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SPEAKERS

Gigi, Roy, Kirk Keevert, David Martinez, Jay, Michelle Meyers, Jimmy Carper



Gigi 00:00

I think, Oh, that's a negative. But in that day and time, it was a positive. Yes, a very spiritual person that provided the services. And it was a whole different concept. It wasn't that they were just having sex with somebody. They were, there was a ritual. Yes. Between the earth goddess and the person they were having sex with.



Jay 00:26

Again, Carolyn talked about that in real life nude girls, he talked extensively about the sex priestesses or something like that term for it. Yeah, that that was really interesting about the role of sex in religions was was a very healing thing.



Gigi 00:43

Yeah. And that's the thing I wanted to kind of come to, also is how healing sex can be. Some of the wonders that can occur when you're having a good orgasm. It is amazing. I mean, I know



01:03

in the good mood you're in afterwards.



Gigi 01:04

Oh, for guys. My feet don't touch the ground. Because I have so much fun keeping it clean. But, you know, you also look at other religions that are highly focused on sexuality, like the Kama Sutra, while Tantra. You know, the whole focus is on sexuality. And, and it's amazing. I mean,

I've talked to a lot of people about, you know, if you just practice some of the tantric sex exercises, it is amazing what it will do with your sex drive and with your ability to control your actions during sex. I mean, it's hard to put into words Excel, because



02:09

it's dragging more emotion into it than just the mechanics of



Gigi 02:16

well, it's partly that but it's also learning to use your sex muscles, basically.



Jay 02:22

The pec muscles and stuff like that. That's all tantric kegel muscles. These days, do



02:29

your Kegel exercise?



Jay 02:32

Well, well, it comes from Tantra Actually, I didn't know. Yeah. Yeah. Now we say oh, no, it's for pregnant women only, you know, it helps you give birth.



02:41

I first read about that and your pain. Oh, pleasure and health. Yeah. Jack Moran. Yeah, that's in there. That's when I first heard about Kegel Kegel Kegel



Jay 02:50

Kegel? I don't know, okay, Kegel.



Gigi 02:55

I've never seen him pronunciation and. But, but you'd start, you know, it's amazing the wealth of information that's in some, you know, alternative religions, on sexuality, just so in the dark about in our culture, you know, semi



J Jay 03:15

off the subject, but it's also kind of on the subject. We're kind of talking about pornography and from other cultures, and it just made me think of Arabian Nights. When they first published the Arabian Nights here and in the West, in Europe and stuff. They had these very pornographic pictures, all the pictures. I mean, you know, we think of them as like fairy tales, Ali Baba and a 40 Thieves. But they were usually published with pictures from the Kama Sutra and all these people having sex, especially in India, they have a lot of artwork, a lot of their artwork is very sexual in nature, and the goddesses show and like these holy vaginas and stuff, it's really neat.

G Gigi 03:56

You think about the tale about the kid that finds this lamp and rubs it and this genie pops out? Whoa, think about Yeah, you know? What shape was this lamp? I

 04:08

never thought

J Jay 04:10

about that. Actually, it was these people and they were they were genetic hermaphrodites or something like that. And there was this guy who called himself for what he called himself the lamp or something like that and had this tattoo when he rubbed it, his Genie popped out. Funny that you mentioned that because it was I forgot what I read. And

G Gigi 04:27

I think this further illustrates the magic of sexuality. You think about it, you walk down the street every day, it's getting constant stimulation, and just wagging away. But you rub it just the right way and all of a sudden magic happens and you have these wonderful feelings and tingling sensations,

J Jay 04:46

rubbing anything, just thinking I mean, you're talking about the sex fantasies and it's amazing. I was reading something and they mentioned aliens. Yeah. Sigourney Weaver thing and talking about her and how she's so cool. Said and then Of course there was that woman who was the obvious lesbian Velazquez whole baby. And I just read that and I just had a crush on her. I didn't touch nothing, you know, it's like, wow, just thinking about it.

G Gigi 05:13

But the magic that happens during sex, have you wanted to find out whether it's thinking about it or actually doing it or just, and, you know, so many people concentrate it just on the genitals.

