



Task Force names acting director

Rea Carey has been with the organization since 2004

By JOSHUA LYNSEN
April 8, 2008

As the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force continues searching for its next leader, an acting executive director has been named.

Rea Carey, the organization's deputy executive director since February 2004, will take the helm next week and help guide the organization as long as needed.

"There will be consistency in leadership, there will be consistency in the issues we're addressing," she said, "and in fact we have a full year of our plans laid out for us, and none of that will change as to what we have been working on and will be working on as an organization."

Carey, a 41-year-old lesbian who lives and works in Washington, said she began her activist work after coming out at age 16.

"I really came into the movement through HIV and AIDS," she said, "and that has shaped my perspective in a number of ways, both in how powerful our community is at addressing the issues that face us and how we built — this is a nerdy word to use, but — the infrastructure to take care of people and address the crisis that is HIV and AIDS."

Carey, who is not a candidate to succeed outgoing Executive Director Matt Foreman, said Task Force officials are "going to take our time to find the right person" for the job.

"We are in such a strong place because of Matt's leadership over the last five years," she said.

"So I'm enjoying being able to serve in this role, but also knowing that whoever steps into this role is going to have a great organization to lead."