Creating a Storytelling Series: Helping your Clients Organize for Justice through Storytelling

By: Kaleb Dornheim & Cecilia Gentili
Who is Kaleb?

- 25, poor, trans/nonbinary, queer, mentally ill, survivor
- Baltimore and Hudson Valley grounded,
- Has their Masters in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies concentrating in Trans Studies Education
- Works at GMHC as a Sexual and Reproductive Advocate for TGNC folks
- When they aren't working or doing activism, they like being around farm animals, plants, and engaging in Kardashian Discourse
Who is Cecilia?

- Trans Latina. Originally from Argentina
- Lived in the US for 17 years. 11 of them as a non documented person.
- Former sex worker
- History of incarceration
- In recovery from all drugs you could ever imagine.
- Fierce fashion icon (in her head)
- She tries, she tries
Who are you?
What’re we doing today?

- Learn how to create a campaign around SRJ issues, especially on social media/printed materials
- Learn how to deliver stories/use storytelling to create change
- Hear how we used these strategies at GMHC
- Hear a demonstration of storytelling by Cecilia
Our work @ GMHC

❖ Organizing 102 - November 2017
❖ Trans Parenthood Panel - December 2017
❖ Organizing 102 - February 2018
❖ TGNC Spring Fling - April 2018
❖ TGNC SRJ Rally - June 2018

❖ We’re offering a series of advocacy and organizing workshops to help community members better articulate and advocate for their needs with regard to healthcare access, sexual health education, and reproductive rights.

❖ Emerged out of a grant from the New York Department of Health & Community Engagement Group that focuses on SRJ

❖ GMHC provides Capacity Building Assistance that empowers some of NYC’s most vulnerable communities, specifically LAtinx people and immigrants, trans and gender nonconforming people, and people living with HIV/AIDS.
Our Campaign

- Based off of the results from Organizing 102
- Used 2 Trans Folks from our groups
- Resulted in 3 calls so far over discrimination/issues over:
  - Sperm/egg banking based on their trans status and/or HIV status,
  - Financial barriers accessing fertility treatments /HRT
How to create a campaign

● Brainstorm what’s important
● Create your list of needs
● Choose a focus – this can be problematic, can you engage more than one issue? How do you not leave anyone out? Do you combine?
● Go back to brainstorming notes, and create a narrative
● Create a hashtag / determine how you’ll use social media
● How will you add imagery? What is your visual?
● Combine it all into a poster
● Spread it out into the world
How Cecilia uses Storytelling for Change
Breakout Groups:
Create Your Campaign
Brainstorm: What are important SRJ issues for you?
What are topics that we can work with?
Our Top Two Topics?
If you like topic 1 - go to Kaleb’s side of the room.

If you like topic 2 - go to Cecilia’s side of the room.
Tell us about your:
❖ Campaign
❖ Advocacy & Experience Story
❖ Social Media Use
❖ Show us your poster!
Want to talk more?

Talk to Kaleb at: Kalebd@gmhc.org

Talk to Cecilia at: Ceciliag@gmhc.org