



## **Open Door Health: an Express STD and HIV Screening Center and an LGBTQ Health Care Center** *Improving the Health of RI's LGBTQ Population*

### **Open Door Health: Why Is This Project Needed?**

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RI has among the highest percentage of LGBTQ individuals of any state in the country. LGBTQ populations disproportionately experience poor health outcomes for many chronic and infectious diseases, mental health. Discrimination and stigma, along with inequitable access to culturally competent care services, cause many LGBTQ individuals not to seek care or to receive inadequate care. Moreover, many members of this population travel out of Rhode Island to seek culturally congruent health care. While RI has among the highest rates of health insurance coverage in the nation, there is still a disparity in access to care and healthcare utilization for the RI LGBTQ population.



Open Door Healthcare builds upon RIPHI's prevention, treatment, and HIV and STD care work, as well as collaborations with multiple institutions including the Department of Health, Brown University, other local clinics, The RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the CDC. Open Door will partner other community agencies and service providers to link clients to clinical services and community-based programs that address social determinants of health.

### **LGBTQ Center of Excellence: Open Door Health**

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Open Door Health will be an LGBTQ Center of Excellence (Center) that provides high-quality, culturally congruent health care to RI's LGBTQ population. See <https://odhpvd.org/en>. The center is located at **7-9 Central Street in Providence, RI**. RIPHI's vision for Open Door Healthcare is to improve the health and quality of life for members of RI's LGBTQ population, which faces disparities in access to care and health outcomes. Open Door Health Care's work is driven by RIPHI's approach to integrating efforts to advance community health, reduce health disparities, develop innovative programs and train the public health workforce.

**Open Door Healthcare** will begin by offering express HIV, sexually transmitted disease (STD) and hepatitis C (HCV) screening. This model of express preventive service delivery is informed by the Dean Street Express Clinic, an LGBTQ health center in London. See more on Dean Street here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcUx6dbfTQ8>.

In the express screening model, patients quickly receive preventive screenings and also receive test results via text message within 4-6 hours. Patients who require follow up will receive priority appointment slots, as do members of priority populations with greater disease burden. Given the disproportionate burden of HIV, STDs and HCV among this population, we also believe this rapid screening center will be an important gateway into primary care services and substance use treatment for LGBTQ populations.

In addition, drawing on our core competencies of conducting research, providing culturally competent care and training the public health workforce, Open Door Healthcare will also offer educational training for medical and other health professions students. Open Door Healthcare will also serve as hub for research focused on improving LGBTQ health.

### **Rhode Island Public Health Institute: Background**

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The Rhode Island Public Health Institute's (RIPHI) mission is to promote community health and to eliminate health disparities in RI and beyond. RIPHI develops innovative public health programs, conducts translational and policy research, and trains students and public health practitioners. RIPHI's team has strong background in program development, evaluation, and providing clinical services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) clients. Both Dr. Nunn, RIPHI's Executive Director, and Dr. Chan, RIPHI's Medical Director, have local and national reputations for their novel work with these populations. They also have extensive experience conducting research and training health professionals.