

CalLEN-LORDE CHECKup

Important news from the nation's leading health care facility serving the LGBT communities.

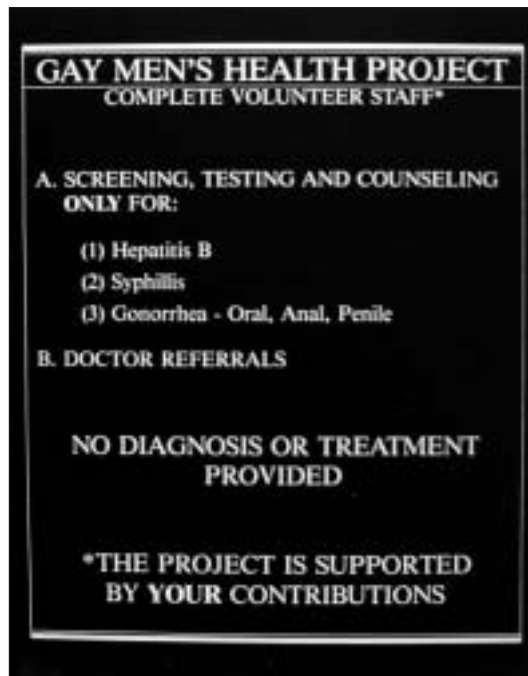
Volume XIV, Number 2 • Fall 2002

Returning to Our Roots

by Susan Weigl and Steve Albert

In response to great community demand and need, Callen-Lorde is creating greater access to education and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STI - previously known as sexually transmitted diseases/STD) and HIV counseling and testing, by returning to our roots. Our grassroots volunteer-based heritage dates back over 25 years, to the St. Mark's Clinic (1974-83), Gay Men's Health Project (1974-83), and Community Health Project (1983-98). These clinics, the precursors of Callen-Lorde, provided walk-in STD screening, diagnosis and treatment primarily to gay men, lesbians, and transgender individuals in New York City.

Callen-Lorde was recently



Our sign from 1974. At this volunteer clinic no treatment could be provided -only screening. Now 28 years later, we provide comprehensive treatment to 11,000 patients but with the same sensitive care.

informed by the New York City Department of Health that we treat 40% of all syphilis cases in New York City. After receiving this startling news, we began to evaluate the STI care we provide to better understand how we could address this important health issue affecting not only our community, but also New York City. In addition to this, Callen-Lorde routinely provides over 200 STI screening visits per month, with 67% percent of patients testing positive for an STI. HIV counseling is also an important component of STI screening and treatment. Through HIV counseling, our staff provides important prevention education, and patients can then make informed choices about

whether to test for HIV, based on the level of risk associated with the diagnosed STI.

Currently, STI screening and HIV counseling and testing are offered at Callen-Lorde within the context of primary care. This simply means that in order to access these services, one must be under the care of a Callen-Lorde primary care provider. Callen-Lorde registers on average 370 new patients per month, and because of this ongoing, tremendous demand for our services, there can be a wait for a new patient appointment. Realizing that many individuals first come to Callen-Lorde not for primary care, but for STI and/or HIV-related health concerns, we decided to create the most acces-

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From the Executive Director

by Jay Laudato



In this issue of CheckUp, we describe how Callen-Lorde is creating greater access to education and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV counseling and testing, by returning to our roots (cover story). Callen-Lorde currently diagnoses and treats over 200 STIs and registers over 30 new patients with HIV/AIDS each month. In response to tremendous demand from those we serve, we hope that by restructuring our services, the community will be able to more quickly access treatment and we will be better able to provide individual prevention counseling to all who need it.

We would also like to inform you about important updates in our programs, such as our new medical van and collaborations for youth served by our HOTT Program (page 2); our new satellite clinics serving people with HIV, seniors and disabled adults at the Village Center for Care (page 2); Dental Services (page 5); and expanded Women's Health Program (page 6).

