

Welcome

Welcome to the Rainbow Health Ontario 2010 Conference

The first – and only – provincial conference with these learning opportunities: understanding the unique health and wellness issues of Ontario and Canada’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities; developing knowledge and skills based on the latest research and practice; and, building capacity to promote healthier LGBT communities.

Rainbow Health Ontario is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care to improve access to services and to promote the health of Ontario’s LGBT communities through education, research, outreach and public policy advocacy.

While human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual people in Canada have improved a great deal in the past 40 years, our society still struggles to fully accept LGBT people as family members, clients or colleagues. And trans people are still not explicitly named in human rights legislation. Within our health and social service systems, LGBT people face a variety of barriers when attempting to access care. Recent studies from across Canada point to unmet health needs, inadequate treatment and a lack of appropriate policies, standards of competence or even basic awareness in the care of LGBT people.

Research also tells us that LGBT communities experience a higher burden of health problems such as depression, substance use and cancers of various kinds. These health disparities arise from a mix of social, behavioural and sometimes physical factors that play out in the lives of individuals, families and communities. Often the challenges of living with stigma and stress are compounded by membership in other groups which also face discrimination and access problems including Aboriginal communities, people with disabilities, racialized groups, newcomers, rural communities and people living in poverty. Most health care providers are not trained on LGBT health issues and may not be sensitive to the particular health risks or knowledgeable about how to work respectfully with LGBT people.

Rainbow Health Ontario works with LGBT communities, service providers, researchers, policy makers and government representatives to address these barriers. Our vision is to make Ontario a province in which all lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people are healthy and valued members of their diverse communities and are supported by equitable services and public policy.

Conference Overview

Rainbow Health Ontario is proud to be hosting its first bi-annual provincial conference focused on the needs and issues of our diverse and vibrant LGBT communities. The Conference aims to advance the discussion on improving access and equity in health for LGBT people in Ontario, and will provide a forum for health and social service providers, community members, researchers and policy makers to share knowledge, experience and ideas, to network and develop partnerships, and to find inspiration for their ongoing work.

Conference Purpose and Goal

The purpose of the Rainbow Health Ontario 2010 Conference is to provide a forum for participants to share knowledge, experience and ideas that specifically address the health and wellness needs of LGBT people.

The goal of the Rainbow Health Ontario 2010 Conference is to advance the discussion on improving access and equity in health for LGBT people in Ontario.

Conference Main Topics

- LGBT emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health and wellness issues
- Recent LGBT health research from Ontario and Canada
- Innovative and creative LGBT health promotion programs
- Public policy and activism: current issues and strategies
- Education and training: effective teaching tools and resources

Acknowledgements

Rainbow Health Ontario Toronto Staff

Anna Travers
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RESEARCH & POLICY COORDINATOR

Devan Nambiar
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Vacant
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Vacant
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Rainbow Health Ontario 2010 Conference Program Committee

David Belrose, Rainbow Health Ontario Community Outreach Team member for the North West LHIN 14, is a long-time member of the gay community in Thunder Bay, has been involved with community development since the 1970s, and helped found the group Gays of Thunder Bay in 1980. A founding member, past board chair, and Education Coordinator of AIDS Thunder Bay (ATB) for seventeen years, he was involved in outreach throughout Northwestern Ontario. He has presented workshops on various aspects of sexual orientation and sexual health, facilitated support groups (including Northern Pride youth group), and continues to be active in efforts to achieve equal rights for all sexual minorities.

Dixon is a genderqueer boy living in Hamilton. He is Co-Chair of The LGBTQ Community Wellness Centre of Hamilton and is also a member of the Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative and the LGBT Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton. He is passionate about building queer community spaces.

Fran Odette is a member of the Rainbow Health Network Education Committee and Program Manager of the Women with Disabilities Program at Springtide Resources (formerly Education Wife Assault). Fran is a queer woman with a disability who has been working on gender, disability and sexuality for over 16 years.

Jasmine Thibault has been the Program Director at Centre francophone de Toronto, a multi-service Community Health Centre for the French speaking population of Toronto for almost ten years. The programs in her department, delivered by a team of close to twenty people, range from Early Years programs to HIV/AIDS prevention projects, including working with children with special needs. Jasmine is French Canadian originally from Northern Quebec and studied in Montreal, where she obtained her Bachelor Degree with a minor in Film Writing and a Major in Women's Studies. She completed her master's degree in Anthropology at University of Montreal after doing a major in the same field.

Rainbow Health Ontario Community Outreach Team

Sarah Fraleigh - LHIN 1

Vacant - LHIN 2

Blair Groves - LHIN 3

Vacant - LHIN 4

Vacant - LHIN 5

j wallace - LHIN 6

Phyllis Waugh - LHIN 7

Barb Urman - LHIN 8

Vacant - LHIN 9

Vacant - LHIN 10

Barry Deeprise - LHIN 11

J. Andrew Barker - LHIN 12

Vacant - LHIN 13

David Belrose - LHIN 14

Rainbow Health Ontario 2010 Conference Planners

*Rachel Gillooly and Associates,
Haliburton County, Ontario
Rachel Gillooly, Holly Fisher, Barb Lewis,
Andres Lopez, Pam Sayne, John Schmidt*

Wednesday, March 24th

4:00 – 8:00 pm	REGISTRATION
7:00 – 10:00 pm	WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday, March 25th

7:00 am – 5:00 pm	REGISTRATION
8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST: Networking and meet your Rainbow Health Ontario Community Outreach Team Member
9:00 – 10:30 am	WELCOME & OPENING PLENARY: Our Roots
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH & EXHIBIT HALL
1:30 – 3:00 pm	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL
3:30 – 5:00 pm	POSTER DISPLAYS
4:00 – 5:00 pm	THE OPEN SPACE: Creating Conversations That Matter
6:00 pm onward	DINE-AROUND-TOWN & OTHER OPTIONS TBA

Friday, March 26th

7:00 am – 5:00 pm	REGISTRATION
8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST: Networking – Ongoing Conversations That Matter
9:00 – 10:30 am	PLENARY: Learning From Other Regions
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH & EXHIBIT HALL
1:30 – 3:00 pm	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL
3:30 – 5:00 pm	PLENARY & CLOSING: Looking Forward

Conference Overview

Subject to change

All conference functions take place at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel, unless otherwise noted.

Workshop and Poster Display Presenter Biographies will be posted to the website.

See Conference-at-a-glance for more details

Conference Highlights

Welcome Reception

Wednesday, March 24

Relax after travelling to the Hotel, or if you live in the GTA, plan on attending anyway! Enjoy reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones while nibbling on tasty hors d'oeuvres and sipping beverages (cash bar). Surprise entertainment is planned – more details to be announced.

Meet & Network with your Rainbow Health Ontario Community Outreach Team Member

Thursday, March 25

Don't miss this important opportunity to connect with our Rainbow Health Ontario Community Outreach Team (COT). RHO has 14 Outreach Team members - proud LGBT people who live in Ontario's urban and rural communities and work part-time to help us connect with LGBT people, service providers and organizations throughout the province. COT members work with RHO staff and local communities to raise the profile of existing programs, to identify gaps and health needs, and to encourage the development of services that meet the needs of local LGBT people.

Our Outreach Team members work in regions that correspond to the new regional structure of health care in Ontario. The Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are 14 not-for-profit organizations that plan, integrate and fund local health care services in 14 different geographic areas across the province. Since the LHINs plan and fund services such as hospitals, community health centres, long-term care and community supports, we want to ensure that they will be listening to the needs of our local and diverse LGBT communities.

The 14 LHIN regions are shown on the map below.

During breakfast on Thursday morning, each LHIN region will have a special area in the Grand Ballroom and will be hosted by the local Community Outreach Team Member. Refer to this map and key to find your local LHIN and Outreach Team member. We'll also have a big map of Ontario located near the Conference Registration Desk if you are unsure of your LHIN region.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Erie St. Clair
– Sarah Fraleigh | 8. Central – Barb Urman |
| 2. South West
– vacant | 9. Central East
– vacant |
| 3. Waterloo-Wellington
– Blair Groves | 10. South East
– vacant |
| 4. Hamilton Niagara
Haldimand Brant
– vacant | 11. Champlain
– Barry Deeprise |
| 5. Central West
– vacant | 12. North Simcoe Muskoka
– J. Andrew Barker |
| 6. Mississauga Halton
– j wallace | 13. North East
– vacant |
| 7. Toronto Central
– Phyllis Waugh | 14. North West
– David Belrose |

Clinical Sessions

Rainbow Health Ontario is planning four special clinical sessions tailored to the needs of health care providers, two on Thursday and two on Friday, as part of conference program. The focus of the first day is on Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Trans health and delivering clinically and culturally competent primary health care. The focus of the second day is on the delivery of sensitive and knowledgeable Trans health care specifically.

Our Roots

Thursday, March 25 – Plenary

The conference will open with a special panel of experts and long-time activists who will pay respect to our roots and honour our history as LGBT people. We will hear about key struggles and achievements – some that are unique to the LGBT movement and others that are linked to other human rights movements. Each of the three panellists has been chosen to reflect personally on key themes in our history as LGBT communities, to discuss what has been learned and to provide their ideas on what needs to happen next. “Our Roots” includes dynamic presentations on the influence of the HIV/AIDS crisis and the focus on gay men’s health; on efforts to organize communities of colour and immigrants and their relationships with LGBT organizing; and the more recent struggles of trans people to win basic human rights and access to health care.