But, you know, with, and that's one of the things I love about the Tantra is that, it teaches you that your whole body is sexual, not just your genitals, and that anything can be a route of size. And that that's healthy and good.

J Jay 05:47

Yeah. And you were talking about the healing powers of sex. And I was just thinking, also, sex can be a very destructive thing. And there was something I read, I forgot what it was, it was talking about. People who have no sexual attraction for either just for any gender, yeah, they have no sexual desires at all. And it said something about how, in post adolescent males You very rarely find this. But it was like an I forgot what it was. But it's like 20% of women can be classified as this, you know, and it just made me think about the attitudes of sex and how women are not supposed to really enjoy it. And you know, luckily, this is changing. But even so, we're talking like the 60s, a woman who said, Yeah, I enjoy having orgasms. Oh, use a lot, you know, and how incredibly damaging that can be. And because it is all concentrate on the genitals and don't think about anything or, you know, don't have fantasy own. You're never supposed to have fantasies while you actually have sex. I mean, you know, so.

G Gigi 06:52

And one thing I found that's really amazing is that when you start developing the right values, and attitudes, and belief systems, about sexuality, how much it can come alive. I mean, we've had talks about this, could we ever go back to strike vanilla sex, you know, having experienced what I've experienced? It's like,

J Jay 07:25

well, not only that, but just how it does affect your whole your whole life. I mean, your whole outlook and everything like that. And I never really consciously repressed my sexuality in that, you know, being attracted to women type thing, but once I came out, it's like, all of a sudden, wow, my whole, my whole personality changed practically. And when I first came out, I started going to this group over at Montrose Counseling Center. And by the time I left, everyone was saying, oh, yeah, you've definitely changed when I first I was quiet. And then as I got more comfortable with my sexuality, and who I was, you know, I didn't even have a girlfriend, I didn't have a boyfriend at the time, you know, but just becoming more aware of my sexuality and changed my personality I came became more outgoing. And, you know, and just thinking about it, and just being aware of who you are and the potential for it. And I don't know it can really change not just your sex life, but your whole whole life, I

G Gigi 08:30

guess your whole outlook and approach.

J Jay 08:33

So think about what it does when you try and repress that sexuality in any way, shape, or form, you know? Yeah. But

G

Gigi 08:41

the other thing I kind of want to touch on is the world of illusions. Because, you know, we live in a world that we think is real concrete, but when you start really looking a little deeper, you found out how many illusions there really are. Like, what Oh, just a lot of the things that were told as kids as truce you know, I remember

J

Jay 09:08

like if you cross your eyes, they'll stick that way you don't get back in your chair, you'll hit your head and be a vegetable more What do you mean?

G

Gigi 09:17

Well, just everything from that growing up, how we are taught to devalue the self and downplay sexuality as children Okay, and and

J

Jay 09:38

good girls don't do that. Right boys don't do that. And yeah, Real men don't.

G

Gigi 09:45

And the messages that were given as you know, well, girls are given one message boys and other boys are supposed to go out and stick it in real quick and then dirty and get it over with you know, and nice girls done. Do that, of course, just this whole kind of dichotomy between what boys are supposed to do and what girls are supposed to do. And I think that's part of why we're seeing so many boundaries being challenged and broken. Definitely, it's like, girls can go out and pick up a guy, you know? And practice, I mean, screws brains.

J

Jay 10:34


Now, what is it, you know, I think really, with the feminist movement that's really helped to and broken the sphere of what it means to be a woman. And people who know, excuse me, I like power tools. I like working with my hands. And I'm a woman, you know, even though I'm a heterosexual woman. And so then the labels don't really those rigid boundaries, I should say, Don't don't seem feasible, I guess, is that what you mean by illusion? Okay, yeah. Okay.

G

Gigi 11:03

—

Because we're given this illusion that, you know, because of the gender you're born with, you're only supposed to do certain things, and that you can't be good at the other things. And so you have, you know, just this whole, it's kind of like, one of the things I've been facing, you know, it's, there's no way I can be a gender that I am, legally, because I'm both. They don't have a classification legally for me. I know.

