GOJoven Belize Alumni Association
GOBELIZE
Bulletin
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Newly Elected GOBelize Board of Directors engage in two day Workshop

From left to right: Kelsie Ciego, Marla Magaña, Errol Longsworth, Adir Chan, Nekeisha Lima, Alisha Solis Osvaldo Cantun, Elmer Cornejo

GOBelize Alumni Association was established in March of 2011 in an effort to contribute meaningfully to; the increase in knowledge of sexual reproductive health, leadership skills building and promotion of environmental issues, affecting Belizean youth in order to stimulate positive behavior change and communication in an atmosphere of fellowship. In February 2017 GOBelize elected a new Board of Directors.

In par with the aforementioned, GOBelize Board of Directors met for a two day workshop in Belmopan City from September 2-3, 2017 to synergize efforts in "Re-designing and Enhancing Strategies to decrease HIV/AIDS/TB." As a result, GOBelize revised and updated its Strategic Plan and Operational plan with a latter Communication plan thereafter, that will serve in guiding the organization's work from 2017-2020 contributing to the National Response of HIV/AIDS/TB. A response plan was also developed after the revision of an External M&E results, which was done by PHI's M&E Consultant, PhD Julie Solomon, in 2016.

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Go Joven Belize

GOBelize outreach to MSM population funded by UNDP small grants.

A recent report published by the Ministry of Health on tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), indicates that HIV has become a concentrated epidemic among men who have sex with other men (MSM). A Behavioral Surveillance Survey conducted in 2012, reveals that a little under fourteen percent, or the equivalent of fourteen male homosexuals to every one hundred persons in that category, was infected with the virus. The study was carried out using two at-risk groups, including female sex workers and men who have sex with other men.

By comparison, the prevalence rate among prostitutes, is significantly lower than that of male homosexuals.

In consequence, GOBelize sees the need of empowering young men who have sex with men, on the risk and barriers that affect personal health including legal barriers that may result from improper sexual practices. In light of this, GOBelize gathered a group of young MSMs at Hode's Place in San Ignacio, Cayo, for a two day workshop from August 19-20, 2017.

During the two day workshop, participants were presented on life experiences MSMs face as Belizeans with the primary intent of educating them on Stigma/ Discrimination on HIV/AIDS/TB and its Prevention and Barriers, and lastly but equally important, the need of understanding legal barriers affecting at risk populations as the LGBTQI community.

Each participant developed a personal communication plan at the end of day two. One particular plan was the sensitizing of other young MSMs to be cognizant that UNIBAM has two in country lawyers employed to attend the legal needs of MSMs as the need arises over the next couple of years.

Service providers and HIV/AIDS/TB Barriers funded by UNDP small grants.

In 2017, Belize still ranks 1st and 3rd in Latin America and the Caribbean respectively in highest prevalence of HIV, which is foremost related to Tuberculosis (TB), according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

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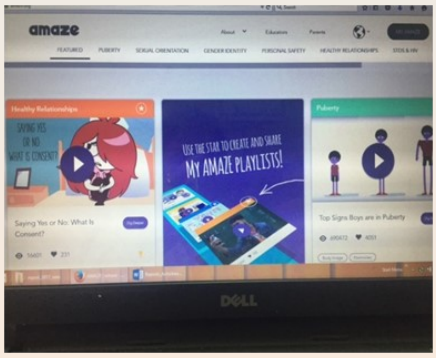
To alleviate the present situation, GOBelize Alumni Association, as a non-profit, focused on Youth Leadership and Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights, sees the need of interjecting in capacity building for service providers who would include but is not limited to; Police Officers, Community rehabilitation officers, Youth Officers and social workers, to understand the "how" of responding to Belizean youth. From September 2-3, 2017, GOBelize held a two day training/workshop with the aforementioned service providers with the intent of "Redesigning and Enhancing Strategies to decrease HIV/AIDS/Tb barriers". The workshop was also used as a way to define legal barriers of at risk populations, identify ways of addressing stigma and discrimination and identifying ways of networking to build capacity amongst the department's present.

AMAZE.



AMAZE takes the awkward out of Comprehensive Sex Education. Real info in fun, animated videos that give you the answers you actually want to know about sex, your body and relationships and assists in teaching the topics. GOBelize piloted these videos with funding from West Wind Foundation to capture valuable information related to the videos. Finding of results will be stated in our following newsletter issue.

GOBelize participated in Orange Walk Technical High school annual self-appreciation week.

Under the theme **"Today's Love May Be Tomorrow's Regret"** Orange Walk Technical High School held its annual self-appreciation week; which included a week filled with sessions on sexual, reproductive health and rights, gender based violence and environmental issues delivered to its students. GOBelize, Youth Enhancement Services (YES), Department of Youth Services (DYS), National Drug Abuse Council (NDACC), Seeds of Change Belize, and others were invited to conduct some of the sessions.

On Thursday November 30, 2017, GOBelize's Executive Director Eva Burgos and 2005 Alumni Elisa Castellanos facilitated sessions on **HIV/AIDS Stigma and discrimination, Teen Pregnancy and Sexual Reproductive Rights** to a total of 240 students ages 13-17 (1st and 2nd Formers) through rotational 1 hour sessions.

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Upcoming Events

March 25th, 2018
Public Health Institute visits

March 26th, 2018
Board Training

GOJoven Belize Alumni (GOBelize) is a Non-Governmental Organization formed by a group of alumni from the Youth Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Program (GoJoven).

The purpose of GOBelize is to contribute to the development of Belize by building youth leadership capacity, improving the sexual and reproductive health (SHR) of young people,. and creating awareness for environmental conservation.

Mission: Go Belize commits itself to contribute to increased levels of SRH, enhance leadership skills. And pro-mote environmental consciousness in Belizean youth in order to stimulate positive behavior change and communication in an atmosphere of fellowship

Visit GOBelize online at http://gojoven.org/gobelize/

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