The Open Space: Creating Conversations that Matter

Thursday, March 25 (afternoon) & Friday, March 26 (breakfast)

Rainbow Health Ontario is committed to networking and community development. Take advantage of this “Open Space” in the formal conference program to create conversations that matter using tools that can provide safe places for discussion and sharing. Discuss topics about which you feel passionate, issues that you think are critical, and ideas that are important to you and your community.

How it works:

- Conference participants propose topics for ‘Creating Conversations That Matter’ - topics which they are prepared to host.
- Topics are posted on The Open Space Wall (all day Thursday until 3:00 pm).
- Open Space Conference Facilitators review all the topics, may suggest some topics be co-hosted, and assign a place for the conversation(s) to take place.
- You create conversations that matter, you participate and share in a conversation (or conversations) about which you feel passionate, or you listen and learn.
- You can participate in several conversations if you like. And the conversations can go on for as long or as short a time as you want.

Open Space Technology, from which this portion of the conference has borrowed, was created in the mid-1980s by organizational consultant Harrison Owen. Open Space Technology is a delightful, useful tool for any group of people who are really interested in exploring something that they all care deeply about.

The Open Space: Creating Conversations That Matter will be guided by the four principles and one law of Open Space:

1. Whoever comes is the right people.
2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
3. Whenever it starts is the right time.
4. When it is over it is over.

The Law of Two Feet: “If you find yourself in a situation where you aren’t learning or contributing, go somewhere else.”

Feel free to carry on your conversations over breakfast on Friday!

Dine-Around-Town

Thursday, March 25

Explore and enjoy Toronto’s diverse LGBT neighbourhoods and tasty cuisine. Small group outings to local restaurants have been planned, hosted by Rainbow Health Ontario’s Community Outreach Team and Staff (everyone “pays their own way”), providing opportunities to meet and talk in a more relaxed, informal atmosphere. Pick your favourite cuisine (or one you’d like to try) and meet new friends. Information on each restaurant and neighbourhood, your host and sign-up sheets will be available at the Conference Registration Desk. Information on other après conference evening activities (theatres, movies, sports events, etc.) to be announced.

Learning From Other Regions

Friday, March 26 - Plenary

Broadening our horizons beyond Ontario, the conference will profile ground breaking work that is going on in different provinces and in other countries to further LGBT health and wellness and increase access and equity. Our panel will feature three dynamic speakers with first-hand experience in different fields. From Quebec, we will learn about innovative LGBT projects and social policy development; from our neighbours in the United States we will hear about specialized work that is being carried out to address lesbian and seniors’ issues; and from British Columbia we will hear about pioneering work to create a new health care delivery system for trans people and the development of a new Canadian Professional Association of Trans Health (CPATH).

Looking Forward

Friday, March 26 - Plenary

The conference will conclude with a look to the future of our communities and some key challenges. We will look at the recent baby boom in LGBT communities and how our children and families are coping with, and shaping, a world that used to be virtually off limits. We will also discuss the struggles of intersex people to be treated with dignity and to organize around their unique concerns. Finally, we will consider the experiences of youth in our educational system and in particular the struggles of young LGBT people of colour. All these presentations will underline the importance of an intersectional approach, building connections and honouring difference as we work for health and dignity for all.

Featured Speakers

Our Roots

Thursday, March 25

Barry D. Adam is University Professor of Sociology at the University of Windsor with a distinguished research and publication record devoted to issues of domination and empowerment. His work in Nicaragua and also on gay and lesbian movements (*The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement*, *The Global Emergence of Gay and Lesbian Politics*) documents how individual coping strategies can coalesce into collective mobilization and a transformative politics that restructure or revolutionize the conditions of subordination.

Barry is also a Senior Scientist and Director of Prevention Research at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network with a mandate to draw together researchers, policy-makers, and community-based organizations in building province-wide capacity in effective interventions for HIV prevention.

With an extensive background of community-based research into HIV prevention and issues of living with HIV, Barry's current work includes: the development of an attractive and effective HIV prevention and sexual health program for HIV-positive men; HIV vulnerability among Spanish and Portuguese speaking men who have sex with men; the impacts of criminal prosecutions for HIV exposure and transmission on people living with HIV; and the impacts of the introduction of marriage on same-sex couples.

Barry was a co-founder of the AIDS Committee of Windsor and is currently part of the Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance that plans prevention programming for the AIDS Bureau.

Additional speakers tbc

Learning from Other Regions

Friday, March 26

Amber Hollibaugh, celebrated author and activist, is the Chief Officer of Elder and LGBTI Women's Services at the Howard Brown Health Center. Before joining Howard Brown, Hollibaugh served as Senior Strategist for the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce. Previously, she was the Director of National Initiatives at SAGE -- Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders.

A well-known activist, Hollibaugh serves on several Boards including, Queers for Economic Justice, Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network of ASA (LGAIN) and Generation5. She is also on the editorial board of GLQ, The Journal of Lesbian & Gay Studies. Her work has earned her several accolades, including the Dr. Susan B. Love award for outstanding achievement in women's health. She is the celebrated author of *MY DANGEROUS DESIRES – A Queer Girl Dreaming Her Way Home* (Duke University Press, 2002), and the director and co-producer of *THE HEART OF THE MATTER*, a documentary film focusing on women's sexuality, denial and risk for HIV and AIDS, which won the 1994 Sundance Film Festival Freedom of Expression award and premiered on PBS's prestigious POV film series.

At Howard Brown, Hollibaugh will spearhead two programs, the Elder Services Community Initiative and LGBTI Women's Services. The Elder Services Community Initiative is a collaborative project with partners Rush University Medical Center, CJE-Senior Life, Heartland Alliance and Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter. As the leader of this interdisciplinary team, Amber will ensure Howard Brown Health Center is able to provide LGBT older adults personalized medical attention and inclusive LGBT elder care. This initiative will also provide training to local healthcare and social service providers to improve their competencies in working with LGBT seniors.

Hollibaugh is also charged with the mission of coordinating and expanding the existing LGBTI Women's Services at Howard Brown. Relying upon the existing Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP) as the foundation, she will facilitate the development of a comprehensive and focused program which addresses the needs of all LGBTI women who come to Howard Brown.

Howard Brown Health Center is one of the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) healthcare organizations. Through a wide array of health, wellness, social service and research programs, Howard Brown cares for more than 28,000 adult and youth clients annually.

Gail Knudson, MD, MPE, FRCPC, is the Medical Director of the Transgender Health Program at Vancouver Coastal Health, Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia Department of Sexual Medicine, Consultant Psychiatrist at the British Columbia Centre for Sexual Medicine at Vancouver Hospital & Faculty Development Leader for the Island Medical Program, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia.

In addition to her administrative duties as Medical Director of the Transgender Health Program, Dr. Knudson facilitates the BC Transgender Clinical Care Group, a monthly supervision group of health care professionals involved in providing service to transgender people. She also serves as Chief Surgical Readiness Assessor for the Medical Services Plan of British Columbia that partially funds sex reassignment surgery. She is actively involved in teaching workshops across Canada on Assessing Hormone and Surgery Readiness and Eligibility in Transgender People.

In terms of research, she has been involved in developing and writing Canadian and international best practice guidelines for Transgender Health. She is currently the co-chair of the DSM V Consensus Committee for the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) bringing together professionals from around the world in a collaborative process to update and reform the chapter describing Gender Identity Disorders.

Dr. Knudson is the founder and Past President of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health (CPATH) and Secretary-Treasurer of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. She holds memberships in the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (2010 Scientific Committee Member, Education Committee Member), the Canadian Psychiatric Association and the Canadian Medical Association.

Bill Ryan is a professor of Social Work at McGill University in Montréal, Québec, Canada. He is an international expert in the field of sexuality, sexual education, homophobia, health and gay men's health. He has conducted research in all these areas, published scientific articles, chapters and edited books. He has spoken at conferences internationally and consulted and trained with many international organizations.

He is one of the leaders in the international gay men's health movement and has been a driving force behind the transformation of Action Séro-Zéro in Montréal into a full fledged gay men's health organization, now named RÉZO. In 1992 he was the founding president of the Board of Directors of Séro-Zéro, which was founded to undertake HIV prevention among HIV negative gay men.

Bill returned to the organization in 2000 and has once again been Chair, since 2004. He is the founder of the Canadian Safe Spaces movement, which, beginning with four sites (Halifax, Moncton, Montréal, Kamloops), has grown into a movement with dozens of supportive services for youth questioning their sexual orientation.

Bill was founding co-chair of the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition. In 2006, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, granted funding to a pan-Canadian team, SVR (Sexuality, Vulnerability and Resilience), of which he is co-chair, to study the impacts of homophobia on the health of gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and two-spirit Canadians. In 2009 he was named Person of the Year by the Gay and Lesbian Council of Québec.

Looking Forward

Friday, March 26

Rachel Epstein has been a queer parenting activist, educator and researcher for close to 20 years, providing resources, advocacy and education to queer parents and prospective parents in the Greater Toronto area (GTA) and beyond, as well as working to change attitudes and practices in the wider community. She is known as a skilled and compassionate educator.

