

Crisis and Care

Queer Activist Responses to a Global Pandemic

Adrian Shanker • Foreword by Rea Carey

Crisis and Care reveals what is possible when activists mobilize for the radical changes our society needs. In a time of great uncertainty, fear, and isolation, Queer activists organized for health equity, prison abolition, racial justice, and more. Nobody who lived through the COVID-19 pandemic will soon forget the challenges, sacrifices, and incredible loss felt during such an uncertain time in history. *Crisis and Care* anthologizes not what happened during COVID-19, or why it happened, but rather how Queer activists responded in real time. It considers the necessity to memorialize resiliency as well as loss, hope as well as pain, to remember the strides forward as well as the steps back. Activist contributors Zephyr Williams, Mark Travis Rivera, Jamie Glikburg, Denise Spivak, Emmett Patterson, Omar Gonzales-Pagan, Kenyon Farrow, and more provide a radical lens through which future activists can consider effective strategies to make change, even or perhaps especially, during periods of crisis.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

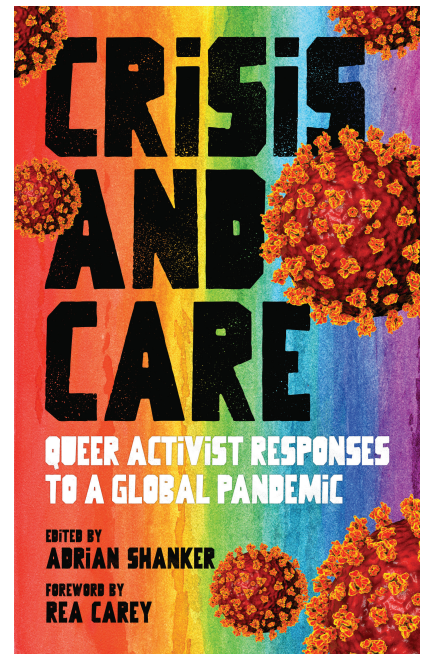
Adrian Shanker is editor of the critically acclaimed anthology *Bodies and Barriers: Queer Activists on Health* (PM Press) and the executive director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center in Allentown, PA. A specialist in LGBT health policy, he has developed leading-edge health promotion campaigns to advance health equity through behavioral, clinical, and policy changes. Adrian serves as Commissioner and health committee co-chair on the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.

Rea Carey served as the National LGBTQ Task Force's executive director from 2008–2021 and has advanced a vision of freedom for LGBTQ people and their families that is broad, inclusive and progressive. She grounds her work solidly in racial, economic, gender and social justice. This approach to leadership has delivered results as diverse as: winning an LGBT-inclusive federal hate crimes prevention law; defeating multiple state anti-LGBT ballot measures; spotlighting discrimination against transgender people; winning marriage equality; positioning reproductive rights, health and justice solidly as an LGBTQ issue; building stronger support for immigration reform in the LGBTQ movement; and, successfully securing scores of changes in federal agencies to attend to the needs of the LGBTQ community. Carey is a Hunt Alternatives' Prime Movers Fellow and serves on the boards of directors for the Flamboyant Foundation and the Freeman Foundation.

ACCOLADES

"Adrian Shanker has emerged in recent years as an urgent and prescient voice on matters concerning queer health. *Crisis and Care: Queer Activist Responses to a Global Pandemic* is timely, important and shares a message we ignore at our own peril. The response to COVID-19 from LGBTQ communities is informed by our own experience with a deadly pandemic made vastly worse by poor presidential leadership. Our lived experience over the past 40 years has valuable lessons for how we should be addressing today's viral threats."

—Sean Strub, author of *Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS, and Survival*



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