



*Urban Initiative for Reproductive Health Summit*  
**Creative Strategies to Reach  
Populations with Least Access  
The Pier 45 Program**

---

**The Door – A Center of Alternatives**

Rhonda Braxton, MBA  
Director, Adolescent Health Center  
and Counseling Services

May 8, 2008





# The Door – A Center of Alternatives

---

A multi-service youth development agency, founded in 1972, with the goal of providing a full range of integrated services at a single site, free of charge to any adolescent between the ages of 12 and 21.





# Mission Statement

---

The Door's mission is to empower young people to reach their potential by providing comprehensive youth development services in a diverse and caring environment.





# Services Provided at The Door

---

- Health Care
- Counseling
- Education
- Legal
- Career
- Recreation





# The Door's Target Population

---

- Adolescents between the ages of 12 and 21
- 10,000 young people access services annually





# Door Demographics

---

- Gender

  - 61% female

  - 38% male

- Age

  - 3% under the age of 15

  - 53% 16-18 years of age

  - 44% 19-21



# Door Demographics

---

- Race

  - 47% Black

  - 32% Latino

  - 8% Asian

  - 5% White

- Residency

  - 39% Brooklyn

  - 27% Manhattan

  - 15% Queens

  - 13% Bronx

  - 1% Staten Island

  - 3% Other





## What Attracts Young People to The Door?

---

- Vast program offerings
- Culturally sensitive/diverse staff
- Youth friendly, confidential environment
- “Safe space”



# Genesis of Pier 45 Program

---

- Door staff asked to assess the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) youth on Pier 45
- City Council funding award for targeted programming



# Goals of Pier 45 Program

---

- Conflict resolution and mediation between young people and community
- Connect young people to Door programming



THE  
**Door**



# Pier 45 Program

---

- Collaboration between Door staff, LGBTQ youth, community residents and other key stakeholders
- Targeted outreach and services to LGBTQ youth
- Skilled outreach workers on Pier each night until 2 a.m.
- Extended hours at The Door with targeted programming for LGBTQ youth
  - Mini Ball/other music & dance performances
  - Career workshops, counseling groups, health education and legal seminars
  - Community dinners





# Outcomes

---

- Decrease in number of complaints from community residents
- Increase in number of LGBTQ youth from Piers actively engaged in Door programming
- Opportunity for youth leadership in planning and developing programming and working with community agencies



# Pier 45 Youth Program Participation

---

January – December 2007:

- 362 young people engaged in 36,750 activities
  - 18,000 Education visits
  - 7,000 Counseling encounters
  - 2,750 Career Services visits
  - 2,670 Health Center encounters





## Pier 45 Participants Utilization of the Health Center

---

- 576 patient visits
- 926 health education encounters
- 757 HIV tests



# Key to The Door's Success

---

- Unique ability to provide comprehensive youth development services at one site
- Culturally sensitive/diverse staff
- Safe environment for adolescents
- Collaboration with city agencies and community stakeholders