Rachel currently coordinates the LGBTQ Parenting Network at the Sherbourne Health Centre. In 1997, with midwife Kathie Duncan, she founded the Dykes Planning Tykes program, a course for lesbian/bi/queer women who are considering parenthood. In 2003, in collaboration with The 519 Community Centre, Dykes Planning Tykes spawned Daddies & Papas 2B, and in 2007, Trans Fathers 2B. She and her daughter and co-parent were parties in the 2005 Charter Challenge that resulted in changes to birth registration policy in Ontario, and recently she has advocated on behalf of LGBTQ communities with the Assisted Human Reproduction Agency in Ottawa. Rachel also works as a professional mediator with LGBTQ parents and prospective parents.

Rachel is at the forefront of queer parenting research in Canada and has published on a wide range of issues, including assisted human reproduction, queer spawn in schools, butch pregnancy and the tensions between queer sexuality, radicalism, and parenting. She recently edited an anthology entitled, *Who's Your Daddy? And Other Writings on Queer Parenting* (Sumach Press, 2009)

In 2007 Rachel was named "Honoured Dyke" by the Toronto Pride Committee, and in 2008 she was the winner of the Steinert & Ferreiro Award (Community One Foundation), recognizing her leadership and pivotal contributions towards the support, recognition and inclusion of queer parents and their children in Canada.

Morgan Holmes is an Associate Professor and Undergraduate Academic Advisor in the Department of Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario.

Her academic interests include sexuality and queer theory, feminist thought; qualitative health research and law related to sexuality and health. Dr. Holmes has recently expanded her interests in intersex to other forms of bodily diversity and have begun a long-term project on families raising children with disabilities.

Published Books include: *Critical Intersex*, Morgan Holmes (ed). Ashgate Press, UK. (2009); *Intersex: A Perilous Difference*: Susquehanna University Press. (2008); Co-author with Mooney, Knox and Schact: *Understanding Social Problems*, 3rd Canadian Edition: Thomson-Nelson Press. (March 2007)

Shorter Publications include: *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* (vol. 5: 2/3). 2008; *Transgender Rights*. Minter, Currah and Juang (eds). University of Minnesota Press. 2006; *Cardozo Journal of Law and Gender* (vol 12) 2006; *Journal of Lesbian Studies* (vol 11:3/4) 2007; *Transformations* on-line journal (2004); *Sexualities* (vol 5:2), 2002.

Lance McCready, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Urban Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. He received his doctorate in Social and Cultural Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. McCready's research and writing focuses on curricular and pedagogical issues in urban education, specifically the "troubles" facing Black male students in urban schools and the experiences of queer youth of color. In Toronto he is principal investigator of the Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices (CRTP) study and an evaluator for the Many Men, Many Voices HIV/AIDS prevention program for Black young men who have sex with men. He is also a Lead Researcher on the Black and Latino Male School Intervention Study (BLMSIS) of single-sex schools based at New York University's Metro Center. A consistent theme throughout all of these projects is using intersectional lens to understand and make policy recommendations for marginalized students.

Dr. McCready's research has been supported by grants and fellowships from Columbia University Teachers College, Five-Colleges Incorporated, Center for Urban Education at UC Berkeley, Holmes Scholar Network, Ford Foundation/National Academy of Sciences, and Spencer Foundation.

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Thursday Full Day Schedule

7:00 am – 5:00 pm	REGISTRATION
8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST: Networking and meet your Rainbow Health Ontario Community Outreach Team Member
9:00 – 10:30 am	WELCOME & OPENING PLENARY: Our Roots Guest Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Health, Ontario (invited) Featured Panelists (see Featured Speakers)
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH & EXHIBIT HALL
1:30 – 3:00 pm	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL
3:30 – 5:00 pm	POSTER DISPLAYS
4:00 – 5:00 pm	THE OPEN SPACE: Creating Conversations That Matter
6:00 pm onward	DINE-AROUND-TOWN & OTHER OPTIONS TBA

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

D1:A

Clinical Session

Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Health for Clinical Providers

Presenter:

Devan Nambiar, Education and Training Coordinator, Rainbow Health Ontario

This workshop will lay the foundation for clinical providers working with LGBT patients by examining the social impacts of membership in groups that have historically been highly

stigmatized and the barriers that still exist for LGBT patients. This lively and interactive session will engage clinical providers through reflective exercises, evidence based information, and case scenarios.

Objectives:

1. Participants will reflect on their knowledge, values and attitudes regarding LGBT people to examine their assumptions and biases.
2. Participants will learn the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, appropriate language and definitions, and how to talk openly with patients in order to provide optimum care.

A.M. Concurrent Workshops
Thursday, March 25

3. Participants will explore societal barriers and gaps in the health care system itself that lead to poorer outcomes for LGBT people. They will learn how to make their clinical environment and their own practice more inclusive and welcoming.

D1:1A

The Problem With Sex Pigs: Involved, not Engaged

Presenters:

Peter Hall, Research Coordinator, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto
Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, Program Manager, Ontario HIV Treatment Network, Toronto

New conceptualizations of HIV prevention are required to effectively support its practice in nonprofit organizations, health delivery agencies, and private psychotherapy practice.

We conducted a meta-analysis of research on HIV prevention in Canada and other English speaking countries to sketch a complex scenario where gay men are clumped with men who have sex with men (MSM), and live in spaces riddled with silence, fear, stigma, shame, and criminal liability. However, we also discovered social gay ideas about sex that work against the grain of conventional prevention, for example, the notion of “HIV breeding” as fertile insemination. We made visible a “hidden curriculum” of what is positive in sexual risk-taking and can provide self-acceptance and validation to those who engage in it.

Based on our recently published research, “Positive Prevention” must place the HIV-positive sexual individual at the centre of all preventive efforts and affirm (if not endorse) his choices. In an environment of ‘evidence-based’ programs, staunch individualism, and erosion of political gay community, there is a resistance to theorizing how HIV-positive gay men live risk and how their individual mental health, historical and social circumstances provide opportunities to propagate HIV rather than prevent it. We turn to the work of prevention by health authorities, community organizations, and private psychotherapy practice to find conventional and dated practices and a lack of rigorous outcome evaluation designed specifically for Positive Prevention (i.e. often designed for abstinence and protected anal sexual intercourse). Isn't it time to critically assess the reasons why gay men take sexual risks?

A meta-analysis of existing research on prevention indicate that emerging gay sex concepts such as serosorting and seropositioning are part of the lingo of prevention work but they must be implemented into policy and practice: 1) funding prevention programs that engage HIV-positive gay men as sexual beings capable of managing risk, and 2) funding programs and campaigns that critique underlying values of sexuality between men such as marriage, monogamy, and ‘sex pigs’.

Objectives:

1. To elicit controversy regarding dated and conventional HIV prevention practices.
2. To theorize gay men's sex untrammelled by epidemiological data and other missionary research perspectives.

D1:2A

Ontario Health Policy: LGBT Inclusive or Exclusive?

Presenters:

Nick Mulé, Associate Professor, School of Social Work York University, Toronto
Loralee Gillis, Research & Policy Coordinator, Rainbow Health Ontario, Toronto
Miriam Smith, Professor, Department of Social Science, York University, Toronto

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people have not been officially defined as a distinctive stakeholder in Canadian health policy. LGBT people have typically been ignored and invisible in health policy making. Most discussions of health and of the Ontario health care system are based on heteronormative and gendered assumptions about the family lives of citizens. These assumptions have a real impact on the lives of LGBT people in the province. For instance, LGBT people in Ontario have poor health outcomes compared to straight and non-trans citizens. This workshop will map out the structural landscape of health policy in Ontario, highlighting the current transformation from a centralized approach to one of regionalization via the Local Health Integrative Networks (LHINs) approach. The move in Ontario to fund health care through Local Health Integration Networks poses both challenges and opportunities for LGBTs in Ontario's political health policy structure. This workshop will present recommendations for creating greater inclusion of LGBTs in policy design and implementation in Ontario. One of the most positive

steps toward greater inclusion of LGBT health issues in Ontario's health policy has been the establishment of Rainbow Health Ontario. The workshop will share the policy initiatives that RHO has been involved in since its inception and discuss the impact that RHO has on government of Ontario health decisions in its first 2 years of existence. Half of the workshop time will be devoted to small group discussion which will be focused on identifying the building blocks for a LGBT health policy agenda for Ontario.

Objectives:

1. To provide an overview of how health policy is currently structured in Ontario.
2. To offer an assessment of the extent to which LGBT issues are included or not.
3. To posit policy recommendations and directions for an inclusive approach to LGBT health and wellbeing issues.

D1:3A

Using Anti-Oppression Psychotherapy With LGBTTTQ Clients

Presenters:

Roberta K. Timothy, Clinical Supervisor and Consultant, Continuing Healing Consultants, Toronto
Mercedes Umana, Therapist and Consultant, Continuing Healing Consultants, Toronto

This introductory presentation will examine how Anti-Oppression Psychotherapy™ (AOP) can be used with LGBTTTQ clients. Firstly, the theoretical and methodological concepts and practices of Resistance education will be discussed and the definition of AOP will be outlined. Secondly, some of the principles of AOP and its implementation stages will be explained in the context of LGBTTTQ community in Toronto and transnationally. Thirdly, the diversity of the "LGBTTTQ client" will be explored indicating the importance of addressing intersectional factors of identity such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, (dis)ability, and spirituality in psychotherapy praxis. Fourthly, the "real" experiences of intersectional violence in LGBTTTQ client's lives will be looked at. Finally, the importance of the use of resistance and resiliency as empowering therapeutic tools for LGBTTTQ clients, practitioners, and communities will be examined. This presentation will utilize several case studies to indicate how AOP can be used with LGBTTTQ clients.

