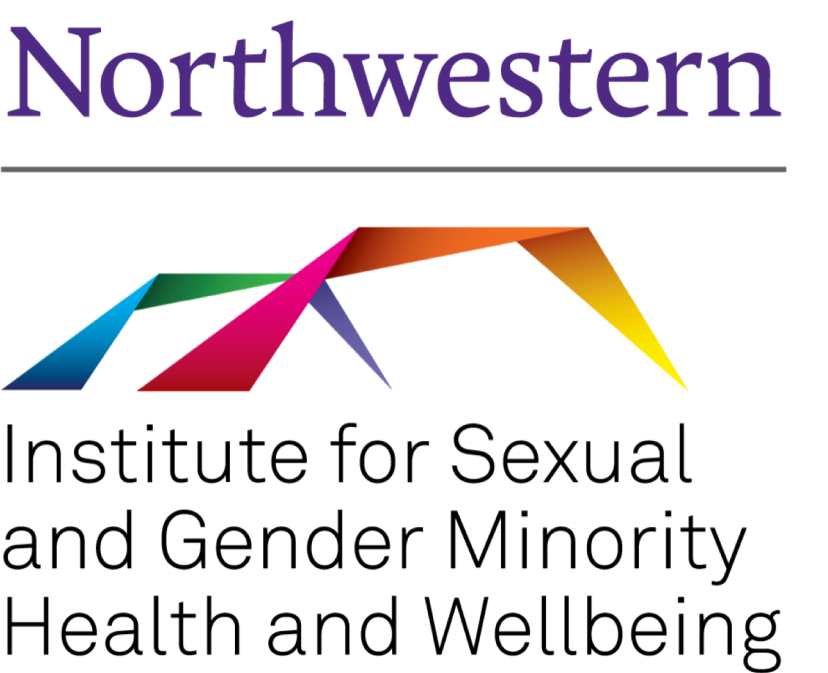




Improving the health of the bisexual community through the creation of a citywide task force

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Background

Bisexual individuals represent the largest segment of the LGBT community, yet they are largely invisible in society.

Bisexual people are disproportionately affected by negative health outcomes (including HIV/STI) due to pervasive stigma/discrimination.

In 2018, with leadership from bisexual community stakeholders, LGBT community organizations, healthcare systems, and researchers, the Chicago Bisexual Health Task Force (CBHTF) was created to identify and address the health inequities facing bisexual communities in Chicago.

About

The Chicago Bisexual Health Task Force is a newly created group of community members, healthcare professionals, and researchers dedicated to improving the lives of bisexual individuals in the Chicagoland area.

Mission

To improve the lives of bisexual+ individuals in the Chicagoland area by mobilizing communities, engaging in research, advocacy, and education, and supporting the development and implementation of policies and programs.

Vision

A thriving diverse bisexual+ community in the Chicagoland area that is visible, vibrant, and healthy.

