

## Agency Background

BEBASHI was founded in 1985, to provide meaningful information on sexual health especially sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS in particular to the African American community and other communities of color. BEBASHI was instrumental in the development of the educational efforts targeting the Latino and Native American community as well. Each of these communities now have their own community focused organizations providing a wide range of HIV/AIDS services with whom BEBASHI collaborates. BEBASHI's efforts began initially with an all volunteer staff who helped formulate and implement culturally and ethnically sensitive educational activities. By 1987, with funding support from the Philadelphia Health department, BEBASHI was able to hire a small core of outreach educators who were supported by the volunteers.

In 1989, BEBASHI established a site in North Philadelphia, one of the city's highest risk neighborhoods to provide counseling, testing, and support to members of the African American and Latino communities. For clients who test positive, BEBASHI north acts as a unique point of entry into the service system, providing case managers who help clients develop life plans and who establish linkages to primary medical care and other support services. For clients in drug recovery centers, shelters, halfway houses and other locations served by the Outreach Education Program, HIV antibody counseling and testing is made less threatening by being offered at the serviced location itself. For individual clients who hesitate venturing to the test site for personal or cultural reasons, counseling and testing can be provided in the home.

In 1988, BEBASHI was awarded a five year grant from the Centers for Disease Control, to participate in the National AIDS Information and Education Program (NAIEP). BEBASHI provides technical assistance and training to community-based organizations in a five state area (Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and New Jersey) on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases educational strategies, program development, implementation, and evaluation, and organizational development. The intent of the program is the establishment of a network of community providers of AIDS education and services, either within existing organizations or in the creation of new agencies for that purpose. BEBASHI has worked with more than 80 agencies in this capacity, providing a field staff to work with the agencies in assessment and planning. We have held two conferences bringing representatives from not only the designate states

but from various parts of the country to participate in the learning.

BEBASHI provides educational outreach to more than 100,000 people through workshops, seminars, and a diversity of media programs. In Client Services, more than 3000 people have been provided HIV antibody counseling and testing and the agency is currently carrying a caseload of more than 150 clients in the case management service. The capacity of case management was increased this year through the support of Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act. This has been of particular importance since BEBASHI serves the low income, poor and homeless population. Services are provided without charge and no eligibility requirements. for access to service.

BEBASHI is a founding member of The Philadelphia AIDS Consortium (TPAC), a collaborative of AIDS service providers, hospitals, City of Philadelphia Health Department, numerous healthcare providers and People living with HIV/AIDS. TPAC was appointed by the Mayor of Philadelphia as the Ryan White Planning Council in 1990. BEBASHI continues to serve in the leadership with the TPAC as one of the lead agencies in the network of HIV service providers. Individuals are referred for services across the network between providers based on letters of agreement to assure that whatever is required to serve the client, is accessible.

In addition we are founding members of the Minority AIDS Coalition, a network of 29 minority AIDS services providers in the Philadelphia and surrounding county area. The Coalition provides a complete network of HIV/STD education, referral to HIV counseling and testing, primary medical care, drug treatment and case management services through its members.

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