Objectives:

1. To introduce AOP to clinical practitioners working in the LGBTTTQ community.
2. To offer innovative ways to work with cross-cultural LGBTTTQ clients.

D1:4A

LGBT Homeless Youth in Toronto: Where is the Support?

Presenters:

Ilona Abramovich, PhD student, Adult Education & Community Development Program, University of Toronto-OISE, Toronto

Lorraine Barnaby, Health Promoter, Shout Clinic, Toronto
Michelle Le-Claire, Trans Youth Toronto, The 519 Church Street Community Centre; Trans Youth Beyond the Binary, Associated Youth Services of Peel; Community Engagement Team member, TransPULSE Project; Youth Services Worker, Eva's Satellite, Toronto

Family conflict and abuse due to youths' queer identity have been found to be among the primary reasons that youth become homeless (Ray, 2006). It has been estimated that approximately 25-40% of homeless youth in Toronto are LGBTQ (Josephson & Wright, 2000). Of the few studies that have focused on LGBTQ youth homelessness, it has been reported that a high proportion of LGBTQ homeless youth feel safer on the streets than in shelters due to homophobic and transphobic violence that occurs in the shelter system (Ray, 2006). Only a small number of studies have actually looked at the perspectives of LGBTQ youth who have experienced homelessness in the city of Toronto. (References: Josephson, G. & Wright, A. (2000). Ottawa GLBT wellness project: Literature review and survey instruments; Laird, G. (2007). Shelter: Homelessness in a growing economy; Ray, N. (2006). Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth: an epidemic of homelessness)

This panel discussion will focus on the lack of support available to LGBTQ youth who are homeless in Toronto, the barriers they face in accessing services, homophobia and transphobia in the shelter system, and solutions for service providers. A short film on these issues will be shared and there will also be discussion on the importance and impact of promoting greater knowledge of the prevalence of LGBTQ youth among street youth populations and their specific concerns (of knowledge translation).

Objectives:

1. To provide insight about the severity of issues that LGBTQ youth who are homeless face in Toronto (i.e. barriers to support services, needs from support services, etc.).
2. To highlight the lack of support for LGBTQ homeless youth in Toronto.

D1:5A

A Fruitful Union: Building a Successful Community-Academic Research Partnership

Presenters:

Lori Ross, Research Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto

Rachel Epstein, Coordinator, LGBTQ Parenting Network, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto

Community-based research, although ripe with challenges, is often the most effective and beneficial approach to research involving marginalized communities, including LGBTQ people. The LGBTQ Parenting Network of the Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto, has been partnering with the Social Equity & Health Research Section at the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health for over 5 years on numerous studies related to health, well-being, and service experiences of LGBTQ parents and prospective parents. The results of these research studies have not only been presented in numerous academic settings, but have also contributed to policy developments relevant to LGBTQ families, and informed service delivery to these communities. In this workshop, we will offer some reflections on the process of building our research partnership, the challenges we encountered along the way, and the elements of our partnership that we feel have contributed to its success. Workshop participants will be encouraged to share examples of both successful and unsuccessful partnerships, and ultimately work with the facilitators to brainstorm a 'recipe' for a successful community-academic research partnership.

Objectives:

1. To learn about a successful community-academic research partnership.
2. To reflect on elements of both successful and unsuccessful research partnerships.
3. To brainstorm a 'recipe' for a successful community-academic research partnership.

D1:6A

Working With LGBTQ Newcomers

Presenter:

Aamer Esmail, Among Friends Coordinator, Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services, Toronto

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) immigrants and refugees often face challenges including racism, language barriers, lack of access to employment and housing, secure income, transphobia, biphobia, homophobia, isolation and marginalization. While a few of us have the necessary understanding and resources to provide services for LGBTQ immigrants and refugees, many face challenges and gaps in addressing their needs. To address this, the Among Friends project (a partnership between Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services the 519 Church Street Community Centre and CultureLink) provides free training, workshops and resources to community-based agencies to better serve LGBTQ immigrants and refugees. The project is supported by Access Alliance's Access Model which involves internal capacity building, high levels of partnership in program development and the use of local community-based programs.

This interactive workshop will focus on understanding who we are serving as newcomers, their specific issues, understanding safe space and our role in creating and maintaining it. We will use scenarios to discuss our successes and challenges, identify current gaps and resources, and share tools for building capacity to respond to community needs.

Objectives:

1. Understand Access Alliance's Access Model as it is being used to serve LGBTQ immigrants and refugees.
2. Learn definitions, terms and myths about LGBTQ immigrants and refugees, and identify challenges, successes, tools and resources to serve them better.
3. Promote safer, more inclusive spaces for LGBTQ immigrants in our places of work and within our communities.

D1:7A

You Look Great! : An Exploration of the Challenges Faced by Lesbian, Queer and Bisexual Women and Trans People who Live With Invisible Chronic Illnesses

Presenter:

Silvana Bazet, Clinical Member, Ontario Society of Psychotherapists, Private Practice Psychotherapist, Toronto

This interactive workshop will explore the myths and realities of lesbian, queer and bisexual women and trans people who live with invisible chronic illnesses (ICIs). ICIs can have a medical diagnosis such as multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, fibromyalgia, or lupus - to name a few - or they can be a cluster of symptoms that persist overtime and have eluded the medical community for years. Regardless of a diagnosis, ICIs share a number of characteristics. A few of these characteristics are that ICIs have non-observable symptoms (i.e.: pain, fatigue, cognitive difficulty, numbness, muscle weakness), some symptoms tend to be immeasurable, patients appear well, and the disease has periods of exacerbation and remission.

A survey to be conducted in January and February 2010 will provide qualitative data on this subject. The findings from this survey will be presented at the workshop and participants will be asked to engage with the material from a personal and professional point of view. Fears and stigmas regarding disability will be examined.

This workshop will raise questions regarding healthcare services available for women and trans people living with ICIs, and will encourage participants to advocate for change in their workplaces, schools, and community. This workshop is open to anyone who provides services to lesbian, bisexual and queer women, and trans people as well as community members at large.

Objectives:

1. To learn about invisible chronic illnesses (ICIs).
2. To learn about the challenges faced by lesbian, queer and bisexual women who live with ICIs.
3. To educate participants about the prejudices faced by lesbian, bisexual and queer women who live with ICIs.
4. To educate participants about the consequences of living with ICIs such as loss of income, isolation, etc.
5. To challenge participants to advocate for change in their communities.

D1:8A

International Perspectives on Transgender Health

Presenter:

Gail Knudson, MD, MPE, FRCPC, Medical Director, Transgender Health Program, Vancouver Coastal Health; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Sexual Medicine, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

This workshop will focus on some of the controversial debates within the field of Transgender Health that are being discussed in Canada and at an international level. Dr. Gail Knudson is one of two psychiatrists who are authorized to approve patients for sex reassignment surgery (SRS) in British Columbia. Dr. Knudson is also the former President of the Canadian Association of Transgender Health and sits on the Executive Committee of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) which met recently in Oslo, Norway. As Co-chair of the WPATH DSM V Consensus Committee, She will describe the WPATH consensus statement and the recommendations that were put forth to the Gender Identity Working Group for consideration in the upcoming version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM V). The DSM V is a well recognized classification system of Mental Disorders which currently includes the controversial Gender Identity Disorder diagnosis. Dr. Knudson will also describe the process around the new ICD 11 code. ICD is another international disease classification system which offers an alternative diagnostic code that is not a mental health disorder. Finally the workshop will provide information on WPATH's new Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorder.

Objectives:

1. Review current debates about the understanding and classification of "gender identity disorder".
2. Learn about the role and recent recommendations of WPATH in developing new standards of care.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS 1:30 - 3:00 pm THURSDAY, MARCH 25

D1:P

Clinical Session

Providing Culturally and Clinically Competent Health Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Patients

Presenter:

Devan Nambiar, Education and Training Coordinator, Rainbow Health Ontario, Toronto

This workshop will provide an overview of the health issues that are more common among LGBT patients and the reasons behind these disparities. Health issues that are specific to LGBT people will also be reviewed. Evidence based information, case studies and checklists will assist providers in becoming confident and knowledgeable in their clinical practice.

Objectives:

1. Participants will examine the impact of discrimination and stigma on the health of LGBT patients.
2. Participants will know and understand a range of health disparities related to LGBT communities.
3. Participants will be able to demonstrate increased cultural and clinical competence in their practice with LGBT patients.

D1:9P

Check it Out: Women Who Have Sex With Women, Trans Men and Pap Tests

Presenters:

Ayden Scheim, Trans Men's Pap Campaign Coordinator, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto
Arti Mehta, BSc., MSW, Coordinator of Women's Programming, Planned Parenthood Toronto

This presentation is based on the work of two health promotion campaigns, the WSW Pap Campaign and the Trans Men's Pap Campaign. Both campaigns are based on community needs assessments and were launched recently in

Toronto. Materials and information from both campaigns are now being disseminated throughout Ontario using the resources of Rainbow Health Ontario's Community Outreach Team. The aim of these campaigns is to raise awareness among community members and service providers about the need for women who have sex with women and pre-operative trans men to have Pap tests in order to prevent cervical cancer. Colourful posters, postcards, magnets and tattoos convey the main message while an educational brochure has been developed for service providers. There is also a dedicated website to explain the issues in more detail and offer tips that can make the experience of getting a Pap easier. This presentation is aimed at service providers who are engaged in health promotion, referrals, or conducting Pap tests with WSW and trans men's communities. We will explore (a) results from surveys and focus groups about Pap testing conducted with WSW in Toronto and trans men across Ontario, (b) unique barriers and concerns around Pap testing for these communities, and (c) strategies service providers can employ to promote Pap testing and make the experience better for clients/patients.

