For Immediate Release: 6/10/22

Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic REC Peer Education team releases teen-created podcast series *Alaska Teen Query* to explore themes around sexuality, from birth control to abortion stigma to gender roles.

Homer, AK, Dena'ina Land: The Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic REC Room Peer Education team, led by Peer Ed Coordinator Tyler Schlieman, has launched a teen-created podcast series called *Alaska Teen Query.* The team of Peer Eds, ages 15-18, developed the podcast during a workshop facilitated by Alaskan nonprofit See Stories' contractor Rafael Bitanga. Each teen created their episode based on a chosen sexual health-related topic, conducted interviews with community members and wove in their personal stories and perspectives.

Peer Ed Ella Smith Davis said, "All of the guests were super cool and really smart."

The episodes will be released on a weekly basis on this PodBean channel: https://theREC.podbean.com, and at homerrecroom.org starting on Friday, June 10th. The weekly themes are outlined below:

- June 10: **Abortion Stigma: A Conversation** by Kathleen Kuhn
- June 17: **Gender Roles are Wack, Yo** by Mika Matysczak
- June 24: **Let's Talk About the Pill!** by Logan Dias
- July 1: **TBA** by Warren Baxter
- July 8: **TBA** by Esmé Golden
- July 15: **Sex Work on Social Media: Positive and Negative Outcomes** by Ella Smith Davis

It was important to both See Stories and the REC that the podcast be youth-created and youth-focused, in order to create media content relevant to teens. Workshop instructor Rafael Bitanga is himself only 21 years old, so it was also youth-led. Rafael had previously instructed a course with See Stories' for LGBTQ+ Alaskan youth and allies to help educate Anchorage citizens about LGBTQ+ rights.

"This was my first time recording a podcast, and it was hard to hear myself talk, but I think people are going to like what they get out of it," said Peer Ed Warren Baxter.

Join us to celebrate these teens and their vital contributions to the cultural conversation on sexuality.

The REC Room is a free drop-in afterschool space for teens ages 12-18 in the Southern Kenai Peninsula. It's a safe space and resource for teens of all identities to create, connect, and feel empowered. The REC Education programs, led by local Peer Educators, provide comprehensive, evidence-informed sexual health and wellness lessons in area schools and elsewhere.

See Stories is a nonprofit organization that leads youth documentary, film workshops, and podcasting production workshops for youth in Alaska. See Stories builds inclusive communities with film and story, offering youth workshops, teacher professional development, and partnering with schools and local communities to inspire stories. See Stories works to ensure that diverse Alaskans and youth are given the media skills to craft stories better representing the Alaska they know.

For more information, contact Tyler Schlieman at peeredcoordinator@kbfpc.org.

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