We are also introducing a new feature by Dr. Dawn Harbatkin, Callen-Lorde's Medical Director, on current issues in health care that may affect your well-being as well as that of, your partner and your family. Current Health Issues (page 3) will also direct you to where to look for further information on these important issues.

I hope that you find this issue of the CheckUp helpful and informative.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

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HOTT: Meeting Young People Where They Are

by Michele Grethel

The Health Outreach To Teens (HOTT) program is committed to “meeting young people where they are at.” Via our mobile van, the HOTT program provides outreach and medical assessment to young people on the streets, focusing on homeless and squatter youth, and in our dedicated suite here at Callen-Lorde, where we offer the full array of medical and mental health services for free.

This year, the HOTT program will replace its ten-year old van with a new one with the support of the Manhattan Borough President, C. Virginia Fields, and the New York City Council.

With the new van, we will expand our outreach services to include not only medical assessment and case management support, but also mental health counseling, peer outreach and support (providing by trained and supervised youth) and HIV pre-test counseling. Our van goes out in the late afternoon and evenings and serves young people in the Times Square area, the Christopher Street Piers, and the Lower East Side.

In August, HOTT entered into a new partnership with **Safe Horizons' Lower East Side Streetwork Project**. At this location, we will be engaging young homeless and injection drug users into healthcare and other supportive services.

This project builds on our long term working relationship with Safe Horizon's Streetwork Project, but also engages a new healthcare partner, **Beth Israel's Family Practice Residency Program**. (Family Practice is the branch of medicine that trains providers on the medical needs of children, adolescents and adults, as opposed to

Internal Medicine which only focuses on adults.) The HOTT program's Medical Director will be overseeing medical residents providing care to these high – need young people. This collaboration will offer quality care to youth and train new physicians on how to appropriately engage and treat young persons with drug addiction.



Another exciting and important project of the HOTT program which also began in August is the provision of medical and mental health care to the residents of **Safe Home, a group home for HIV – positive youth**. We provide this care by placing an HIV – experienced nurse into the home, who works with each young person in the development of a care plan and ensures that they access our services or other medical providers of their choice. This is another way in which we meet young people where they are at.

New Satellite Clinics

by Wendy Stark

Callen-Lorde is excited to announce a new partnership with the **Village Center for Care (VCC)**. VCC offers programs and services for those in need of medical and rehabilitative care for chronic and disabling conditions and illnesses. Callen-Lorde will offer services on-site at **Rivington House-the Nicholas A. Rango Health Care Facility**, providing primary health care to patients enrolled at the AIDS Day Treatment program; and at VCC's West 20th Street facility, serving patients from both the AIDS Day Treatment and Geriatric Day Treatment programs. Callen-Lorde's partnership with VCC exemplifies our long-standing commitment to provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS and seniors.

Starting in the late fall,

Callen-Lorde will operate these satellite clinics at both VCC sites 15 hours a week. Callen-Lorde and VCC believe that it is critically important to provide services to people with multiple, complex health issues in a setting where they already feel a sense of trust and comfort. Patients' ability to access primary care on-site at their Day Treatment programs will also eliminate the need for transportation arrangements and allow for greater coordination of care.

Increasing our capacity and ability to reach medically underserved individuals throughout the New York City metropolitan area via satellite clinics is a great step for Callen-Lorde, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to work with the Village Center for Care and its patients.

...Our Roots

Continued from page 1

sible system possible to address these critical health issues.

To that end, Callen-Lorde has decided to return to its roots and offer these services apart from primary care in a new setting, the **Sexual Health Clinic**. Opening in late fall, Callen-Lorde will bring to it nearly three decades of experience in providing sensitive and appropriate STI care, education, and HIV prevention, primarily to the LGBT community. The goals of the **Sexual Health Clinic** will be two-fold: to increase access to comprehensive STI clinical care, while incorporating a risk reduction approach and health education into this treatment. Risk reduction counseling will help individuals examine their sexual behavior and all activities associated with it (including drug use) to minimize their risk for STI and HIV, while retaining a satisfying and fulfilling sex life.

