



## Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services Department



### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Shannon Jones, Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shannon Jones".

**Date:** April 21, 2016

**Re:** RBJ Health Center Named as "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality"

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The purpose of this memo is to inform Mayor and Council that Austin/Travis County Health and Human Service's Rebekah Baines Johnson (RBJ) Sexually Transmitted Disease and Tuberculosis Health Center has been recognized as a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the country's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization.

The findings were part of HRC Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index 2016, a unique annual survey that encourages equal care for LGBT Americans by evaluating inclusive policies and practices related to LGBT patients, visitors and employees. This recognition acknowledges our commitment to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for every patient, customer, client and employee.

The RBJ Health Center earned top marks in meeting non-discrimination and training criteria that demonstrate its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients, and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing the quality health care and respect they deserve.

The RBJ Health Center is one of a select group of 496 healthcare facilities nationwide to be named Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality. Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria, including patient and employee non-discrimination policies that specifically mention sexual orientation and gender identity, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents and LGBT health education for key staff members.

The Healthcare Equality Index 2016 offers healthcare facilities unique and powerful resources designed to help provide equal care to a long-overlooked group of patients, as well as assistance in complying with regulatory requirements and access to high-quality staff training.

For more information about the Healthcare Equality Index 2016, or to download a free copy of the report, visit [www.hrc.org/hej](http://www.hrc.org/hej)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 972-5010.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager