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***TOWN HALL ON HEALTH CARE FOR THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITY TO BE HELD AT PHILADELPHIA'S DREXEL UNIVERSITY ON MARCH 31***

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** — A panel of nationally recognized experts in medicine, public health and health care policy will address the specific health care needs of the LGBT community at a town hall meeting to be held on **Wednesday, March 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at Drexel University (Geary Auditorium B, 245 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street) in Philadelphia. With the recent signing of landmark health care reform legislation into law, important questions remain about how the new law will impact the LGBT community, as well as how it will affect individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Convened by national health care consulting firm Sellers Dorsey and sponsored by the United States Census 2010, Merck, and Philly Pharmacy, the town hall event is supported by over 40 local non-profit organizations including Mazzoni Center. The panelists will be: Rebecca Fox, Director of the National Coalition for LGBT Health; Ernest Hopkins, Director of Federal Affairs at San Francisco AIDS Foundation; and Robert Winn, MD, Medical Director of Philadelphia's Mazzoni Center. The moderator will be Christopher Labonte, Principal at Sellers Dorsey.

“Given all the attention that’s been focused on health care in recent weeks and months, the timing of this conversation couldn’t be better,” Labonte explained. “While much of the discussion has been fairly broad in scope, our goal with the town hall event is to address key issues affecting the LGBT community, discuss how national reform will impact the community,

and to engage in a dialogue about the importance of health care for members of the community and for those living with HIV/AIDS.”

“As the leading provider of LGBT health services in the Philadelphia region, Mazzoni Center has been closely following the national discussion on health care reform,” Nurit Shein, Executive Director of Mazzoni Center, said. “Three critical provisions that would have addressed LGBT health care issues were removed from the legislation before it was passed and signed into law, so it is essential that we as a community engage in further discussion and hold our policymakers and politicians accountable to our needs as we go forward.”

The town hall event is being held in conjunction with **LGBT Health Awareness Week**, which takes place March 28-April 3, 2010, and seeks to increase awareness of the specific health disparities affecting the LGBT community, lack of access to health insurance, including lack of data collection, and an increased risk for certain cancers.

Over 40 regional and national non-profit organizations are supporting the March 31 town hall, including: ActionAIDS, AIDS Fund, AIDS Law Project, ASIAC, Attic Youth Center, Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Initiatives, Bread & Roses Community Fund, Brothers Network, Calcutta House, COLOURS, Delaware Valley Legacy Fund, Drexel University’s Program for LGBT Health, Equality Forum, Equality Pennsylvania, GALAEI, Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, House of Blahnik, Human Rights Campaign-Philadelphia Region, Independence Business Alliance, Keystone Progress, Lutheran Children and Family Services (Bethel Community Center), MANNA, Mazzoni Center, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Coalition for LGBT Health, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Office of LGBT Affairs, City of Philadelphia, People with Hope, Philadelphia Black Gay Pride Inc.(PBGP), Philadelphia Family Pride, Philadelphia FIGHT, Queer Philadelphia Asians, Renaissance Transgendered Association, SafeGuards, SAGE, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Sapphire Fund, University of Pennsylvania Health Systems- HIV/AIDS Prevention Research Division, The Womyn’s Village, and William Way Community Center.

**The LGBT Health Care Town Hall will take place at Drexel University's Geary Auditorium B, at 245 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street.** Registration for the event takes places from 5:00-5:30 p.m. For more information and to RSVP to the Town Hall, please contact Blair Sirolli at [bsirolli@sellersdorsey.com](mailto:bsirolli@sellersdorsey.com)

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**Sellers Dorsey** is a national healthcare consulting firm that provides strategic consulting services to state government, private sector companies, and advocacy organizations. Sellers Dorsey has been nationally recognized for its work in over 30 states and with national stakeholders in the health care arena. Their consultants stand at the intersection of business, politics and policy, a perspective that allows us to evaluate how policy and financing decisions impact providers, payors, taxpayers, consumers, elected officials and advocates. For more information go to [www.sellersdorsey.com](http://www.sellersdorsey.com)

Established in 1979, **Mazzoni Center** provides quality comprehensive health and wellness service and is the only health care provider in the Philadelphia region specifically targeting the unique health care needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Mazzoni offers a full array of outreach, prevention, education, direct medical and care services, psychosocial services, and support groups, and is dedicated preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals it serves. It is the oldest AIDS service organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the fourth-oldest in the U.S. With over 30,000 individuals benefiting annually from its services, Mazzoni Center is a leader among community-based organizations in the greater Philadelphia area, with a reputation for excellence and innovation in service delivery to its constituents. More information at: [www.mazzonicenter.org](http://www.mazzonicenter.org)