 Jay 11:35

It's weird talking about that, how some people actually see you as a guy. Yeah, you know, oh, a male figure, Gigi. Well, there's an illusion for

 Gigi 11:50

you, you know, this game has come up several times recently, even at bayad. You know, because of my name change, yeah, going, where are you getting your sex change to? And I say I can't, because all I can do B is either male or female.

 12:05

And that

 Gigi 12:07

cover made up the answer,

 Jay 12:09

like read a story about how she made a little ID card for herself when she was really young. And so she copied it very carefully from I think my parents driver's license or something, and got to the part where it's had sex. She didn't know what that meant. So she put swim. I thought it meant a hobby.

 12:29

Well, for some people, well, female, and

 Gigi 12:33

anyway, but bad thing. You know, like I say, I'm just touching lightly on on this whole thing. Now, we've got some other guests. Yeah, I want to wrap up real quickly. Okay. Um, you know, we look at the world we live in, and spiritual. Spirituality is such a label anyway, when I use the word spiritual, I don't mean any sense of the Christian word. Spiritual, but I mean, from that self mover within us, that part of us that's able to experience or receives the experience that acts

on things, and, you know, can be a very powerful dynamic to start understanding a little bit about what sexuality really is. I mean, we've always thought of it, or has been told that it's this procreation thing, or this thing that you just do to have fun, but it can be so many more things. Yeah. And you can add in some little bit of role playing a little bit of fantasy, and all of a sudden, it's like, the difference between the really well told story and just an outline, outline or something, when it comes a lot. And I think that's part of the flavor of sexuality. And, and I think the people that start out, you know, talk used to counsel with people that lose their sex, drive and abilities. And I think part of where it goes is that they've lost their ability to be creative. I could be and bring in this wow, we could,

 Jimmy Carper 14:26

I Sorry, I have to cut you off because this is so good. Maybe this will get people to investigate a BiNet meeting, which is every Wednesday night 730 At TPS and that's 1830 West Alabama. We go. Right here at the outskirts of Montrose. JJ, thank you. Thank you. Thank you, and we'll see you next month if not earlier, okay. And happy gay pride, huh?

 14:57

down to Texas KPFT. Houston, of Pacifica radio network station 90.1 FM 89.1k e os College Station,

 15:08

and we are the sound of Texas. This is after hours queer radio with attitude. And we're gonna bring you ABA coming up in just a minute. And here's a little taste. However, that's not exactly the ABA that we have here tonight. No,

 David Martinez 15:34

not quite do I do admire the group and what they've done big success. And it's nice to know that when people think of our agency, they think oh, Abba, the sweetest group. Great. I can remember they're great.

 15:46

But this the Abba that we have here tonight is

 David Martinez 15:51

on David Martinez on case manager for AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. And that's a BA Yeah,



15:57



15:57

that kind of Appa that one. Yes. And the last time you were on, David, you were getting ready to move to a new location in a new town.



David Martinez 16:11

And that has gone very, very quite well. Where is it? We are now in Alvin, Texas. Wow, to win eight West Coombs in the heart of downtown Alvin. And we have since we've moved there, great support from the county Bizzarri. county and the city and the surrounding cities, which is parallel, like Jackson. And Angleton. Oh, yeah, and Manville as well. In fact, the Chamber of Commerce of Alvin Manville did a write up on us on their local paper with rate reviews. And since since February, we have gotten many calls about HIV testing, where our location is how to set up for services for medical or for getting their Social Security started. It has been a tremendous response and a great love from the community, which both myself and Lou waves who's our director was very, very great surprise that we got such a wonderful response. It's really great.



17:19

As I recall, the last time we were here, you're talking talk, you're talking about that move, and you were a little apprehensive about how the community was going to react. And, you know, you didn't know whether they're going to open their arms or throw eggs and break the windows and



David Martinez 17:36

Mr. wakestyle, they might even burn across in front of our daughters. But it turned out to be a great response. Because we're talking



17:41

about people who I live in the Montrose it's easy to be queer here. And, and AIDS is a matter of fact, and it's all around us. And, you know, we, we support and all of that show up, you're talking about an area where people don't talk about AIDS, and if someone has it, they're very secretive about it.