Objectives:

1. To understand the need for Pap tests in WSW and trans men's communities.
2. To identify personal and institutional barriers to accessing pap tests.
3. To learn ways that providers can make Pap tests more accessible and comfortable.

D1:10P

Deaf Access to Health Care

Presenter:

Ellen Hibbard, President, Ontario Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, The 519 Community Centre, Toronto

Deaf Access to Health Care is about exploring how audism, oralism, and ableism intersect to create an environment of inaccessibility and inequity for Deaf LGBTTIQQ2S individuals in health care environments. Audism is the practice of discrimination against Deaf, deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people. This can be seen in the

assumption that being able to speak, for example, is preferable or superior to being able to sign. The term deaf will be used to represent the deaf community at large while the term with upper case D as in Deaf will be used to represent Deaf people containing Deaf Culture. A brief introduction to Deaf culture and identities in Deaf community will be provided.

Insights and personal experiences with health care as a Deaf Queer individual will be shared in order to provide real life examples. Ideas and tips will be provided to create accessible environment such as increased line of sight and communication practices. Activities will be provided to practice these strategies. There is complexity in Deaf Culture and identities. Often multiple identities exist in Deaf community that are overlooked in discussions on accessibility for Deaf people. For example a Deaf person may have multiple identities such as Deaf, Queer, and Black or Deaf, Lesbian and Leatherwoman. How Deaf culture intersects with LGBTTIQQ2S identity will be discussed. Stereotypes and myths about working with Deaf LGBTTIQQ2S will be challenged. Assumptions will be examined in order to break down barriers and provide new frame of reference in creating accessibility and equality in health care.

Questions and feedback are also welcome and encouraged at this workshop. American Sign Language interpreters will be provided at this workshop. and it will be given in American Sign Language.

Objectives:

1. Understand how audism, oralism, and ablesim intersect to create an environment of inaccessibility and inequity for Deaf LGBTTIQQ2S individuals in health care environments.
2. Learn Strategies to create accessible environment such as increased line of sight and communication practices.
3. Understand Deaf culture and identity and how that intersects with LGBTTIQQ2S identity (ies).
4. Develop new awareness about stereotypes and myths about working with Deaf LGBTTIQQ2S and how to avoid stereotyping.

D1:11P

Breathe, Create, Connect: Mindfulness Meditation and Expressive Arts

Presenter:

Carole Baker, Counsellor & Psychotherapist, LGBTTT Program, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto

Mindfulness Meditation is one of the latest therapeutic modalities. Expressive arts is a powerful alternative to talk therapy. This workshop will offer participants the opportunity to experience the power of these two modalities, to learn a little about why they are especially useful for LGBT people and how they work. In this workshop you will be invited to access your creative side and give yourself the gift of time to relax, centre and learn new ways of coping with strong emotions and thoughts. Carole will also discuss some of the particular stressors that affect LGBT people and will explain how these techniques help to calm and centre us in order to become more resilient.

Objectives:

1. Develop new skills with which to manage stress and cope with strong emotions and thoughts .
2. Understand the use of these modalities and their therapeutic effects for groups experiencing social isolation and stress.

D1:12P

Sharing Experience: An Interdisciplinary Conversation Among Practitioners who Work With Trans Clients

Presenters:

Hershel T. Russell, MA, MEd, Independent Psychotherapist, Consultant and Educator, Toronto
Farzana Doctor, MSW, Psychotherapist (private practice), Toronto

Across Ontario and beyond, clinicians are working with trans clients and developing extensive skills and experience. Opportunities to share our practice, our thinking and the outcomes we are seeing are rare. Published work and research on trans Mental Health Care (especially from an anti-oppression perspective) is expanding but still meagre. This workshop will not cover the basics – we shall assume considerable knowledge of Trans and Two Spirit communities and of at least some of the relevant texts. We will not attend to clinical medical

issues. Rather, we will present a number of case studies using brief excerpts from film, literature and our own invention, hoping to spark lively discussions in small and large groups about how participants would approach and work with these clients in their own context.

We would like to take up the complexities of working with these clients, including the varied challenges that arise from both service providers and clients. We would like to have participants from the widest range of health services – community workers, counselors, psychotherapists, nurses, GPs, psychologists and psychiatrists. Research suggests that team-work is the most effective approach with vulnerable populations. Where practitioners have had a chance to experience it, most sing the praises of interdisciplinary work!

Objectives:

1. To bring together clinicians experienced with working with Two-Spirit and Trans communities for networking and support.
2. To spark lively non-medical clinical discussion to further our awareness, understanding and knowledge of these issues.

D1:13P

Rural Men's Health and Sexuality: Understanding How Sexual Identity Impacts The Lives of Rural Men

Presenters:

*Michael Kennedy, Professor, Georgian College, Orillia
Blair Groves, Community Outreach Team (Waterloo Wellington LHIN), Rainbow Health Ontario, Waterloo*

Rurality and men's sexuality remains relatively unexplored. The lack of attention upon rural men's sexuality has significant implications for understanding men's mental, spiritual and physical health. This interactive presentation seeks to address some of the gaps in our understanding on men who have sex with men (MSM) in rural areas across Ontario. Using as a basis for the session a qualitative study that was conducted with 32 men across 28 geographic locales consisting of populations of less than 10,000 people, the presenters will provide a lived experience of rural/farming life. Participants will develop a greater awareness of how MSM negotiate their sexual identity, how they negotiate their relationships with their communities, and the importance of their spiritual life.

Objectives:

1. To provide an awareness of the lived experiences of rural men who have sex with men (MSM) as it pertains to their perceptions of their sexual identity, spirituality and sense of community.
2. To inform participants of the dynamics and diversity of rural living contrary to stereotypical beliefs.
3. To provide an awareness of the lack of health services particularly as it pertains sexual diversity.
4. To build an understanding of the links and interdependence between rural and urban health.
5. To disseminate the qualitative research findings in order to inform practice.
6. To inform future research.

D1:14P

Forging Policy for LGBT Youth: Schools as Sites of Activism and Resistance

Presenters:

*Gerald Walton, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay
Natalie Rowlandson, Master's Student, Faculty of Education, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay*

Most LGBT youth are not safe in schools. Results of the first national survey of Canadian high school students were released earlier this year. Corroborating previous studies, this survey clearly indicates that the emotional, mental, and physical health of LGBT youth (and those so perceived) are routinely subject to risk, as is their educational success.

Other identities that intersect with sexual orientation and gender identities may compound such risk. LGBT students of colour, for instance, may be harassed and bullied because of their sexual orientation identity and/or gender expression combined with their racialized identity. Geographical context may also play a key role in exacerbating risk. For instance, conservative social values and lack of privacy typically characterize rural areas, making it more difficult for LGBT students to be recognized and validated than those in suburban or urban areas.

Despite an abundance of evidence that most LGBT youth are subjected to harm while at school, most school boards across the country have failed to specifically recognize, identify, and name the problems of homophobia and heterosexism in policy, much less do anything about them.

To foster equity and healthier school and community contexts for LGBT youth, the multi-media presentation will:

- describe the political battles that have been fought in Canadian schools over recognizing LGBT youth and supporting them in their social, emotional, and physical development;
- highlight important examples of the few school districts that have demonstrated leadership on these issues, despite the possibility of public backlash;
- draw from the research literature that emphasizes that safer learning spaces enhance students' social, emotional, and physical well-being;
- provide examples of organizations, both school-focused and others, that provide advocacy for LGBT youth;
- discuss the important issue of resiliency in the face of victimization; and
- provide an overview of strategies for teachers and school administrators that facilitate safer and healthier learning environments for all students, but especially LGBT ones.

Despite (or perhaps because of) political opposition, forging equity in policy for LGBT youth is a crucial step in supporting their emotional, mental, and physical health and safety. To do otherwise compromises their health as well as their educational achievement.

Objectives:

Participants will learn:

1. The short-term and long-term benefits of advocacy as political activism specifically with regard to supporting LGBTQ youth.
2. How such advocacy can benefit the well being of all youth regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Strategies that have been undertaken in the context of schools and education.
4. Organizations that provide resources and information and relevant Ontario Ministry of Education initiatives.

D1:15P

Pushed (Back) in the Closet: Research Findings on the Safety Needs of LGBTTIQQ2S Women and Trans Communities of Toronto

Presenters:

Howard Shulman, Coordinator, The 519 Anti-Violence Program, The 519 Church Street Community Centre, Toronto

Keli Bellaire, Program Assistant, METRAC, Toronto

Despite the successes of the LGBTTIQQ2 communities (the legalization of same-sex marriage, inclusion of sexual orientation in human rights legislation) and the

presence of a few prominent gay and lesbian individuals in popular culture, there is the mistaken notion that equality, acceptance, and the opportunity to live a life free of harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity are available to LGBTTIQQ2S-identified individuals. The reality though is quite different: recent statistics from The 519 Anti-Violence Program and the Toronto Police Service Hate Crimes Unit show increased reports of hate-motivated violence based on sexual orientation. And while there has been little research on this issue, a recent Statistics Canada study found that LGBT individuals are more likely to experience violence than their heterosexual peers.