To achieve this goal, medical providers, nurses, educators and counselors will individually address the medical, educational and counseling needs for each patient.

There is an urgent need in our community to reemphasize STI/HIV prevention and to bring new approaches for access to screening and treatment. Callen-Lorde believes that the best way to meet this need is to reach back in our history and add innovative services to our highly interactive, comprehensive model of health care provision. Callen-Lorde's new **Sexual Health Clinic** will be a place where patients can access immediate STI prevention and health care, alongside supportive and educational services in a sensitive and non-judgmental manner. This will be an important contribution towards a healthier LGBT community in New York City.

The Medical Director's report on: Current Health Issues

by Dawn Harbatkin, MD



Current Health Issues is a new feature of the CheckUp which highlights current issues in health care that may affect your well-being as well as that of your partner and your family. Each health issue is followed by Internet links and/or references for more information.

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) in Postmenopausal Women

Contrary to prior information, two recent studies have shown that many women and healthcare professionals are asking whether HRT is the right thing to do. Both trials looked at the beneficial and harmful effects of combination estrogen/progestin treatment. While there was a decrease in rates of some cancers and hip fractures, there was an increased risk of heart disease, stroke and blood clots.

The results indicate that HRT should not be initiated nor continued for primary prevention of coronary heart disease. It is important to note that this trial did not address the short-term risks and benefits of hormones given for the treatment of menopausal symptoms.

Links: www.jama.ama-assn.org

The American Journal for Nurse Practitioners July/August 2002

Low-Carbohydrate, High-Protein Diets

More and more studies are being done on the beneficial and harmful effects of low-carbohydrate, high-protein diets. One study looked at the effect of this diet over 6 months and found it to be effective – a 10.3% average weight loss per person and a 17.1% average decrease in fat mass – derived without serious adverse effects, and surprising in that only 37% reported adherence to the diet at 6 months.

However, a further study

showed that consumption of a low-carbohydrate, high protein diet delivers an high acid load to the kidney. This increases the risk of kidney stones and bone loss.

Links:

www.medicinedirect.com

American Journal of Kidney Disorders 2002, 106(40);265-274.

HIV Reinfection Demonstrated

A recent report in the New England Journal of Medicine has shown evidence that people who are HIV-infected, can be "super-infected" or reinfected with another strain of the virus. The findings are two-fold and are extremely important. The first is that persons with HIV-1 (the strain most Americans are infected with) can be reinfected with other strains of the virus. And so, individuals can be reinfected multiple times with different strains of the virus.

The second finding is that the immune system can respond effectively to only the initial infection by the virus.

After a person is infected with HIV, the immune systems mounts a significant defense containing the infection, and so many individuals can have no symptoms for many (5-10) years. However, the immune system gradually weakens until the individual begins to experience symptoms associated with immune system suppression.

If the immune system is actively fighting one strain of the virus, it cannot fight effectively against new infections. Therefore, infection by another strain may cause a more rapid progression to symptoms and disease.

This was true for the person described in the case report. Based on these findings, those who are HIV-infected should also be protecting themselves against new infection with HIV.

Links:

New England Journal of Medicine 347(10):756 and 347(10):731.

Sincerely,

Medical Director

Keeping You Healthy...

Update on Syphilis



While men and women are both at risk for syphilis, over the past few years, there has been a significant rise in the number of syphilis cases among men who have sex with men in New York City. Additionally, the New York City Department of Health informed Callen-Lorde that we treat 40% of the reported syphilis cases in New York City. Therefore, we are reprinting the syphilis brochure specific for men who have sex with men. For women who have sex with women, more information can be obtained

from our Health Education Resource Center (HERC).

What is Syphilis?

