

APICHA OPENS DOORS TO TRANS HEALTH CLINIC BY MIHAELA MIHAI, CLINIC MANAGER

November 3, 2011, marked an important milestone in APICHA's 21 year history. In the presence of long-term friends and supporters, APICHA opened the doors of its new Trans Health Clinic. Created through the vision of its leadership, unrelenting work of staff and with the financial support of a 3 year grant from the Rapoport Foundation, the new clinic provides comprehensive medical services including hormone initiation and maintenance along with mental and social support services from trans-affirming providers and staff, including a project coordinator. The new clinic welcomes all transgender people who have been looking for a medical home for their medical and social needs.

The opening ceremony included a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a panelist discussion of the medical, social and legal disparities faced by transgender individuals. Panelists included Theresa Nolan of Green Chimneys, Pauline Park, Ph.D., Chair of NYAGRA, Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried, and APICHA's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Robert Murayama. The panel was moderated by Lourdes Follins, Ph.D., of CUNY – Kingsborough, who is an APICHA Board Member. In attendance were APICHA staff, APICHA Vice-Chair, various New York City and State officials, representatives from various New York City non-profits and members of the transgender community.

The opening of the clinic was chronicled by [Our Town Downtown](#), in an interview with APICHA's CMO Dr. Robert Murayama. To read this article, please visit <http://otdowntown.com/2011/11/dr-robert-murayama/>. If you would like to see a slideshow of pictures from the opening, please visit our homepage at www.apicha.org.



APICHA TRANS HEALTH CLINIC OPENING CEREMONY—CEO THERESE RODRIGUEZ WAS JOINED BY ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CUT THE RIBBON

FREE TESTING DAY AT UNITED NATIONS BY JOSEPH AKIMA, LGBT PROGRAM HIV/ STI SERVICES MANAGER

On November 30th, in anticipation of World AIDS Day, APICHA performed free HIV rapid antibody testing at the United Nations' UNICEF Headquarters at 3 UN Plaza. In attendance at the testing were Geraldine Glassman, Human Resources Associate at the UN Development Programme, and APICHA's Board Chair, Dr. Mars Custodio. APICHA staff provided UN staff with HIV tests and risk assessment counseling to help staff identify risks and how better to protect themselves in the future. In line with APICHA's mission and focus, those tested were of various ethnicities, genders, and nationalities.

APICHA has been in a partnership with the UN to provide World AIDS Day rapid HIV testing services for several years. Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) also provides HIV testing the day prior. When asked about the UN's partnership with APICHA, Glassman said, "We've been working with APICHA for the past three years and we're so happy with the professionalism, spirit, and service that they bring to the UN community here in New York."

APICHA PROGRAMS UPDATE

SOME POZ-ITIVELY GREAT NEWS FOR APICHA: POZ MAGAZINE FEATURES APICHA IN "POZ 100"

BY MATHEW RODRIGUEZ, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

APICHA's new Trans Health Clinic, which opened in a beautiful ceremony on November 3rd, was featured in POZ Magazine's "POZ 100: 100 People, Things, and Ideas We Love," and APICHA's Trans Health Clinic was listed at Number 8. The December 2011 issue is currently on newsstands, or you can go to www.poz.com and click on "POZ 100" for a free look at the complete list! Please see the excerpt below:

8. APICHA's Transgender Clinic

Given its history of delivering progressive health services to under-the-radar communities in need, it's no surprise that the Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS, led by Therese Rodriguez, chose to recently open the doors of this much-needed clinic. The clinic is designed to deliver comprehensive medical services, including hormone therapy and mental and social support services, for transgender people. APICHA's multi-lingual, multi-cultural staff is fluent in 17 languages. They also translate care into compassion and understanding.

"[I]t's no surprise that the Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS...chose to recently open the doors of this much-needed clinic."

-POZ MAGAZINE



COURTESY OF POZ MAGAZINE

APICHA PROGRAMS UPDATE

NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER 2011



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

INTERSECTIONS OF DV AND HIV BY MELANIE DULFO, WOMEN & YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER

The Women's Project of the Women and Youth Program participated in a series of events to increase awareness around domestic violence in the month of October, especially as it relates to HIV. October is domestic violence awareness month and APICHA, through the Women's Project, participated in a forum on HIV and DV, conducted by the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. The Women's Project also took part in the silent march against domestic violence and conducted a presentation on the intersections of DV and HIV in the API community at Korean American Family Services Center (KAFSC).

The cultural silence that pervades Asian and Pacific Islander (API) immigrant communities have made open conversations about HIV and domestic violence challenging. Strong taboos regarding sex and sexuality, the perception that this only happens in other communities or that it happens to those with bad behavior has stigmatized those accessing care, HIV/STD testing, and services.

Additionally, issues of API immigrants, such as limited English proficiency or lack of insurance, has made it more difficult for them to access to care. With the unique place that APICHA has in intersecting communities of API, women, immigrant, LGBTQI, and HIV-positive people, they are also at a unique place to share the experiences of these communities with one another and how they are all connected.

On September 21, 2011, Women and Youth Program Manager Melanie Dulfo shared these unique experiences at the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence on Issues in HIV/AIDS and Domestic Violence. She presented on taboos related to HIV and domestic violence, unique issues of immigrants and API communities, and case studies of APICHA's work within these communities. The Women's Project encountered a young East Asian woman who was a recent immigrant and was not proficient in English. She experienced threats of physical violence and sexual assault from her boyfriend. The perpetrator forced her to have unprotected sex, which caused her not only to feel violated, but also made her fearful of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. The Women's Project assisted her, providing free HIV and STD screening. They also helped her to engage with an organization that works with victims of violence. She is now obtaining support from the agency to make the decision to file a complaint with the police.. She indicated that she would return to APICHA in a few months for a follow-up test.

It is because of this and other stories that on October 8, 2011, Women's Project Peer Educators joined in the silent march against violence to honor the survivors of violence. The event was organized by Korean American Family Services Center (KAFSC) and sponsored by different community-based organizations, serving DV survivors. Advocates and community members marched from the 109th NYPD precinct and concluded at 156th Street and Northern Boulevard. Women and Youth Program Manager Melanie Dulfo followed up with a presentation on APICHA's experiences on the intersections of DV and HIV for hotline volunteers at the annual volunteer training of KAFSC.

HAPPY HOILDAYS FROM
APICHA

APICHA GALA-
SAVE THE DATE



APICHA would like to extend a heartfelt “Happy Holiday!” to all readers. May you all stay happy and healthy in the New Year.

APICHA will hold its Benefit Gala, *A Thousand and One Champions*, on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Manhattan. This celebratory event marks APICHA’s 22 years of service to Asians and Pacific Islanders (A&PIs) and other communities of color, the LGBT community and individuals living with HIV/AIDS in New York City. All funds raised from this event will go towards continuing APICHA’s comprehensive HIV+ medical care, general medical care, and administrative services.

For more information, visit www.apicha.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Clinic Hours: M/T/F: 9:30 am-5:30 pm,
W/Th: 9:30 am-7 pm
HIV Testing Hours: M/T/Th/F: 10:30 am-4:30 pm,
W: 1:30 pm-06:30 pm

To make an appointment for testing, please call
Infoline: 866-APICHA9 (866-274-2429)

To make an appointment for
medical care, call: 212-334-6029

To support APICHA and our initiatives, please visit:
www.apicha.org/contribute

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