In an effort to get a better sense of the issues from our client communities, METRAC and The 519 Anti-Violence Program partnered to conduct a study to assess the safety needs of the LGBTTIQQ2S women and trans communities, in relation to their experiences of violence and the fear of violence in public spaces, in the City of Toronto.

The survey was structured to capture the complexity of individual experiences of harassment, discrimination, and violence and in turn, the multiple ways that oppressive behaviours occur against members of LGBTTIQQ2S communities. In completing the survey, individuals were asked to self-identify their sexual orientation and gender and to identify areas of concern regarding their public safety. Survey questions were designed to elicit responses from individuals about witnessed and personal experiences of discrimination and harassment, reporting behaviour, and outcomes of reporting incidents. Participants were also asked to identify the current safety strategies they employ in dealing with discriminatory behaviour and the fear of harassment or violence encountered in public spaces.

This interactive workshop will provide information on: the survey distribution, who responded, the survey findings, the impact of violence and recommendations for action.

Objective:

To enhance understanding of the extent of violence within the LGBTTIQQ2 communities in Toronto, safety concerns, the impact of violence, and to learn ways to provide support to those who have experienced violence.

D1:16P

We Treat Everyone the Same!: The Invisibility of LGBT Seniors in Health Care

Presenters:

*Bill Ryan, Professor of Social Work, McGill University,
Montreal*

*Dick Moore, Coordinator, Older LGBBTT Program,
The 519 Church Street Community Centre, Toronto*

*Amber Hollibaugh, Chief Officer, Elder and LGBTI Women's
Services, Howard Brown Health Centre, Chicago*

Description tba

POSTER DISPLAYS 3:30 – 5:00 pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

P.M. Poster Displays

Thursday, March 25

Southwestern Ontario LGBT Initiative: Pride London 2009 LGBT Health Survey

Objective:

To identify demographics and health care issues involving Southwestern Ontario's LGBT communities,

Presenter:

Todd Coleman, Southwestern Ontario LGBT Initiative: Pride London 2009 LGBT Health Survey, Southwestern Ontario LGBT Health Initiative, London

Qualitative Findings From the Health in Middlesex Men Matters (HiMMM) Project

Objective:

To provide an understanding of how gay, bisexual, and other MSM experience the various facets of health and wellness in Middlesex County, Ontario.

Presenter:

Todd Coleman, Southwestern Ontario LGBT Initiative: Pride London 2009 LGBT Health Survey, Southwestern Ontario LGBT Health Initiative, London

Parental Stress in Canadian Lesbian Mothers

Objective:

Create awareness of the limitation of existing research for parental stress and lesbian mothers.

Presenters:

Crystal Young, Master's Student, Laurentian University, Sudbury
Joel Dickinson, Professor, Department of Psychology, Laurentian University, Sudbury

When Sex Hurts: Experiences of Chronic Vulvar and Pelvic Pain Among Sexual Minority and Heterosexual Women: Consequences for Sexual and Relationship Satisfaction

Objectives:

Viewers of this presentation will become familiar with:

1. The nature and prevalence of vulvar/pelvic (genital) pain in women of diverse sexual orientations.

2. Differences in the experiences of vulvar pain as a function of sexual orientation.
3. The impact of vulvar pain on women's sexual and relationship satisfaction.

Presenters:

Karen Blair, MSc, PhD Candidate, Queen's University, Kingston
Kelly Smith, MSc, PhD Candidate, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston
Caroline Pukall, Associate Professor & Director of Sex Therapy Services, Queen's University, Kingston

'What is the WORST that could happen?' Sexual Minority Women's Concerns About Physical Examinations

Objectives:

1. To describe the different concerns women have with respect to their physical pelvic exam.
2. To understand the unique concerns of sexual minority women.
3. To provide advice to practitioners about how to address the concerns of women related to their physical exam.

Presenter:

Karen Blair, MSc, PhD Candidate, Queen's University, Kingston

Needs and Desires: Addressing the Sexual Health Needs of Toronto LGBT Youth Through Inclusive Education

Objectives:

1. Increase awareness of transgender youth as sexual health information consumers.
2. Highlight the increased sexual health risk levels of LGBT youth.
3. Increase interest in sexual-orientation questioning youth as a research, advocacy, and support target population.
4. Increase understanding of how the self-proclaimed information needs of LGBT youth differ from those of straight youth.
5. Promote using these self-proclaimed needs to formulate an inclusive sexual health education curriculum.

Presenter:

Stephanie Gazzola, Graduate Student, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

Perceived Satisfaction With Mental Health Services in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Transsexual Communities in Ontario

Implications:

These data suggest that although many LGBT people in Ontario are satisfied with the mental health care they receive, discriminatory experiences are common, and many in our communities remain without needed care. This implies a need for more focus on training mental health professionals around sexual orientation and gender identity, and an expansion of the definition of cultural competency to include these constructs.

Presenter:

Dorina Kirilova, Master's Candidate, McMaster University, Hamilton

The Role of Recreation and Leisure Involvement in the Health and Well-being of Sexual Minorities: Evidence From a Nationally Representative Canadian Sample

Objective:

To provide evidence for and promote a discussion of the barriers and opportunities for sexual minorities' recreation and leisure participation and the potential role of recreation and leisure in promoting physical and psychological health.

Presenters:

Steven Mock, Assistant Professor, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies; Department of Health Studies and Gerontology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo
Erica Hummel, Graduate Student, Master of Arts, Tourism, Policy and Planning Program, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo
Carissa Bakker, Master of Arts Candidate, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo

LGBTQ Communities and Assisted Human Reproduction

Objective:

To present key concerns of LGBTQ communities with regards to the Assisted Human Reproduction Act (AHRA) and access to AHR services.

Presenter:

AHRA/LGBTQ Working Group, LGBTQ Parenting Network, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Recommendations for Improving the Provision of AHR Services

Objective:

To share recommendations to fertility clinics for improving access to and quality of AHR services for LGBTQ communities.

Presenter:

AHRA/LGBTQ Working Group, LGBTQ Parenting Network, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto

Equitable Access to Health Supports and Services by LGBT Persons With Disabilities: An Intersectional Approach

Objectives:

1. To offer examples of ways that LGBT persons with disabilities can enforce their right to equitable access to health supports and services.
2. To offer practical support to service providers to adopt an intersectional framework. In doing so, health service providers are encouraged to adapt their organizations to reflect the range of lived experiences of LGBT persons with disabilities.

Presenters:

Tess Sheldon, Lawyer, ARCH Disability Law Centre, Toronto
Laurie Letheren, Lawyer, ARCH Disability Law Centre, Toronto

Moving "Out," Moving On: The Role of Mental and Emotional Health Concerns in the Migration Decisions of Gay Men Living in Ottawa

Objective:

To more fully understand the role that mental and emotional health play in gay men's migration decisions, and to understand the relationship between place and mental and emotional health outcomes in gay men.

Presenter:

Nathaniel Lewis, PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, Queen's University, Kingston

Pathways to Supportive Services for Sexual and Gender Minority People in Ontario: Insights From the Provider's Perspective

Objectives:

1. To share approaches and strategies for mental health service provision based on the experience of providers with a focus on the LGBT community.
2. To educate LGBT community members about what they should be looking for in a supportive mental health provider.
3. To identify specific target areas for activism and policy change to improve mental health services available to LGBT people in Ontario.

Presenter:

John McIntyre, 4th Year Student, Honours Biology and Psychology, McMaster University, Hamilton

Predictors of Unprotected Anal Intercourse Amongst Substance-Using MSM

Objective:

Learn of the factors that influence individual's decisions to engage in unprotected anal intercourse and to consider how this could be used in developing more targeted prevention strategies.

Presenter:

Tim Guimond, Staff Psychiatrist, Clinician Researcher, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto
This research presentation was prepared by the Exploring Choices Team: Peter Hall and Carol Strike.

Intersecting Identities: Impacts on Mental Health for Bisexual Trans People

Objectives:

1. To understand the factors that bisexual trans people perceive to be important to their mental health
2. To understand the experiences of bisexual trans people with mental health services

Presenters:

Scott Anderson, Research Coordinator, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto
Jackson Sherratt, Research Assistant, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto

Queering the Psychiatric Record

Objectives:

1. Learn how women's lesbian and queer sexualities are 'taken up' by mental health service providers in psychiatric documentation practices;
2. Learn how women's lesbian/queer sexualities and other social identities and locations based on, for example, race, gender identity, class, age, and disability intersect in chart documentation practices;
3. Consider how chart documentation reflects and reinforces cultural beliefs, stereotypes, and assumptions about women's lesbian and queer sexualities;
4. Explore the overall purpose of chart documentation in relation to women's lesbian and queer sexualities;
5. Develop understanding of the importance for psychiatric survivors and the Mad community to engage in LGBTQ research that analyzes psychiatric practices from the 'inside'.

Presenter:

Andrea Daley, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, York University, Toronto

PRIDE: Partnering Regionally in the Development of LGBT Coordinated Services

Objectives:

1. Understanding the research methodology.
2. Understanding LGBT needs in Simcoe County as a result of community engagement processes.