SYPHILIS, a sexually transmitted infection (STI), is an infection caused by spiral-shaped bacteria, or spirochete, called *Treponema pallidum*.

Symptoms

If left untreated, syphilis progresses in three stages:

FIRST STAGE/PRIMARY STAGE

A single painless sore (chancre) will appear between 10 and 90 days after the bacteria is contracted through direct skin-to-skin contact. The sore is usually located in the anal/genital area or in the mouth, but can be located anywhere on the body. The sore is usually firm, round, and painless. When touched, it can feel harder than the surrounding skin. Lymph nodes (glands) in the area may also be swollen. If left untreated, the sore will last 2 to 8 weeks before disappearing.

SECOND STAGE

If stage 1 is not treated, the second stage of the disease will begin roughly 6 weeks after the sore in stage 1 first appeared. The most common symptom of stage 2 is a rash which may appear on any part of the body: torso, arms, legs, palms, soles of feet, etc. Other more general symptoms include fatigue, fever, sore throat, headaches, loss of appetite, and swollen glands. New multiple sores may appear on the genitals, anus, or mouth. These symptoms will last from 2 to 6 weeks before they disappear.

THIRD STAGE/LATE STAGE

Untreated secondary syphilis will develop into latent syphilis which usually has no symptoms. Latent syphilis can remain hidden for many years. If left untreated, latent syphilis will progress to cause blindness, cardiovascular and central nervous system damage, paralysis, and possibly death.

Continued from page 4

Update on Syphilis

Continued from page 3

Diagnosis

A diagnosis is made by a blood test or by examination of the syphilis bacteria under a microscope. A specimen of the bacteria is obtained by swabbing a primary chancre. Because symptoms of syphilis are not always present, it is important to get tested for the disease as early as possible.

Treatment

Syphilis is usually treated with penicillin injections. The stage of infection determines the number of injections needed for treatment. For people who are allergic to penicillin there are other medications available.

A person who has had the infection can contract it

again if re-exposed to the syphilis bacteria.

Transmission

Syphilis is transmitted by activities that involve direct contact with a syphilis sore in stage 1, or with the multiple sores and rash that can occur in stage 2. It can be transmitted through direct contact of the penis–anus, penis–penis, mouth–anus, mouth–penis, hand–anus, and hand–penis. It can also be transmitted by skin-to-skin contact if a chancre or rash is present.

Prevention

You can help prevent syphilis by using condoms, latex gloves, and dental dams

in activities that involve direct contact of the penis–anus, penis–penis, mouth–anus, mouth–penis, hand–anus, and hand–penis. (Always use a water based lubricant rather than an oil based lubricant with latex barriers.) However, since a latex barrier will not cover all areas where a syphilis chancre may be present, there is no preventative measure that provides 100% protection against the infection.

For your partner(s)

If you are diagnosed with syphilis, or think you may have been exposed to it, tell your partner(s), including any partner(s) you had in the 2 months prior to the diagnosis. Your partner(s) may need

treatment and should see a health care provider.

Where to go for help?

If you show symptoms of syphilis, or think you may have been exposed to it, the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center offers screenings, treatment, and follow-up exam for sexually transmitted infections.

The above has been excerpted and adapted from one in a series of 15 Callen-Lorde STI brochures. To pick up a free copy of any of these brochures, please stop by Callen-Lorde at 356 West 18th Street and visit or call our Health Education Resource Center (HERC) at 212 271-7287.



november 18, 2002 • 6-9 pm

tribeca rooftop • nyc

Honoring individuals and institutions making significant contributions to the health and well-being of New York's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV/AIDS-affected communities.

HONOREES:

A. Gifford Miller, Speaker of the New York City Council
Christine Quinn, New York City Council Member

Community Health Advocate Award

For leadership in securing health care resources for LGBT New Yorkers, and for work on behalf of un- and underinsured individuals, women, and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Barbara Starrett, MD *Community Health Provider Award*

For pioneering leadership as the first Medical Director of the Community Health Project and its predecessor, the St. Mark's Clinic, and for more than 25 years commitment to LGBT health concerns, especially HIV/AIDS.

