

# The Role of Community Health Partnership in the Club Q Crisis Response

On November 19, 2022, an armed individual entered the Club Q nightclub in Colorado Springs and began shooting. Five people were killed, 25 others were physically injured, and countless others witnessed this tragedy. Community Health Partnership (CHP) immediately stepped into a support role for local advocacy organizations and community members, including our LGBTQ+ health equity partner, Inside Out Youth Services, who were on the front lines of the response. In the weeks since, CHP has taken on a central leadership role in the coordination of the crisis response.

## Why CHP?

CHP's strategy, structure, experience, partnerships, connections, and the ability to bring together social change coalitions puts us in a unique position to lead this effort. Because our focus is on transforming community health in the region, CHP's presence in this space aligns seamlessly with the behavioral, mental, and physical health care needs of those affected.

CHP's work rests on a foundation of shared ownership, shared stewardship, and shared accountability. Our work in response to Club Q is consistent with all our work: to create an environment of belonging to cultivate a shared purpose and facilitate a process of inclusive, dynamic problem solving. Our intended impact – community and systems impact – will focus on co-design, participatory approaches, collaborative governance, healing-centered engagement, asset-based community development, and a collective impact approach.

In addition, there's a close connection to our existing LGBTQ+ health equity work, led by Rachel Keener (she/her), LGBTQIA2+ Health Equity Manager. Because of Rachel's involvement in the health equity program and the connections she's made in the community, she has been at the forefront of CHP's Club Q coordination and planning efforts. Her role continues to evolve as we move forward.

## What's happening now?

CHP is convening local and state leaders, partners, funders, victims' groups, LGBTQ+ groups, and more to identify the short-, mid-, and long-term needs of the community. As a result of these meetings, creating a resiliency center was identified as the most pressing near-term need. Resiliency centers play a central role in ensuring that victims of a mass violence event have access to a wide variety of services and a safe place to gather, reflect, and connect. CHP is coordinating efforts to create the resiliency center, including strategy, planning, funding, and action items.

CHP also hired an LGBTQ+ Community Liaison and Health Navigator, Dara Hoffman-Fox (they/them), to meet with victims of the Club Q shooting, in coordination with other victim service providers. Dara will help connect them to safe, affirming mental and physical health care, as well as other resources. Their role continues to evolve as we move forward.

## What's the long-term vision?

First, based on the structure of collective impact, CHP's plan is to stand up a coalition to not only co-create the resiliency center, but also create a sustainable local infrastructure to support the LGBTQ+ community in the long-term. Second, since resiliency centers typically operate for only a few years after a mass violence event, CHP will use this experience to create a framework for a larger, more effective behavioral health care response for all community members.