David Martinez 18:03

And, and, and it's still that way, we still do a lot of education there. We're talking to two colleges and two high schools, and getting hotline calls now more than ever, which is really tremendous, because they want to know, how is it transmitted? And how can you get it? If if someone has it? What do they need to do right away to help that individual. So it's all been positive calls, which is really, really wonderful. We found out statistic wise that Brazil, Korea County and Fort Bend County are the fastest HIV population growing according to the state, from the Texas Department of Health.



18:44

And do you think it's because of ignorance about transmission? Or? No, I think just people being very closeted.



David Martinez 18:53

No, I think the fact that it's the education that getting the now people are coming for testing now, and we are increasing testing at our agency has tried, as I say, has grown so tremendously, where and our own agency at Clear Lake, we were only testing like, three people have five people coming in a week. Now we're getting up to a dozen to nearly 15 to 20. So it's a great increase and and it's nice to know that people want to take the precaution and want to know about prevention and what to do. HIV knowledge wise and everything to so they make sure that you know, they're careful now, because a lot of people still ask about monogamous relationships, and we've stressed that but we also realized that people will have to be careful that if they're not in monogamous relationships, to wear condoms, take all kinds of precautions whatsoever.



19:48

Yeah, you have to be realistic about this. It sounds like with more people coming in and getting tested, and you're finding more where people are turning up positive, that instead of people not finding out until they get in opportunistic infection, they're finding out a lot earlier and maybe they can do some preventive stuff, right?



David Martinez 20:14

That's correct. Lots of prevention. Education is the key. Yeah. And with the help of the Alvin Community College with their interns and mental health, they've been helping us spread the word to the colleges and pamphlet lies, and to all the other counties as well. Our biggest challenge now is that we're getting immigrants or resident aliens from coming in here and not being able to get all the benefits that someone that is a US citizen can get right. And I've within in a month's time, I've received already three families like that, that are resident aliens only. And it's making I'm finding it hard difficult to get them getting started on their food stamps, or even though they're so secure. Sure.



21:06

So if anyone there came up positive,



David Martinez 21:10

right, we would have, we would probably check into like some churches to help them with the food pantry wise. We're limited as far as financial to his system. we will help them so much

...and pretty wise. We're limited as far as medical to this system, we will help them so much about at the maximum five months, but the rest of the seven months of the year, they will have to pretty much figure out how to do it. And some of them don't have relatives here. All their relatives are from Mexico. Yeah. God, that must be scary. Yeah, it is. Because this one family in particular has just had a baby. And now they're getting ready to test the baby as well to make sure that she's okay. Right. And Mother's afraid because she's not legal. And she's frankly going to take her baby away, or we were assured her that they will know, they will do no such thing. They just want to make sure that the baby is fine. Right and taken care of to



21:59

wow, wow. I mean, you're you're bringing up problems that I would never even think of, I guess because they're so much different than done here in the city. Correct? Yeah.



David Martinez 22:11

In the rural areas. It's it's a real great outreach that's needed. Because like in clashes, or may city clients have HIV, they still have to go drive all the way to Galveston to get her hair treatments and medicines and all that right.



22:32

Gosh, what if they weren't if they don't have transportation,



David Martinez 22:38

we rent we have funding for transportation as well. We have a contract service with two buses to serve the Matagorda and Rosario county areas that may assist us in picking up clients. We set them up we let them know about 72 hours in advance to pick them up from their homes delivering the UTMB Galveston as soon as they finish with the clinic, they just the fan will be waiting for them to take them back home. So they will not be stranded. That's good. And a fan of all else fails on myself will pick them up to make sure they get to their appointments.



23:13

That's pretty damn good.



David Martinez 23:15

I swear to my car that it is but it's a driving it's a labor of love. That's for sure



Jimmy Carper 23:20

it is sure it is. But it's certainly necessary. And it probably has to be someone like you. I think

it is sure it is. But it's certainly necessary. And it probably has to be someone like you. I think someone from the Montrose couldn't even perform those services because they have no idea how people are either the way people think the way people live, you have to take all that into consideration.

