

# PhilHealth empowers LGBTQIA+ members in Batangas through orientation on benefits, services

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**P**hilHealth Regional Office (PRO) IV-B, through its Membership Section's Marketing Team, recently provided a virtual orientation on the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law and Konsulta for Wagayway Equality, Inc. – a non-government group located in Alangilan, Batangas City.

The group is actively working to promote gender equality, HIV prevention, mental health awareness, and youth and LGBTQIA+ rights. The activity was attended by its officers, led by the group's Acting President, Edward Camasis, and volunteers.

Cognizant of PhilHealth's role as the administrator of the National Health Insurance Program, Wagayway Equality, Inc. requested for a detailed orientation on UHC, Konsulta, and other programs and services of the state health insurer.

The discussions also touched on member registration procedures, premium contributions, and the PhilHealth Member Portal. PRO IV-B also reiterated members' responsibilities, as well as various PhilHealth benefit such as primary care benefits under Konsulta, Out-patient/HIV-AIDs package (including data on provincial claims in the province), TB-DOTS package (as Tuberculosis is the most common complication among HIV-positive patients in the Philippines), and other developments in the Corporation.

After the discussions, queries raised were related to PhilHealth information and education campaigns, and membership. The participants also gave inputs on frontline services. Wagayway Equality, Inc. informed PhilHealth that it had launched the Equality Desk in Batangas City through the support of the Local Government



PRO IV-B Membership Marketing Representatives with Wagayway Equality Inc. Volunteers headed by its Executive Director Aivan Alvarez.



Snapshot with attendees from Wagayway Equality Inc., Batangas Medical Center Wellness Representative and PRO IV-B, LHIO Heads and Representatives

Unit under the leadership of Mayor Beverly Rose Dimacuha-Mariño.

The group was given an office space where member population like Men Having Sex with Men (MSM), Transgender Women, People Living with HIV, young key population, LGBTQIA+ can receive vital services. Through future collaboration, information about UHC and PhilHealth benefits, which most participants admitted to learn only during the virtual orientation, will be available there. As such, the possibility of a partnership between the two parties is not far behind. **END**