
Guide to the AIDS Healing Alliance Records

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Collection number: 1991-06

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society
San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: AIDS Healing Alliance records

Dates: 1983-1989

Collection number: 1991-06

Creator: AIDS Healing Alliance

Collection Size: 1 linear foot2 manuscript boxes

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94105

Abstract: Records of a self-help alternative treatment organization that dissolved in 1989. This group promoted awareness of alternative therapies in treating HIV infection and conducted workshops conducted by long-term survivors.

Physical location: Stored at the Archives of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society in San Francisco, California.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright to unpublished manuscript materials created by the donor has been transferred to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Preferred Citation

AIDS Healing Alliance records, 1991-06, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Historical Society by Steve Kuttner, January 25, 1991.

Biography / Administrative History

The AIDS Healing Alliance (AHA) was a pioneering self-help organization founded in 1986. The group's stated purpose was to "dispel the myth that AIDS or ARC inevitably result in death." The organization had several key goals: establish a network of long-term survivors, provide a forum where their knowledge of the successful use of alternative therapies could be shared, catalog all available alternative therapies, and promote the concept that health management is a personal responsibility. As one member, Steve Kuttner, put it, "We operated from the philosophy that disease is more than a physical crisis; it presents some kind of personal lesson which offers an opportunity for inner healing as well as outer cure." Through workshops, a phone line and the "First AIDS Pack," the organization attempted to collect and disseminate information on treatments, clinics or practitioners who were having some success in retarding or curing the condition of AIDS. They also developed an in-depth, long-term survivor's questionnaire (though this was never actually administered). The group was particularly interested in the scientific literature on the etiology and epidemiology of the disease and on potential treatments and how these treatments were tested and developed. Notably, the group refused to subscribe to the view that HIV was the proven cause of AIDS, that AIDS had a single cause or that AIDS was the same disease in every person. The organization dissolved in 1989.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Records of the AIDS Healing Alliance consist of the internal records, correspondence, information packets, surveys, grant proposals, correspondence, and information regarding "alternative therapies" for AIDS treatment produced by the organization. The records document AHA's efforts to find alternative approaches to treating and curing AIDS. This collection documents one response to the AIDS epidemic - one that was skeptical of mainstream medicine -- as well as the uncertainty and unease which particularly characterized the first decade of the epidemic.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 4 series: Activities, Related Organizations, Administration, and Alternative Therapies.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

AIDS (disease)

Series 1. Administration 1986-1989

Physical Description: 8 folders

Series Description

This series documents the structure, organization, and activities of the AHA, including meeting minutes, grant proposals, correspondence, phone logs, and newsletter materials.

Box: Folder 1: 1
Box: Folder 1: 2
Box: Folder 1: 3
Box: Folder 1: 4
Box: Folder 1: 5
Box: Folder 1: 6
Box: Folder 1: 7

Steering Committee Minutes 1986-1987

Grant Proposal 1986

Correspondence 1987-1989

Correspondence, First AIDS Info Packet Requests 1987-1988

Volunteers n.d.

Phone Log n.d.

Newsletter 1986

Series 2. Activities 1986-1988

Physical Description: 10 folders

Series Description

This series consists of materials documenting the main activities of the AHA. Included is the "First AIDS Info Packet," a collection of sources and articles regarding alternative therapies for HIV as well as alternative theories for the causes of AIDS. There are also materials produced for workshops and forums put on by the organization, two versions of the "Long Term Survivor Survey," and materials relating to meetings with San Francisco City Supervisor Larry Britt regarding developing alternative approaches to healing in the AIDS/ARC epidemic.

Box: Folder 1: 8-9
Box: Folder 1: 10
Box: Folder 1: 11
Box: Folder 1: 12
Box: Folder 1: 13
Box: Folder 1: 14
Box: Folder 1: 15
Box: Folder 1: 16
Box: Folder 1: 17
Box: Folder 2: 1

First AIDS Info Packet 1987

Health Practitioners Questionnaires n.d.

Workshops 1987

Workshops 1988

Workshops 1987

Workshops 1988

Survivors Forums 1986-1987

Long Time Survivor Survey, Feedback on First Drafts n.d.

Long Time Survivor Survey, Final 1988

Meetings with Supervisor Harry Britt 1986

Series 3. Alternative Therapies 1984-1989

Physical Description: 9 folders

Series Description

This series consists of materials relating to alternative therapies for treating AIDS. Included in this series are resources for people seeking such treatments and a petition urging the city of San Francisco to support the dissemination of information about alternative therapies being used by long-term survivors of AIDS. The "AIDS Etiology Controversy" folder contains articles expressing skepticism or rejection of the HIV theory of AIDS.

Box: Folder 2: 2
Box: Folder 2: 3
Box: Folder 2: 4
Box: Folder 2: 5
Box: Folder 2: 6
Box: Folder 2: 7
Box: Folder 2: 8

Commercial Offers n.d.
Petition n.d.
Resources 1987
Treatments 1987
Metaphysical 1986
Organizations 1987
AIDS Etiology Controversy 1984-1989
Series 4. Related Organizations 1987-1988

Physical Description: 2 folders

Series Description

This series consists of materials produced by related organizations, correspondence between AHA and these other organizations, and other materials which highlight the networks and circles in which the AHA operated.

Box: Folder 2: 9
Box: Folder 2: 10

Networking with other AIDS Groups 1987-1988
Coalition of AIDS Healing Groups n.d.