

INDEPENDENT

- 9/1995 — Present Chandos Communications — Menlo Park, CA./Remote
Consultant: Medical and technical writer.
- 1/2017— 4/2021 East Bay Made /Precious Perfect Dog Reproductions — Bay Area, CA.
Principal: Artist and printmaker in independently owned shop.
- 5/2019 — 3/2020 Precious Perfect Dog Training — Bay Area, CA.
Principal: Dog training and walking in independently owned company.

EMPLOYMENT

- 4/2023— 8/2023 HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County (HEPPAC)— Oakland, CA.
Data Specialist: Responsible for preparing and submitting quantitative program data reports, for all grants and contracted program activity.
- 11/2022—1/2023 Legal Services for Prisoners with Children — Oakland, CA.
Volunteer Coordinator: Responsible for recruiting, training and coordinating volunteer and legal intern program supporting current and former prisoners and their families.
- 9/2021—5/2022 WORLD — Oakland, CA.
Outreach Coordinator Specialist: Supervise and coordinate COVID Vaccine Ambassador Team during street and venue-based outreach, as well as during mobile vaccine delivery sites in under-vaccinated zip codes with the primary goal of engaging vaccine hesitant folks towards COVID vaccination.
- 3/2016—10/2016 Glide Harm Reduction Services — San Francisco, CA.
Syringe Access Services Coordinator: Responsible for running all aspects of the Glide Syringe Access Services Program.
- 5/2002—10/2013 Saint James Infirmary (SJI) — San Francisco, CA.
8/2006—10/2013 *Executive Director:* Responsible for overall program operations, e.g. budgeting, fundraising, contract management, client service delivery, program planning and evaluation, community needs assessments, community relations, policy work, recruiting, training and supervising staff /volunteers etc.
- 10/2004—8/2006 *Outreach Coordinator:* Supervised Outreach staff in weekly outreach activities to street- based sex workers, message parlor erotic service providers and strip club adult entertainers.
- 6/2002—9/2004 Continuum/HOPE Study— San Francisco, CA.
Rapid HIV Test Counselor & Research Associate: Conducted HIV test counseling. Conducted research evaluating a housing case management intervention for HIV+ folks in SF County Jails.
- 7/2001—5/2002 Urban Health Study/UCSF — San Francisco, CA.
Research Associate & Patient Advocate: Conducted data collection in community field settings for a study of HIV and viral hepatitis risk among out-of-treatment injection drug users.
- 8/1998—12/1999 P.R.O.M.I.S.E. — San Francisco, CA.
8/1998—12/1999 *Executive Director:* Responsible for overall program operations, e.g. budgeting, fundraising, client service delivery, community relations, recruiting, training and hiring staff /volunteers.
- 8/1997—8/1998 *Development/Executive Assistant:* Developed fund-raising campaigns, grant applications, agency literature, brochures and posters. Maintained client and donor databases. Managed office.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

All of Us or None, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, Member — 6/2022 – 12/2023

Assisting with regular volunteer events, advocacy campaigns and letter writing to prisoners.

St. James Infirmary Board of Directors, Board Member — 10/2013 – 12/2017

Maintained fiscal responsibility over the organization; Guided the organization in the legal, and ethical goals and activities of the mission statement; Supporting and supervising the incoming Executive Director in their new role; Fundraising; and general oversight.

San Francisco Entertainment Commission, Commissioner, Public Health Seat — 9/2012 – 9/2014

Occupied the Public Health seat, advising on healthy club and entertainment environments; Voted on all entertainment applications in the City of San Francisco.

Global Advisory Group on Sex Work and HIV, UNAIDS, CAB Member — 9/2009- 6/2012

Worked collaboratively with UNAIDS on *amending* the 2010 UNAIDS Guidance Note on Sex Work & HIV to reflect the needs of the community, by writing four evidence-informed papers Annexed to the Guidance Note.

HIV Research Section, SFDPH AIDS Office, CAB Member — 5/2005-5/2006 & 1/2009-1/2012

Guided the AIDS Office on matters of HIV research projects.

Desiree Alliance, CAB Member — 1/2007- 10/2011

Served as a member of a working board to produce and organize two National conferences on Sex Work. Chicago, Illinois in 2009 and Las Vegas, Nevada in 2010.

Saint James Infirmary, HIV/STI testing, Intake & Peer Counselor—5/2002-10/2004

Conducted Intakes with new clients and provided peer counseling. Performed post test HIV & STD risk assessments and test results counseling.

SF Domestic Violence Consortium, Sex Worker Advisory Committee, Member — 9/1997-2/1999

Advised and co-developed “sensitivity” training model for SFPD and DV service providers around Sex Work and partner/family violence.

Safe House, Planning Committee Member & Residential Counselor— 6/1997-12/1997

Worked with Tenderloin Network Ministries in creating and staffing the *Safe House* program for victims of sexual exploitation. Worked as a p/t residential counselor through the first year of start up.

P.R.O.M.I.S.E, Community Outreach, Intake Assessments & Client Advocate— 11/1995-8/1998

Led street and jail-based outreach to sex workers. Conducted intakes, facilitated groups and helped participants escape from the criminal “justice” system.

La Casa de Las Madres, Crisis Line/Drop-In Counselor & Child Advocate—1/1995-12/1996

Conducted crisis intake interviews, provided crisis counseling, referrals and advocacy services for battered women. Facilitated children's groups for physically and emotionally abused children.

