

Dear AWY coalition member,

Thank you for being a member of the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth (AWY) and all the work you have done in your communities through your coalitions. I am writing to inform you of an opportunity to expand prevention work by addressing the needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Two-Spirit (LGBT-2S) population in Wisconsin. As you all may or may not know, the LGBT-2S population is a population that has a higher rate of substance use disorders both in the state and in the nation. Factsheets produced recently by DHS on these populations have shown that more work can be done to prevent and reduce substance use disorders within these populations.

I will be creating and organizing a workgroup/taskforce to help address the needs of the LGBT-2S population in Wisconsin. It is my intention that this workgroup/task force will be comprised of both AWY prevention coalition members and LGBT resource centers or organizations in Wisconsin. By bringing these two groups together, my goal is to foster collaboration and provide solutions on how to create a better environment for our LGBT and 2-Spirit populations; an environment where the risk factors they face are reduced and in turn, substance use disorders are reduced and prevented. I am seeking AWY coalition members who are interested, invested, and devoted to helping and serving the LGBT-2S persons in their community. Participation is not mandatory and coalitions do not have to currently be working with or serving LGBT-2S persons in order to participate.

Coalition members will be working with representatives from the LGBT resource centers/organizations who may or may not be part of this population but who serve and seek to promote the wellbeing of this population. With the presence of LGBT resource centers/organizations, interested coalitions will have the opportunity to learn and build their capacity on providing culturally competent services to the LGBT-2S persons in their community. This will also provide an opportunity to have experts on this population, at the table, guiding the creation of possible solutions to address this problem. Interested individuals must be willing to commit their time to attend face-to-face and phone meetings.

If you are interested in joining this taskforce/workgroup and are willing to commit your time and resources, please contact me by January 12, 2018 at Chino.AmahMbah@dhs.wi.gov . If you would like more information, please feel free to email me as well.

Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Chino Amah Mbah

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