D

David Martinez 23:41

Well, for a while that the Houston area service was going out to Brazoria county will at will as well. In fact, office was going for a while to preserve the county to reach out to those people. But now when the Ryan White title one which is in the bigger cities, they concentrate on the seven counties surrounding Houston Rosario was no longer one of those counties. So they gave it to myself our agency ABA and then our sister agency ACC T aids coalition of coastal Texas in Galveston deserve Rosario Matagorda and Gallatin County.

U

24:18

That's a pretty big area.

D

David Martinez 24:20

It is so much in rural areas not so much. Houston is still the biggest area and the surrounding counties that they serve. Ours are just a little further and being that the rural areas should talk about people who live out in farms and not so much a big city, condensed.

U

24:38

And like I think I mentioned before, they're probably pretty closeted, because they don't want their neighbors to know and all of this kind of stuff,

D

David Martinez 24:46

right? And that's why we have our number and the good thing about our number. When we move to Alvin, you didn't forget our area code which is 281388233 Reed nine, our 800 number, or shall I say our 1888 number is the same number, which is 318883882339. And we're able to be reached that statewide. And we get easily calls from those areas plus hotline calls, still from the Houston area, wanting about know about the transmission of HIV and you know, how to prevention and all that.

U

25:28

Do you find that people are really ignorant or that they have other the, you know, like the old mosquito thing? And do people think that

D

David Martinez 25:37

in the rural areas, yes, I still had a couple of calls, who was concerned about getting mosquito bitten and we explained that if it was but if it was contracted by mosquitoes, we all would have had a long term.



25:50

Live here. You're gonna pay bit by mosquito? Oh, yes, period.

D

David Martinez 25:54

Summertime when's the best time for the mosquitoes to come out but now, with the lack of rain and not as buzzing as much isn't too bad. Too bad at all.



26:03

David. How was Abba funded?

D

David Martinez 26:08

I was funded through the Ron White title to program federally funded, we also get private donations as well, the state, Texas Department of Health. We get money from them, which is handed down to our consortium, which is in Galveston County Health Department. And it's distributed to my agency, the AIDS coalition to coastal Texas in Galveston, and then the Gulf Coast center in Galveston. The HIV division for our HIV clients who has a dual diagnosis, whether it's a drinking or an alcohol problem, so they get a little bit of the funding as well.



26:46

I remember when you were here last time, a member of the bears was here, and they had done a fundraiser for you. Do you find other groups doing that? Or

D

David Martinez 26:57

yes, the bears have done a great job with our funding our fundraiser. Last night, Lou Lou aches and myself was at the eighth coalition's fundraising that Mr. Valdez put on at the KonTiki isn't she Fabulous? Fabulous. She was flawless again,



27:15

she did a fundraiser, she worked on a fundraiser for the gay and lesbian switchboard of Houston right about four or five years ago. And I was just so impressed. Very professional entertainer she

D

David Martinez 27:27

was our she is and yeah, she did it again this year, she had raised a lot of money. Plus, she also had a garage sale in which people donated the clothing and then the funding would go for, for the clients for the ACC T. She had about 10 entertainers last night packed the house was really I mean, there was an unlocking room to get around that KonTiki club. It was really, really great.

J

Jimmy Carper 27:53

That's wonderful. That's a ver again, that the drag slash transgender community jumps in there who helps out when when something is needed. I'd love to hear that. Yeah. Oh, God, just great. And the other fundraisers coming up that you know, yes,

D

David Martinez 28:07

the fundraiser that the aids for ABA aids lines in the Bay Area in conjunction with the Broadway Cares. Equity Fights AIDS is our fundraiser that the cast the company of Phantom of the Opera, oh, when they're here in Houston performing, they're going to do a Monday night show at the Grand at night for Opera House. Galveston is such a beautiful place it is and the cast is so excited because none of them have seen it. But they've heard all about it. So even the lead person in fact that I believe the voice did an interview on what what Sir, I believe is his name, who's going to do the lead for Phantom of the Opera is going to sing a song at the Opera House. And that's going to be June 29. The last Monday in June. That's the weekend after gay pride. That's right. It's seven o'clock PM. This is going to be at the Opera House which is on 21st Okay, wait



29:07

a minute here. I'm gonna write this down. You have to give me that information. Again. Now. This is June 29,

D

David Martinez 29:14

June 29. Seven o'clock. pm at the Grand Opera House where they call it the grand 1894 Opera House. I know where that is. Yes. And for those listening viewers, it's on 21st and post office. Tickets will be \$25 apiece and they are reserved seating. And then for an extra \$10 You can meet the cast backstage as at a little cheese and wine reception that they're going to have. So you can meet the cast. Tickets are now on set as well. You can get it through the Ticketmaster outlet. Great or you can call be The Opera House and I believe that number is area code 409-765-1894. They work. They work that problem really. And then you can always call the ABA office at



30:18

281-281-3838 a 23392339.