James Stiles, Executive Director, Sunset Park Family Health Center

Community Health Partner Award

For extraordinary support of Callen-Lorde to become the first and only Federally Qualified Health Center in the nation dedicated to serving the LGBT community.

BENEFIT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Stephanie Seremetis, MD, and Jamie Saakvitne

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and awards at the stunning Tribeca Rooftop. Sponsorships and Corporate tables available. Please call (212) 271-7263.

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Callen-Lorde Honors Health Care Leaders

Speaker of the New York City Council, A. Gifford Miller, and Chair of the City Council's Health Committee, Christine Quinn, will be honored with the Community Health Advocate Award at the 2002 Callen-Lorde Community Health Awards benefit on Monday, November 18, at Tribeca Rooftop in lower Manhattan.

"Speaker Miller and Councilmember Quinn were instrumental in securing major funding for Callen-Lorde, and their long-time advocacy on behalf of LGBT health issues made them immediate choices for this award," said Ellen Alpert, Co-Chair of Callen-Lorde's Board of Directors.

James Stiles, Executive Director of Sunset Park Family Health Center Network and

Executive Vice President of Lutheran Medical Center, will be honored with the Community Health Partner Award for his leadership in assisting Callen-Lorde to become the first LGBT-identified Federally Qualified Health Center in the country. "FQHC status will have a profound impact on the health of our community. It strengthens Callen-Lorde's capacity to carry out its mission of providing care to LGBT New Yorkers, and anyone who comes through our doors, regardless of ability to pay. Callen-Lorde will be able to access greater federal funds for our patients, and federal policy makers will pay more attention to the data we collect about the health care issues unique to our community," continued Ms. Alpert.

Barbara Starrett, MD, will receive the Community Health Provider Award in honor of her pioneering leadership as the first Medical Director of the Community Health Project and its predecessor the St. Mark's Clinic, and for more than 25 years commitment to LGBT health concerns, especially HIV/AIDS. "Dr. Starrett has devoted her professional life to promoting the health of our community, and has stood up for us at every turn. I am proud to be able to recognize her dedication with this award," said Ms. Alpert.

The Callen-Lorde Community Health Awards are the only awards dedicated to recognizing the people at the core of caring for our community's health. Last year's event

raised almost \$100,000 for Callen-Lorde.

The event includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a light supper, and the awards program. Donor tickets are \$175 per person. "This event is an opportunity for people from all sectors of health care to join our community and show their support of Callen-Lorde. It is a celebration of the amazing network of LGBT health care advocates, providers and partners that we have in New York," explained Paul Fricken, Director of Development.

If you would like more information on the Community Health Awards, or to purchase tickets by phone, please call Callen-Lorde's Development Office at (212) 271-7263.

Callen-Lorde Donors: Helping Others

by Paul Fricken

If you don't think you can make a difference in someone's life, consider this.

Callen-Lorde has become the health care provider of choice for the more than 11,000 patients registered here.

Our patients know they can get quality care in a place where it is safe to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, younger, older, Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, male, female — anyone. That is Callen-Lorde's mission, and we're proud of it.

But no matter who the patient is or their unique circumstance, everyone knows that health care costs money, and for our patients without insurance or with limited ability to pay, this is where Callen-Lorde's donors play an important role.

Here are some services Callen-Lorde provides that donor dollars help pay for.

- A prescription asthma inhaler for a homeless teenager: \$25
- An HIV test and counseling for a man who just came out: \$65
- An office visit and STD screening for a young woman: \$100
- A state-of-the-art gynecological exam and biopsy for a lesbian mom: \$250

Taken alone none of these things are that expensive — it's easy to imagine yourself helping someone out by paying for a prescription or an important blood test. And that is just what hundreds of Callen-Lorde donors did last year — thank you donors!

