

## **HIV Prevention Services Application**

The Berkeley Free Clinic (BFC) is a collective that has provided dental and medical care, peer counseling, and community referrals since 1969. The Clinic has provided free and anonymous HIV testing since 1989. The HIV Prevention Services (HPS) section provides HIV testing every Saturday from 12-2pm for women only and on Sundays from 4-7pm for men and women. We are a volunteer-run organization that relies heavily on the committed members of the collective.

The role of an HIV counselor is to provide non-judgmental counseling to help clients assess their **own** risk for HIV. We do this by asking open-ended questions, sharing information, and exploring options that are relevant to and reasonable for the client. This is a dynamic process which we try to achieve by emphasizing harm reduction, client-centeredness, and a sex-positive attitude.

### Application Process

We will interview the earliest applicants first. We anticipate that the spots will fill quickly. We are currently accepting applications for a training that will begin in June and will last until November. Please attend an All-Clinic Orientation if you have not already done so. These occur on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 pm and are a training requirement.

### Training Process

Our training has the reputation of being one of the most comprehensive programs in the State of California. In exchange for your time, you will gain skills and experience that will change your fucking life. You will apprentice on HPS shifts (testing days), both observing and being observed in counseling sessions as well as participating in pre- and post-shift duties. You will attend monthly reading/discussion groups and mock counseling sessions (2 hours each). Approximately twice a month you will attend an intensive weekend of classes (all day Saturday and all day Sunday 9:30am-5:30pm). You will be expected to attend section business meetings and other training evaluations which are announced well in advance. You may also be able to attend and complete the state HIV counseling certification training (Basic I). All of the training requirements will be explained in full during your interview. During your training you will be continuously evaluated and given feedback regarding your participation, counseling abilities, and your potential as a collective member.

On becoming a member of the HPS, you commit yourself to the following:

Participation in *at least* 2 HPS shifts per month.

Attendance to *at least* 1 HPS meeting a quarter.

Performance of *at least* 3 hours of off-shift task per month.

**Full participation in the clinic (both in the HPS and outside of it) for at least one year.**

Note well: ***Participation in the training does not ensure membership.*** There are two formal evaluations during the training and section membership is conferred by a vote of the general membership.

### **HIV Prevention Services Section Application Questions (submit by April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011)**

**Please type your answer to the following questions and save the document as a \*.doc file. E-mail application to [bfchps@gmail.com](mailto:bfchps@gmail.com). Be sure to include your name, e-mail address, and phone number on the application and in the body of your email.**

#### Part A

- 1) How did you find out about the Berkeley Free Clinic? (Do you know anyone at the Clinic? Have you ever volunteered with or applied to volunteer at the Clinic?) What can the Clinic offer you and what can you offer the Clinic?
  
- 2) What does collectivity mean to you? What aspects of collectivity do you find compelling?
  
- 3) Do you have any special training or background? Are you bi- or multi-lingual?
  
- 4) What are your current goals? Responsibilities?
  
- 5) Do you have any particular constraints that might conflict with your training? (*Please refer to the training requirements.*) What do the next two years of your life look like? (Because this commitment takes about two years.)
  
- 6) Why do you want to be an HIV test counselor? Why do you think you would be a good one?

7) There are many places in the Bay Area where one can be an HIV test counselor. What do you find compelling about the Berkeley Free Clinic?

8) a) Describe your communication style and skills. How do these impact your ability to work with people from different backgrounds? (think class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.)

b) Talk about a time when communicating was really difficult for you (besides a language barrier).

9) Please cite an example of when you had to suspend your personal judgments or beliefs in order to help someone.

10) What role have alcohol and other drugs played in your life?

11) Describe a time when someone gave you direct feedback about your behavior. What was your experience like trying to integrate this feedback?

12) What other fabulous things should we know about you?

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Part B

Please indicate your response to these statements based on the following scale and **write a detailed explanation** for each answer:

**Strongly agree---Agree---Sometimes agree---Sometimes disagree---Disagree---Strongly disagree**

1. Drug addiction is a mental illness.

2. Unprotected sex always puts you at risk for HIV/STDs.
3. People in abusive relationships could leave them if they really wanted to.
4. Prostitutes never enjoy their jobs.
5. I am satisfied with the current political/economic systems in the United States.
6. Twelve-year-olds should be able to get an HIV test without their parents knowing.
7. Corporations profiting from health care is reasonable.

**Please remember to include your contact information with your application!**

**Thank you!**