Presenters:

Ligaya Byrch, Chair, Simcoe County-LGBT Network, Orillia
Marlene Ham, Student, Laurentian University, Sudbury

Auditioning for Care: Transsexual Men Accessing Health Care in Ontario

Objective:

Illustrate some of the ways that access to trans specific health care unfolds in Ontario.

Presenter:

Will Rowe, MSW, Counsellor, KW Counselling, OK2BME Program, Kitchener

Friday March 26, 2010

Friday Full Day Schedule

7:00 am – 5:00 pm	REGISTRATION
8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST: Networking – Ongoing Conversations That Matter
9:00 – 10:30 am	PLENARY: Learning From Other Regions Featured Panelists, (see Featured Speakers)
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH & EXHIBIT HALL
1:30 – 3:00 pm	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL
3:30 – 5:00 pm	PLENARY & CLOSING: Looking Forward Featured Panelists, (see Featured Speakers)

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

D2:A

Clinical Session

The Joy of Gender: Understanding Trans Experience and Providing Respectful Primary Health Care

Presenter:

Hershel T. Russell, MA, MEd, Independent Psychotherapist, Consultant and Educator, Toronto

The Joy of Gender is a lively and thought-provoking workshop that prepares those who are new to this topic to understand and embrace the care of trans people as family practice patients. The first half of the workshop presents transgender experience as an ordinary aspect of human diversity rather than merely a medical diagnosis. The spectrum

of gender presentation and gender identity will be discussed and illustrated with a beautifully illustrated slide show and commentary. Participants will gain an appreciation of the historical and cross-cultural contexts of trans people's lives as well as current international efforts by trans communities as they reach for visibility, human rights, and access to health care on their own terms.

The second half of the workshop will focus on the physician's and nurse's role in providing general and transition-related health care to trans patients. Few providers have received training in this area and many are unsure how to address trans patients or how to provide respectful, appropriate services. In fact, the family practice team can offer excellent care to trans patients including general primary health care, psychosocial support and even the assessment and management of hormone therapy for transition. Hershel's warm and

A.M. Concurrent Workshops

Friday, March 26

inviting style enables participants to engage with challenging ideas, examine their own assumptions, and develop confidence and skill in meeting the needs of this under-served community. In addition to the slide show, this workshop will offer interactive exercises, discussions and case scenarios.

D2:17A

Pride is Good for Your Health

Presenters:

Marilyn Kanee, Diversity and Human Rights Advisor, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto
Anthony Mohamed, Diversity and Special Projects Coordinator, Inner City Health Program, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto
Margo Kennedy, Social Worker, PsychoSocial & Palliative Care, Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto
Janet Mawhinney, Senior Diversity Consultant, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto
Elizabeth Abraham, Manager, Interpretation and Translation Services, University Health Network, Toronto
Stephen Green, Patient Care Assistant, University Health Network (UHN), Toronto
Members of the Mount Sinai Hospital Anti-Homophobia Action Committee, tbc

Four large, urban hospitals have been working toward creating inclusive, accessible and equitable environments for LGBT patients, staff and visitors. This presentation will focus on their differing strategies for organizational change to address homophobia and create inclusive and equitable policies and practices. This workshop will explore the struggles that are unique to healthcare; the particular nature of homophobia in hospital environments; useful materials and resources; what has created LGBT positive change and what hasn't. Examples of the different approaches taken by the different hospitals will be described to provide a wide range of strategies for change that participants can adapt to their own settings. The workshop will include a panel presentation as well as discussion and group interaction.

Objectives:

1. Explore ways to create LGBT organizational change in health care organizations.
2. Exchange ideas on how to create positive health care and workplace environments for LGBT patients, staff and visitors.
3. Share policies, strategies, stories and lessons learned.

D2:18A

Trans PULSE: Real World Results Impacting Policy

Presenters:

Jake Pyne, Community Engagement Coordinator, Trans PULSE, London
Kyle Scanlon, Program Coordinator, Trans Programs, The 519 Community Centre, Toronto

Spearheaded in 2004 by trans community members and the Sherbourne Health Centre (SHC), Trans PULSE is an exciting community-based research (CBR) project investigating the ways in which social exclusion and transphobia shape the provision of services for Ontario trans people, and how these in turn, impact health. With a unique model of community control and action-focused goals, Trans PULSE is a partnership between community organizations (SHC, RHO, The 519 Church Street Community Centre, TGstation.com) and academic partners (The University of Western Ontario, Wilfrid Laurier University) with a majority of positions on the Investigators Committee held by members of the trans community.

Through community soundings (2006) and the largest survey conducted with Ontario trans people to date (2009 / 2010), Trans PULSE has collected information about: income stability; violence; housing discrimination; relationships and family; sexual health; HIV vulnerability; mental health; community connectedness; and access to health and social services. With a commitment to using high quality research methods, ensuring maximum impact on policy, capacity building and community mobilizing, Trans PULSE is gathering evidence that discrimination is damaging trans peoples' health.

Current Trans PULSE findings will be presented with resulting policy recommendations of interest to service providers, community members and researchers. This session offers crucial information for service providers who are seeking to understand the depth of social exclusion within trans communities and the needs of clients and community members. Concluding with an interactive component, workshop participants will be encouraged to explore strategies for creating services which trans people can access with dignity and pride.

Authors: Greta Bauer¹, Robb Travers², Michelle Boyce³, Todd Coleman⁴, Rebecca Hammond⁵, Matthias Kaay⁶, Jake Pyne⁷, Nik Redman⁸, Kyle Scanlon⁹, Kenji Tokawa¹⁰, Anna Travers¹¹

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- 2 Department of Psychology, Wilfrid Laurier University
- 3 Diversity Training Live
- 4 Epidemiology & Biostatistics, The University of Western Ontario
- 5 Dalhousie University
- 6 Centre for Addictions and Mental Health
- 7 Trans PULSE
- 8 University of Toronto
- 9 The 519 Church Street Community Centre
- 10 University of Toronto
- 11 Rainbow Health Ontario

Objectives:

- 1. To identify barriers to service and resulting impacts for trans people.
- 2. To develop a deeper understanding of trans health care needs in Ontario.
- 3. To explore policy changes which can improve the quality of trans lives.

D2:19A

Training for Change: An Integrated Anti-Oppression Workshop

Presenter:

Deidre D-Lishus Walton, Project Coordinator, Rainbow Health Network, Hamilton

Who is included in “LGBTQ” and who defines these terms? How can workshops acknowledge and explore issues of how power operates, without remaining limited to “definitions of terms”? How can training explore sensitive areas while remaining engaging and accessible? Research shows that LGBTQ people have many unmet health needs, and education of service providers is key to improving their access to care. However, presenting training on LGBTQ access to health care from a truly integrated, intersectional perspective is challenging. Identities are made up of complex intersections among social locations of oppression and power. For example, if a workshop does not include among “LGBTQ issues” the need for ramps to enter a building, the implication could be that there are no LGBTQ people living with disabilities.

In September 2009 Rainbow Health Network (RHN) released “Training for Change: An Integrated Anti-Oppression Framework,” by Margaret Alexander and Fran Odette. This educational tool for trainers discusses these issues and presents questions and suggestions for trainers. It forms the basis for the Training for Change Workshop and the Facilitator’s Guide. One of the promising practices of RHN’s “Training for Change” project is that it is grounded in discussions with LGBTQ community members from a variety of diverse

communities. This workshop and discussion session is designed to highlight some promising practices in providing education about sexual and gender diversity to health care and social service workers and advocates. The presentation combines interactive workshop activities with a discussion of RHN’s “Training for Change” project. Participants will take part in selected activities from RHN’s new educational workshop and will be introduced to the new Facilitator’s Guide, which accompanies the workshop. There will also be a discussion about the goals and methods of the project.

Objectives:

- 1. To explore methods for training about barriers to LGBTQ access to healthcare from an integrated anti-oppression framework.
- 2. To provide a learning experience about intersections of oppression and issues of power and privilege.

D2:20A

Gay Zone Gaie – A Sexual Health Clinic and More for Guys Into Guys

Presenters:

Christiane Bouchard, Project Officer, Ottawa Public Health/Gay Zone, Ottawa
Co-Presenter(s) tba

Ottawa Public Health has been working closely with the Gay community since the early 2000’s, trying to find innovative ways to address increasing rates of STIs and HIV in men who have sex with men. In 2005, the Gay Men’s Wellness Initiative (a coalition of community partners and individuals that fosters the wellness of gay men) in partnership with Ottawa Public Health surveyed 201 gay/bisexual/transmen during the Pride Information Fair to assess their experience and needs regarding the accessibility and appropriateness of Health Services in Ottawa. Following this survey there were on-going discussions with Ottawa Public Health to find ways to address some of the issues identified. In 2007 issues surrounding accessibility for gay men to STI/HIV testing prompted the Gay Men’s Wellness Initiative to meet with the Medical Officer of Health. Following that meeting, Centretown Community Health Centre offered free access to their centre which included a medical clinic one evening a week to the GMWI partners and Ottawa Public Health in order to offer a targeted Sexual Health Clinic to MSM as well as Wellness programming for men of all ages. An advisory committee was struck to discuss the type of model, the vision and mission of this pilot project. A logic model as well as a Project charter was agreed upon and signed by all partners.