When you add it all up, last year Callen-Lorde donors helped pay for \$1.5 million in care for people who couldn't pay for it themselves. What an amazing and wonderful expression of compassion — and recognition of the important work that goes on at Callen-Lorde.

We are pleased and proud that more people than ever are looking to Callen-Lorde for care, and that means the need for donor dollars is very strong. Whether you give \$25, \$50, \$100 or more, please use the enclosed envelope to send in a donation today. You can make a difference in someone's life. Perhaps a donation to Callen-Lorde can be an expression of gratitude for the good things you have in your life. Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you.

Announcing the opening of our Oral Health Clinic

- . Full oral exam (for sores & lesions),
- . Head and neck exam,
- . Fillings,
- . Dentures, crowns, and bridges,
- . Gum care, and
- . Digital x-rays

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Schedule
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Information
Call (212) 271-7152

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High rates of Breast Cancer in several New York City neighborhoods

by Monifa Bishop

Callen-Lorde is proud to announce a recent grant award from the New York Cancer Project of AMDeC (Academic Medicine Development Company) Foundation for geographically-specific breast cancer prevention and outreach services. AMDeC was developed by leaders in New York's medical and scientific community to establish New York as the international center for biomedical research and technology.

The New York Cancer Project is partnering with community organizations to reach women in five specific areas in New York City, determined to have higher-than-average rates of breast cancer. These areas include the zip codes on:

- the upper east side of Manhattan (10128, 10028, 10021),
- the southern end of Brooklyn (11230, 11223, 11229, 11235),
- a mid-section of Staten Island (10314, 10306) and,
- the Rockaway peninsula of Queens (11005, 11363).

The NYS Department of Health identified these areas as having consistently

higher than expected cancer incidence rates — between 15% to 49% above the rest of the state.

As the recipient of this award, Callen-Lorde's Lesbian Health Services Program will be able to expand its outreach to women in the identified areas who may not currently be aware of our scope of quality, sensitive women's health services. Callen-Lorde has long understood the need to engage patients in an ongoing dialogue about breast/chest and cervical health. Callen-Lorde's receipt of this grant is recognition of our comprehensive view of breast health care, inclusive of education, prevention, screening, and follow-up.

It is also an important recognition of the need to outreach to New York City's lesbian community. In Callen-Lorde's experience, lesbians and other WSW (women who have sex with women) may be at higher risk for breast cancer, not only because of the barriers to timely, preventive medical care they face, but also due to risk factors (such as not having children, and higher rates of alcohol use and obesity) that are more common among lesbians and WSWs.

Although the study identifies very specific areas of New York City as having above-average rates of breast cancer, it is important to remember that anyone with breast tissue are at risk of developing breast cancer. Callen-Lorde encourages all women and transgender men 18 years of age and older to see their medical provider for an annual breast/chest exam. Between visits, we recommend that patients check their own breasts/chests for changes on a monthly basis. This is ideally done 1-2 weeks after the start of the menstrual period, or at the same time each month for those without a menstrual cycle. By examining ourselves on a monthly basis, we become more familiar with our bodies and are more likely to recognize unusual changes.

If you have not had a clinical breast exam or gynecologic exam in the last year - please contact Callen-Lorde to make an appointment by calling: 212-271-7200.

Callen-Lorde would like to thank AMDeC for the opportunity to expand our outreach efforts. For more information, please visit their website: www.amdec.org.

Including Black Lesbians and Bisexual Women

Black lesbians and bisexual women are often left out of large-scale healthcare studies. The Women 2 Women Spirit Study being conducted by The Mautner Project is changing that. This mailed survey will examine health behaviors, barriers to healthcare, and cancer screening for more than 500 women, lesbians and bisexual women of African descent aged 18 and over from across the country. Each participant will receive a black lesbian print by artist Nicole Folkes, as a thank you for completing and returning the questionnaire. The study is an opportunity for you to voice your concerns on barriers to accessing healthcare and to help improve services to black women who partner with women.