AIDS Walk & Dance-A-Thon, Event Promoter —1992-1995

Recruiting participants, soliciting donations, event promotion, set-up and staffing.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

San Francisco State University Master in Public Health, June 2007

San Francisco State University Bachelor of Arts, Women's Studies, graduated Cum Laude, June 1997

PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

- “St. James Infirmary Occupational Health and Safety Handbook: A peer-based participatory approach towards sex worker health.” Presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA), San Francisco, California. 31 Oct. 2012.
- “Addressing Violence Against Sex Workers in the Context of HIV: What Works? A global sex worker consultation with the World Health Organization (WHO).” Presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA), San Francisco, California. 29 Oct. 2012.
- “Justice Deferred: The U.S. War Against Sex Workers” Presented at Sex & Justice, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 5 Oct. 2012.
- “The Oldest Profession: Is Sex Work Work?” Presented at the XIX International AIDS Conference, Washington, DC. 26 July 2012.
- Sainted by The Order of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, “Saint Ho’s Up”, San Francisco, CA. April 2012.
- “HIV & The Law: Discrimination Against Sex Workers” Presented at the UNDP Global Commission on HIV & the Law, Oakland, California. 17 Oct. 2011.
- “Creating a Bad Date List in your Local Area” Presented at the National Harm Reduction Conference, Austin, Texas. 21 Nov. 2010.
- “Human Rights and Universal Access for Sex Workers” Presented at World AIDS Day, hosted by UNAIDS Washington, DC. 1 Dec. 2009.
- “San Francisco Based Sex Workers Organizing for Improved Occupational Health Using Podcasting & Social Media.” Poster presented at the XVII International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico. Aug. 2008
- *RenegadeCast*: Evaluating podcast social media as a health promotion tool for independent Sex Workers with Internet access.” Poster presented at the 19th International Harm Reduction Conference, Barcelona, Spain. May 2008.
- “Health Assessment of San Francisco Exotic Dancers.” Presented at the 2nd Annual Desiree Alliance Conference, San Francisco, California. 7 July 2007.
- “Why are women in prison having their teeth pulled to be with their children? A critique of unjust prison policies and the emotional and physical impact on incarcerated women and their families.” Presented at the Centerforce 7th Annual Inside/Out Summit, San Francisco, California. 11 Sept. 2006.
- “The Homebase Program and the HOPE study: Using Data to Inform Program Delivery.” Presented at the Centerforce 5th Annual Inside/Out Summit, Burlingame, California. 12 Sept. 2004.
- “Street Prostitution Outreach and Counseling.” Presented at Herstory: Women Taking Space Conference, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. Apr. 1998.
- “Prostitution and the Law.” Presented at The Northern California Junior State Fall Convention, Santa Clara, California. Nov. 1997.

BIO:

Naomi Akers, MPH, is a Bay Area native and has worked as a sex workers' rights and harm reduction advocate in the San Francisco Bay Area since the early 1990s. Ms. Akers started her activism in the early days of HIV/AIDS advocacy in the early 90s in San Francisco. She received her undergraduate degree in Women's Studies from San Francisco State University (SFSU). She then spent several years working in the Domestic Violence field as a counselor. After witnessing the denial of sex workers with violent partners into the shelters because their partners were labeled "pimps", Ms. Akers joined several others from the DV community to work with PROMISE for 5 years, a sex worker outreach program and drop-in center in the Civic Center. In 2002, Ms. Akers began working as a research associate in the field of HIV and Hepatitis for the Urban Health Study. She has also worked as a research associate for several prominent studies including the HOPE study, the SWEAT study, and the St. UFO study. In August 2006, she became the Executive Director for the St. James Infirmary (SJI), a free medical clinic for sex workers where she had worked since 2002 and has been a client since 1999. In 2008 she returned to SFSU, where she earned her Master in Public Health (MPH) degree. Ms. Akers' areas of interest center around harm reduction approaches, social justice and health as a human right, particularly for sex workers, and drug users. As part of her MPH studies and as a project for Legal Services for Prisoners with children, Ms. Akers conducted an oral health assessment of pregnant prisoners at Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, California. This project contributed to the dismantling of the Department of Corrections oral health clearance requirements that prohibited women prisoners from entering community-based programs to live with their children. In the summer of 2006, she completed an internship project assessing SF Exotic Dancers health needs. Ms. Akers has served as a member of the SF HIV Research & Vaccine Trials Network Community Advisory Group for 4 years and as a member of the UNAIDS Sex Worker Global Working Group for two years. Beginning in 2010, Ms. Akers has worked on a nightlife safety study and training intervention to promote safe and fun nightclub environments for all patrons and club staff in San Francisco. She was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to the San Francisco Entertainment Commission in 2012 where she served for two years in the public health seat. Ms. Akers has been "sainted" by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence for her commitment to community service. In 2013 Ms. Akers transitioned out of her position of Executive Director for the St. James Infirmary and became a member of the Board of Directors where she served for four years. Ms. Akers, aka "Saint Ho's Up", currently lives in the East Bay, where she works as an artist, medical writer and animal trainer. Her art work can be found at The Compound Gallery in Emeryville, California or online at EastBayMade.com