



AIDS groups' boards approve merger

By Seth Hemmelgarn
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The boards of Positive Resource Center, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that helps people who're living with HIV/AIDS and mental health disabilities, and AIDS Emergency Fund, which offers financial assistance to people disabled by HIV/AIDS, have approved the agencies' merger.

The news follows the June announcement that Positive Resource Center's merger with Baker Places, a local agency that provides residential substance abuse treatment and other services, had been approved. The combined agencies are retaining the Positive Resource Center name.

The nonprofits have said that about 5,000 clients will benefit from the combination of "multiple, like-minded services." The three groups' aggregate budget is \$20 million.

"The combination of Positive Resource Center and AIDS Emergency Fund, along with the new partnership with Baker Places, brings together all of our services and allows us to better provide for our clients," PRC Executive Director Brett Andrews, who's set to become chief executive officer of the merged organization, said in an August 17 news release. "We look forward to working closely with AIDS Emergency Fund and Baker Places to ensure a smooth transition, with a focus on maintaining a continuity of services for long-term survivors in the areas of healthcare access, emergency funding needs, stable housing, and gainful employment."



*Brett Andrews, Positive Resource Center's executive director, will become CEO of the newly consolidated organization.
Photo: Courtesy Terrence McCarthy*

Among other assistance, PRC provides benefits counseling and employment services.

Andrews, a gay man who has declined to state his HIV status, has a current base salary of \$161,000. His CEO salary is still being negotiated.



AEF was born out of the leather community in the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

Since 1982, Sandra Nathan, AEF's outgoing executive director, stated, the group "has been responding compassionately to the affected community by providing immediate, short-term financial assistance. Through this merger, there is a real opportunity to create a successful path for those who need help by providing greater financial assistance and increasing the availability of complimentary services."

Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, which has been associated with AEF, will remain as an independent entity. BCEF's new managing director is Scarlett Shepard, who couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

The combination of the three nonprofits is subject to the customary closing conditions.

The new PRC would have a staff of approximately 250. None of the agencies would lay off employees. The buildings that are part of each group will still be in operation, but PRC's office at 785 Market Street will remain the headquarters.