For a questionnaire, please contact the SPIRIT Study at: (1-866-W2W-SPIRIT 929-7747).

You May be Eligible for a Free or Low Cost GYN Exam and Mammogram!

Those who are at least 18 years of age, are un- or under-insured, meet income criteria, and have not had a gynecological exam in the past year are eligible to have screening for breast and cervical cancer paid for by the Manhattan Breast Health Partnership (MBHP). Callen-Lorde can facilitate enrollment into

MBHP. If you think you may be eligible, please contact Monifa Bishop at 212-271-7207.

Callen-Lorde accepts Medicaid, Medicare, and most commercial insurance plans for gynecology and other medical services. Uninsured patients who are not MBHP-eligible can access flexible payment plans.

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 356 WEST 18TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011
www.callen-lorde.org

Funding for this program provided by the New York Cancer Project / AMDeC Foundation and the Greater New York City Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

Medical Services

If you're looking for a primary care provider, consider Callen-Lorde. Our sensitive and compassionate staff can address all of your health needs, including:

Primary Care, an ongoing relationship with the medical professional of your choice who will provide:

Annual Physical Exam, including cholesterol, blood pressure and diabetes screenings

Immunizations

(such as flu, hepatitis A and B)

Care for Common Medical Problems, for example:

- Cold, flu, and sore throat
- Back pain
- Headache and sinus pain
- Urinary tract infection

On going Care for Chronic Health Problems, for example:

- Asthma
- Allergies
- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- High Blood Pressure

Testing and Treatment, for example:

- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- HIV Counseling and Testing

Specialty Services, an ongoing relationship with a medical professional with specific training and expertise in the following areas:

Gynecologic Care, for example:

- Pap Smear
- Breast Exam
- Colposcopy
- Pre-Conception

HIV/AIDS Medical Treatment

- Immune system monitoring (viral load and T-cell testing)
- Antiretroviral Therapy with educational treatment adherence support
- Nutritional Counseling
- Support Groups, Psychotherapy, and Case Management Services

Transgender Health

- Education and Counseling
- Hormone Therapy including laboratory monitoring
- Ongoing Primary Care

Senior Health

Ongoing Primary Care and Chronic Health Problem Management

Appointments

Same or next day appointments are available with the medical professional of your choice.

For appointments, call Callen-Lorde at (212) 271-7200.

Business Hours

Monday 12:30pm-8:00pm
Wednesday 8:30pm-8:00pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00am-4:30pm

Location

356 West 18th Street
(between 8th and 9th Aves.)
New York, NY 10011

Subway

A, C, E, 2, 3, to 14th Street
1, 9, to 18th Street; L to 8th Ave.

Bus

M10, M11 to 18th Street
M14, M23 to 9th Avenue

Payment

Callen-Lorde accepts Medicaid, ADAP Plus, Medicare and most major insurance plans. Please call ahead to inquire about our specific plan participation. Uninsured patients who may qualify for assistance programs are offered on-site financial screening, referral and enrollment into government-funded insurance, such as Family Health Plus, Child Health Plus or Medicaid. Other uninsured patients may qualify for an income-based sliding scale fee discount. Flexible payment plans are also available.

www.Callen-Lorde.org



Bob Pileggi

Our Mission

The Michael Callen-Audre Lorde Community Health Center provides quality health care and related services primarily to New York's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community regardless of ability to pay. To further this mission, Callen-Lorde promotes health education and wellness and advocates for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender health issues.

Financial Support

Callen-Lorde is truly grateful to the following for their generous support. Their gifts ensure that we can continue to provide the high-quality, compassionate health care that our community deserves.