David Martinez 30:25

You can charge those tickets and then we'll have just call it in. We reserved the seating. Once again, it's \$25 a ticket, man, that's fine. Yeah. And to have the cast, the cast was so excited about it. It was It tickled me when they heard about the Opera House and some of the cast family lives on the island. So they're just, it's like coming home for so No kidding. Yeah, they're gonna relate to



Jimmy Carper 30:50

it. Great. Great, great, man. Oh, David, thanks for coming by. Well, thank you for having that. thing about this fundraiser up until up until your bad performance. It's a packed house. I hope they sell out.



David Martinez 31:03

So I it's really great show and I was so it was so enthusiastic when the cast that they wanted to do it and just Mr. Wigs and I were just so tickled pink about it.



31:11

I can imagine I would be to David, thanks for coming by.



David Martinez 31:15

Well, thank you for having me. Once again.



31:17

Thank you. Coming up will be the news with big Roy and Michelle in just a moment. You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. We are the sound of Texas,



31:35

the sound of Texas KPFT Houston of Pacifica radio network station 90.1 FM 89.1k e os College Station



32:12

Hi, I'm Brenda, I loud today show that we're diverse house, the best of luck AP. And we like to say please, let's stop the violence. You know, the violence between each other. Before we can change the world views about us, we must make a change to treat ourselves because that'd be racism, homophobia, hetero phobia and prejudice against especially our feminist then get out if you got a person later after all, thanks to them. We have so long just love yourself and a lot of love was shot around you. Remember, such a local beauty activity? This is the point Dr. KPFT after our without you there will be though



33:04

Gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme, gimme KPFT Gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme, gimme, gimme, gimme



33:25

gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme gimme KPFT we love



33:59

and now the news with big Roy and Michelle



K

Kirk Keevert 34:14

gay and lesbian news with Roy and Michelle. It's time for the news with Roy and Michelle. They're gonna tell you stuff about what's going on in the gay and lesbian community dragged me in for this theme by Kirk my whole reason for being here for dragging my ass down every friggin week.



M

Michelle Meyers 34:49

You should do it. You should do a recording.



K

Kirk Keevert 34:53

No, no, no. If we did a recording then then then the whole improv aspect of the news thing would just be completely lost. Yes.



M

Michelle Meyers 35:03

But I just love it I was asking for you last week and you weren't here

but I just love it. I was asking for you last week and you weren't here.

K

Kirk Keevert 35:08

God if you were the only one, but um so I hope everybody's got pens and pencils and papers and stuff ready because because they're gonna give you numbers and addresses and, and stuff to write down. So I hope you've got everything ready to write that down. So without further ado, Ryan, Michelle.

R

Roy 35:32

Oh, good evening, Michelle. Hi, Roy. Boy, we got a lot of news for this week, we've got a lot of gay news. I mean, you know, gay pride news, and a whole bunch of stuff has been happening this week. But for starters, this past week, there was a meeting with the Gay Lesbian Political Caucus here in Houston with police chief Bradford, who came to talk about hate crimes and spousal abuse. And both Michelle and myself were there. And we want to report to you as to what all went on with the meeting. And Michelle, let you start off.

M

Michelle Meyers 36:11

Well, first of all, as far as domestic violence and specifically the investigation by the police department, revolving around the murder of Mark cage, which happened back in March at the Urbana restaurant on Montrose . The Bradford said the police had gone through and done an investigation and as a result, have decided that there needs to be changes made. For those who are calling in for domestic violence.

R

Roy 36:51

What are those changes that Chief Bradford was talking about was establishing a 24 hour day seven day a week spousal abuse division in HPD.

