



## Task Force Names New Director

Rea Carey Appointed After Four-Month Search

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**Rea Carey, longtime leader and activist in the LGBT movement, has been appointed executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the first national LGBT rights organization and the community's uncompromising, progressive voice committed to building grassroots political power through advocacy, training, organizing and cutting-edge research and analysis.**

"We were searching for someone who is both visionary and practical, has an understanding of our movement's history and can take advantage of new opportunities that lie ahead," said Alan Acosta, board co-chair. "There are very few people who have the right combination of voice, skills, passion, fearlessness and relationships in and outside the movement to take the Task Force to the next level. We've found that person in Rea Carey."

The appointment was announced by the Task Force board following a four-month national search to replace Matt Foreman, who left the organization in April for a senior position at the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.

Carey, who had served as deputy executive director to Foreman for four years, was appointed acting executive director following Foreman's departure. Initially, she asked not to be considered for the permanent position, preferring to remain as deputy executive director. The board, however, asked her to reconsider in light of her exceptional performance as acting executive director.

"Rea proved to be an extremely strong and charismatic leader in the interim position," said Paula Redd Zeman, board member and co-chair of the search committee. "We have been impressed by her steady hand, her strategic mindset and her ability to make and carry out the tough decisions required in leading a national organization. Ultimately, the search committee decided that there's no place like home — Rea was the superstar that we had been seeking. The search committee approached Rea a second time and asked her to serve the organization and the LGBT community at this critical juncture. This time, she said yes."

Carey has worked extensively in HIV/AIDS prevention and in the LGBT community and has a longstanding relationship with the Task Force. In addition to her four years as deputy executive director, she has also served as a senior strategist overseeing the strategic planning process. In the 1990s, she was active in community organizing through ACT UP and OUT direct action groups, Lesbian Services of Whitman-Walker Clinic and as a co-founder of Gay Men and Lesbians Opposing Violence. Carey was the founding executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, an LGBT youth leadership organization. She holds a master's degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.