Foundation and Corporate Supporters

Abbott Laboratories
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Heyman Family Fund
IFF Foundation, Inc.
Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation
The Greater New York City Affiliate
of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
MAC AIDS Fund
The New York Community Trust
New York University Community Fund
Nonprofit Finance Fund
Public Welfare Foundation
Paul Rapoport Foundation
Roche Laboratories
Schieffelin & Somerset
Snowdon Foundation
Stonewall Community Foundation
United Hospital Fund
H. van Ameringen Foundation
Yale University

Callen-Lorde Community Health Center

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Enfield, CT

Health Education

Steve Albert, MPH, Director of Health Education
Manuel Sanchez, HERC Coordinator
Sonya Sattinsky, Health Educator/Trainer

Medical Records

Karen Lytle, Coordinator of Medical Records
Glora Cinton, Patient Information Systems Assistant
Peter Mavroustikos, Patient Information Systems Assistant
Christine St. Hill, Patient Information Systems Assistant

Development

Paul Fricke, Director of Development
Tsh Yang Chen, Director of Institutional Giving

Administration

Montia Bishop, Lesbian Health Services Coordinator
Andrew Brown, Director of Patient Revenue Management
Marta-Elena Grant, Coordinator of Administrative Services
Elaine Harvey, Custodian

Art Direction/Layout

Steve Albert, MPH
Fabio Prado-Barbosa

Health Education

Michael Murphy, LPN
Judith Ogbogu, LPN
Shawna Oxtier, RN
Phyllis Pickens, RN
Cesar Rodriguez, MA
Carta Roldos, LPN
Diana Soto, RN
Athana Tejada, Phlebotomist

Patient Services and Referral Services

Agustin Quiros, Director of Patient Services
Tamara Buchanan, PSR
John Dimbatt, PSR
Gary Jimenez, PSR
Wendel Johnson, PSR
Teri Paris, Referral Specialist

Health Outreach to Teens (HOTT)

Michele Gethel, CSW, Director
Marie Decker, Outreach Coordinator
Daniel Garza, MD, Psychiatrist
Britana Myers, CSW, Clinical Social Worker
Kathy Rodriguez, Clinical Social Worker
Kathy Rodriguez, Patient Services Representative
David Santos-Donaldson, CSW, Clinical Social Worker
Anthony Vavasit, Physician

Nursing

Robin Rivinus, CNM, specializing in GYN
Irena Bosker, RN, MPH, Director of Nursing
Vilma Abraham, MA
Gary Aquino, LPN
Leonard Faison, MA
Jon Gatoch, RN
Ryon Garee, RN
Nicole Montes, LPN

Mental Health and Social Service Providers

Scott A. Whipple, ACSW, Director of Mental Health & Social Services
Cindy Brink, CSW
Ray Carannante, MSW, HIV Counselor
Jewel Dey, Community Health Specialist
Katie Douglass, CSW
Carmen Hernandez, Case Manager/HIV Counselor
Kahlia Kramer, HIV Counselor
Seven Lee, MD, Psychiatrist
Paul Hays, CSW
Libby O'Connor, CSW
Lou Pansulla, CSW
Ted Williams, ACSW
Kshakasa Wipengyi, MD, Psychiatrist

Senior Staff

Jay Laudato, Executive Director
Dawn Harbatkin, MD, Medical Director
Wendy Stark, Associate Executive Director
Richard Clarkson, Director of Information Services
Lorraine Hiers, Controller
Susan Weigl, Director of Clinical Operations

Primary Care and Specialty Providers

All providers offer Primary Care and these specialties
Jeffrey Engosa, MD, specializing in HIV
Conrad Fischer, MD, specializing in HIV and infectious diseases
Lynn Fryer, NP, specializing in HIV and women's health
Dawn Harbatkin, MD, specializing in HIV and women's health
Eric Leach, NP, specializing in HIV and transgender health
Gal Mayer, MD, specializing in HIV and transgender health
Joseph Narus, NP, specializing in HIV and transgender health
Lisa Reeves, MD, specializing in women's health and older adults

Board of Directors

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