M

Michelle Meyers 37:03

Wow, yes. And they have a division now that handles domestic violence, primarily in the daytime. And it's downtown. And it's in a big building. And it's high up, you know, so people have to drive into the city, drive downtown and then find their way up a highlight.

R

Roy 37:21

No, then they had to find parking space and

M

Michelle Meyers 37:23

mark parking space to get up the high rise. They're going to centralize that. They're going to try

park parking space to get up the high rise. They're going to decentralize that. They're going to try to do a pilot program to figure out how to decentralize that. So that the people who are providing the services are out there closer to where it's happening around the city of Houston and Harris County. And so they're gonna do that. And also, I understand from what you told me that, yes, they're gonna go seven and 24. Right.

R

Roy 37:52

And then there's another very interesting thing, I learned two new things. While I was attending the meeting, and I watched all the local media and television and news media, none of them, not a single one of them, dispense with this information. This particular information that Chief Bradford publicly announced and said, and it's this that victims of spousal abuse, whether you are gay, or lesbian, straight, bisexual, transgender, there is shelter for you.

M

Michelle Meyers 38:28

Yes, there are there are. I never knew that. I actually didn't know that either. I knew that there were shelters for lesbians to go to because of the information we had had here and after hours with the folks from the Houston Area Women's Center, but I did not know that there were several like 567 that would take in gay men. Right? I did not know that. Domestic Violence, also, and the police carry this information with them on a blue card, right? It's like a blue sheet of paper. It's I think it's half of a legal size. So it's about four and a quarter inches by 14 inches long. And it has all the numbers of the centers in both English and Spanish. Correct. And the police carry them and they're supposed to be making that information available to the victim. And in

R

Roy 39:32

addition, it also has on there, the crime victims Bill of Rights, so that if you are the victim of a violent or some other type of violent crime, there are rights that you do have or if you are, if you are the maid or the spouse or the parent or the adult child of a crime victim. You have rights under the state of Texas. These are stuff that we did not know, I mean, criminals, they have their rights read to them every time. You know,

M

Michelle Meyers 40:06

wow, in that regard, the second part of this program is, as Chief Bradford mentioned, is that they're going to, again, have to increase the training for the police officers, those coming in to the, to the police department, and those who have been around for a long, long time, are all going to get training in this regard, and that's another of the changes that occurred.

R

Roy 40:36

Yes. And also, they did, and I do want to dispense with this information, this particular information, because I'm sure that there are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, people out there who are at this very moment suffering spousal abuse, and are considering moving out the

door, if you do that, do not advertise that you're going to leave do not say to your abuser, abusive spouse partner, that said, I've had it I'm leaving, you tell the person that you said, a good chance of getting yourself killed? Yes,

M

Michelle Meyers 41:15

the degree of violence increases at that specific time or shortly thereafter. So I mean, I went through this with my sister, when she left her husband, you make a plan, you get everything together, you do it quietly, secretly. You do not announce it to anyone other than those you fully fully trust. And then you go, and you go someplace other than a relative's. If your partner knows where your family lives, if your partner knows where you were, if your partner knows any of this personal information, you have to be someplace other than those places, because your partner will find you. And then the third thing that I got, but didn't quite get from, from what Chief Bradford said, was that they were also he brought up again, the hate crimes hotline number, which is area code 713-308-8737. And he was talking about that, as if he were giving thoughts to combine it with domestic violence, right. It really is pretty much the same, the same thing. It's violence, in one case, violence by someone you know, very well. And in the other case, it's violence. I said, when you don't know it all, he's just targeting you. But I think they're thinking of combining those together so that they have a bigger clientele. And that clientele can get to some place. Get to information, seven and 24/7 days a week, 24 hours,

R

Roy 43:00

and both victims in both sets. And both sets of victims usually show a trait of not wanting to report what happened. They are afraid of being outed. There's a lot of a gay man i i don't I'm not supposed to be getting abused. It happens.

M

Michelle Meyers 43:22

Okay, well, let's move on to the next topic. What do we have now?

R

Roy 43:26

Okay. Good news for people that are working for the federal government or consider