

FIVE VOLUNTEERS JOIN CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

Five members of the queer community—Frederick Hayes III, LaRae Ross, Danny Rosen, Marquita Scott Jones and Rose Barcellona—recently completed the background process and training necessary to join the Portland Police Bureau's Crisis Response Team. Established in 1994, the volunteer group provides support to victims of traumatic events, their families and their loved ones.

The bureau is one of the first in the nation to form partnerships with its culturally diverse communities to provide this kind of support after a crisis. Teams have been created for North/Northeast Portland as well as the sexual minorities, Hispanic and Asian communities.

Volunteers are on call with pagers for a week, during which time they must be available to respond around the clock. Any bureau member or member of the medical community can request direct assistance from the team.

Queer members respond to hate- and bias-motivated crimes and sexual assaults. They also can be found on the scene of homicides, suicides and accidental deaths.

The Hispanic and Asian teams are involved in robberies, sexual assaults, domestic violence and search warrants. Services provided by volunteers include acting as liaisons between the bureau and the victim's family, accompanying the injured person to emergency facilities and assisting with funeral arrangements and with referrals to victim-assistance programs.

Volunteer Frederick Hayes said he was motivated to join the team for the sexual minorities community after losing numerous loved ones to AIDS. "It's nice to know where to start when an emergency occurs."

Confidentiality is of utmost importance to the team. It will not give legal, medical, psychological or financial advice; it also will not make recommendations for a particular funeral home or cemetery or use personal resources for the families.

For more information call 503-823-2095.

BRUNER JOINS TRANSITION TEAM

Helping him focus on his top priorities, jump-starting the economy and creating good jobs, Governor-elect Ted Kulongoski announced his transition steering committee Nov. 25. The 23-member team consists of leaders from throughout the state of Oregon, with people from Bend, Corvallis, Newport, Echo, Umatilla, Baker City, Roseburg, Medford, Salem and the Portland metropolitan area.

"I've always reached out to the best people available regardless of their political beliefs," Kulongoski said. "The people of Oregon expect the best, and this transition team helps me set the table to grow the economy and create good jobs."

Kulongoski will rely on this group to advise him on the creation of his administration, and he said he will use them on a regular basis throughout his term in office. "Government must be restructured; we must do things differently, and this group will help me make the smart choices necessary to accomplish this."

Among the team members is Cascade AIDS Project executive director Thomas Bruner, a nationally recognized nonprofit leader with 17 years of experience in health and human services and 15 years of successful nonprofit management expertise. From 1988 to 1998 he served as the founding executive director of AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

ADVISORY GROUP ANNOUNCES PUBLIC SURVEY

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group is conducting a public survey regarding future plans for Portland's historic queer district through Dec. 15. Residents, visitors, property owners, members of the sexual minorities community and other interested parties are invited to voice their views and concerns about this important issue.

Copies of the survey may be obtained from many local businesses and from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement at Portland City Hall. A survey team also will be canvassing in the Triangle during the coming weeks.

The advisory group was authorized by the Portland City Council as part of the downtown West End Plan approved in January. It is a citizen-led effort to investigate and share ideas and concerns with officials in their redevelopment efforts specific to the Burnside Triangle.

Anyone may complete the survey online at www.snabulus.com/survgen/btagsurvey.html.

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PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Thomas Bruner (left, with Kevin Hendrick and Portland Mayor Vera Katz) has joined Governor-elect Ted Kulongoski's transition steering committee

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