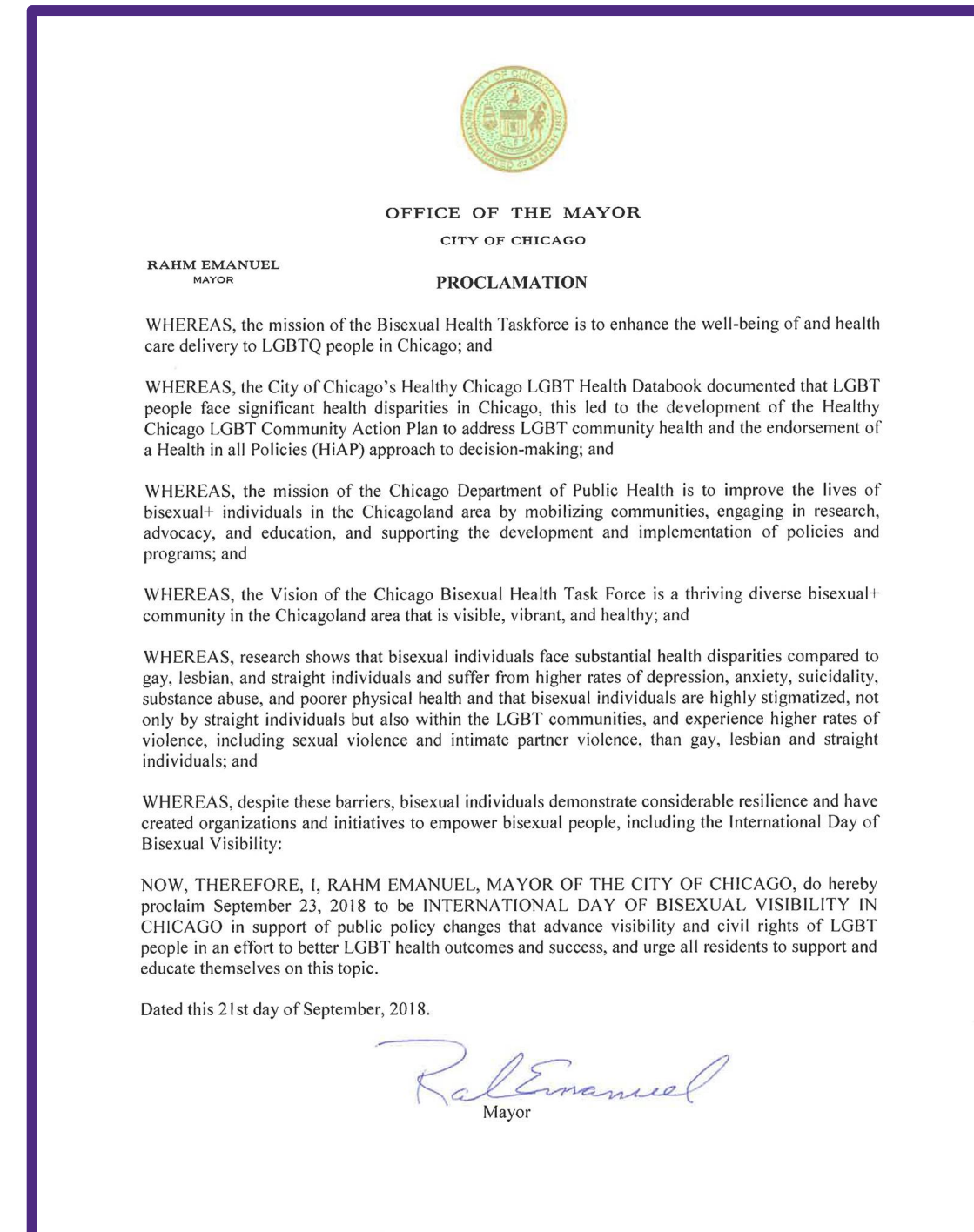
Reasons groups like this work

- The use of a steering committee consisting of 3-4 members to help guide the task group led to higher engagement in meetings and overall more follow through.
- Hosting events throughout the area to leading to further engagement with the community at large.
- Members have a sense of universality and connection with other members through the participation in advocacy efforts.
- Have members of the community you are working with in positions of leadership. This leads to better commitment among members and stronger sense of unity.
- Having smaller task oriented goals to better measure progress.

Accomplishments

International Day of Bisexual Visibility

September 23, 2018, Proclamation by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel declaring September 23, 2018 "International Day of Bisexual Visibility" in Chicago.



We See You: Countering the Invisibility of Bisexual Health

November 2, 2018, Conference hosted by AFC that explored racial equity & social justice in the bisexual community

CBHTF Community Forum

November 12, 2018, The Chicago Bisexual Health Task Force held a community forum designed to engage members and allies of the bisexual community to help us chart our path moving forward, fulfill our mission, and achieve our vision.



Aurora Pride Parade

June 9, 2019, Participated in the second annual Pride Parade in Aurora, IL.



On the Table: Thriving as Bi+ in Chicago

May 14, 2019, Bi+ people, activists, allies, health providers, and others all came together to brainstorm about the health & needs of Chicagoans to improve bi+ health needs.

Bisexual Health Summit

July 9, 2019, CBHTF hosted a Bisexual Health Summit to provide opportunities to learn more about latest findings from research on bisexual health, discuss best practices for healthcare with bi+ populations, and network with members of the bi+ community.

Recommendations for supporting Bisexual Communities

- Evaluate the inclusivity of your current practices (e.g., provision of healthcare or social services, research, teaching)
- Seek training on the unique needs of bisexual people from organizations with expertise (e.g., Bisexual Organizing Project)
- Use inclusive language that specifically mentions bisexual people on forms and signs
- Host events and participate in social media campaigns in recognition of Bisexual Health Awareness Month (which takes place each March)
- Implement services tailored to the unique needs of bisexual people (e.g., support groups specifically for bisexual people)