The Gay Zone Gaie evolved in response to an identified need to create a space where gay men (who are connected in some way with gay male communities and/or a gay male identity) can access culturally-appropriate screening and treatment of STIs, anonymous testing for HIV and complementary programming that enhances their wellness and creates community. Building partnerships and trust within the community is time intensive but has proven to be crucial to the success of this particular model of sexual health service. The foundation of this relationship is based on mutual respect and collaboration in an equal partnership.

Objectives:

1. Share the process through which this project was born.
2. Demonstrate how partnerships and collaboration can increase access to sexual health and wellness programming for a specific target group.
3. Share the tools and resources developed by the partnerships.

D2:21A

Celebrating LBGTQ Families

Moderator:

Kate Moore, Executive Director, Ten Oaks Project, Ottawa

Panel:

*Marnie Potter, Community Developer, Around the Rainbow Project, Family Services à la famille Ottawa
Danielle Sutherland, Co-Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee for Project Acorn, Ten Oaks Project, Ottawa
Parent (who identifies as LBGTQ and accesses programs for their children), tbc*

There is an expanding demographic in LBGTQ communities that has, as of yet, remained predominantly unnamed and without services. That community is the increasing number of children growing up in LBGTQ households. Domestic and international adoption, surrogate mothers, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, previous heterosexual relationships – the ways that these children come to be in LBGTQ families is diverse. The commonality shared by many is that they are growing up as part of the queer community with all the joys and challenges that that entails, yet without necessarily having a clear membership card themselves. These children are sometimes called ‘queerspawn’ or ‘rainbow kids’ but most often they are neither labelled, nor recognized and rarely serviced as a community itself. One organization, the Ten Oaks Project, has

been designed specifically to bring together and serve the needs of children of LBGTQ families and LBGTQ-identified youth. It runs two programs: Camp Ten Oaks for children ages 8 to 17 and Project Acorn leadership retreat for youth ages 16 to 24. For many ‘rainbow kids’ coming to Camp Ten Oaks or Project Acorn, is the first time that they are meeting other children from LBGTQ families, the first time that they can celebrate their family structure instead of being concerned that revealing it might lead to teasing, alienation or discrimination.

Through stories, video clips and survey results, the panel will explore how these children often arrive shy and uncertain into programs designed for them and leave with an increased network, a stronger connection to the LBGTQ community and a strengthened sense of self and greater resiliency.

Objectives:

1. Increase understanding of the demographic of ‘queer spawn’, the need for services for this community and how this community can be a part of and an ally to other LBGTQ communities.
2. Showcase programs that are addressing the needs of this LBGTQ community.

D2:22A

Bridging HIV/AIDS With Broader Health and Wellbeing Issues

Presenters:

*Nick Mulé, Associate Professor, York University, Toronto
Ed Jackson, Director, Program Development, Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE), Toronto
Bill Ryan, Professor, School of Social Work, McGill University, Montreal
Presenter, tba*

Given how HIV/AIDS has and continues to dominate policy, funding and service provision in queer communities, how do we make the links between the changing dynamics of HIV/AIDS in North America and the growing recognition of broad LGBT health and wellbeing issues? How do we bridge the divide within the LGBT communities (i.e. those in the AIDS movement vs. those in the broad health and wellbeing movement)? What are the political implications of reexamining the AIDS Strategy in this country in relation to the general health and wellbeing of the LGBT populations? How do we educate policy makers, funders and service providers of the links between the virus/illness and broader health concerns as well as distinctions between the two?

This panel discussion will address these issues and more from the perspective of those who have worked in the HIV/AIDS and/or broader health and wellbeing sectors, utilizing an interactive style that will include a discussion with workshop attendees.

Objectives:

1. To encourage a dialogue between those active in the HIV/AIDS and those in the broad health and wellbeing movements.
2. To reexamine priorities, given the current state of HIV/AIDS in North America and the growing recognition of broad LGBT health and wellbeing issues.
3. To challenge ourselves to find a way to bridge the two sectors that would not be to the detriment of either but for the benefit of the LGBT populations in general.

D2:23A

Bisexual Health Issues: An Overview

Presenter:

Cheryl Dobinson, Director of Community Programming, Planned Parenthood Toronto, Toronto

Based on emerging evidence regarding disparities experienced by bisexual people with regard to health status, health risk behaviours and health service use, this presentation will share the “top ten” bisexual health issues outlined in the “Ten Things Bisexual People Should Discuss with Their Health Care Providers” document written by the presenter and Dr. Leah Steele for the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association in 2008. The area of mental health in particular will be highlighted, drawing from the findings of a pilot project conducted by researchers from the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health and Sherbourne Health Centre. This community based research project explored perceived determinants of mental health, experiences using mental health services, and suggestions for improving care through focus groups and semi-structured interviews with 55 bisexual people across Ontario. Results are suggestive of a broad-reaching impact of monosexism and biphobia on participants’ mental health. It is of critical importance for health care providers and researchers to be aware of the health issues that disproportionately affect bisexuals as well as the factors that influence bisexual people’s health in order to better understand and serve this often invisible population.

Objectives:

1. Participants will learn about the health issues which affect bisexual people more often or in different ways than other sexual orientation groups.
2. Participants will be able to better understand the unique experiences of bisexual people related to mental health and mental health service use.
3. Participants will learn about ways to improve health care services in order to provide better care to bisexual clients.

D2:24A

Working with, Around, and Against the Disorder of Sex Development Guidelines for Clinical Management

Presenter:

Morgan Holmes, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Department of Sociology, Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo

The workshop will combine queer theory, feminist and disability studies approaches (in both their academic and community-level iterations) to provide a base from which participants can develop alternate models to the DSD guidelines for providing support and community inside and outside the health care system. Whereas DSD refers specifically to a disease model of disorder, there are many other ways one might approach intersex. The possibility for people to embrace an identity as ‘intersex’ as a neutral description of a body type was the trajectory of the contemporary (if loose) intersex movement, and it moved us away from a language of pathology. Before any of us embraces DSD in our practice (health care, social work, activism) we need to interrogate the assumptions that have driven the development of ‘DSD’ -- namely: homophobia and desire to distance ‘innocent babies’ from queer identity groups.

The workshop will use a combination of problem-based and inquiry-based learning approaches to have participants work through the new clinical guidelines for managing DSD and to come to new critical understandings of the short-comings of the model.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS 1:30 – 3:00 pm FRIDAY, MARCH 26
D2:P
Clinical Session
Providing Transgender Care in a Family Practice Setting
Presenter:

Ed Kucharski, MD, CCFP, Family Physician, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto

This workshop will give the participants an introduction to providing specialized primary care to trans clients. Specifically, we will look at starting hormones for gender transition from the evaluation stage to prescribing an initial regimen. The workshop will use a combination of didactic teaching, case studies and group discussion.

Objectives:

1. Participants will gain knowledge around diagnosis and evaluation of transsexual and transgender clients.
2. Participants will explore the rationale behind various hormone regimens and gain understanding around their benefits and risks.
3. Participants will gain comfort in providing primary care to trans clients.

D2:25P
LGBTQ Communities and In-Home Health and Social Care Services
Presenters:

Andrea Daley, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, York University, Toronto

Judith MacDonnell, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, York University, Toronto

Sandra Iafate, Care Coordinator, Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre, Toronto

Dick Moore, Coordinator, Older LGBBTT Program, The 519 Church Street Community Centre, Toronto

Kirsten Schmidt-Chamberlain, Central East Hospice Palliative Care Network Coordinator, Central East Community Care Access Centre,

Whitby Branch, Whitby

A growing body of Canadian research is focusing on barriers to equitable access to health and social services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people within hospital- and community-based settings.

Less attention has focused on the provision of in-home health and social care to these communities and their associated experiences of accessing and receiving care. This multidisciplinary panel comprised of a LGBTQ-program planner, in-home health and social care front-line providers, and LGBTQ health researchers will explore access and equity issues in relation to the provision of in-home health and social care services to LGBTQ communities by integrating information on organizational access and equity planning, experiences of older LGBTQ communities, and research findings on LGBTQ positive services in relation to 'home care'. Presentation attendees will have an opportunity to enhance their understanding of in-home health and social care service access and equity issues.

Objectives:

1. Learn about the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre's Access and Equity Framework and a research initiative undertaken to enhance in-home health and social care service access for LGBTQ communities.
2. Learn about organizational processes, policy, and practices that contribute to enhancing in-home health and social care service access for LGBTQ communities based on research findings and a review of 'key indicator' literature.
3. Develop understanding of how in-home health and social care service access has been enhanced within the context of long-term care and home hospice palliative care and bereavement services.

P.M. Concurrent Workshops

Friday, March 26

D2:26P**Working With Families With a Gender Non-Conforming Child****Presenters:**

Solomon Shapiro, MD, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Toronto; Head, Gender and Sexual Orientation Service Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, Toronto

Joan Wiley, President, Trans Parent Canada, St. Catharines

Non-trans gender-dissonant individual, tbc

Moderator:

Rupert Raj, MA, Counselling Psychology, Psychotherapist, LGBT Services, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto

Parents of gender dissonant (aka gender non-conforming, gender-variant, gender-divergent, gender-anormative, etc.) children face tremendous barriers in finding effective and culturally competent therapy and support for children and families. Few therapists have any experience working with gender dissonant children. There has been very little clinical research done on how to provide clinically and culturally competent care to gender dissonant children and their families.

This workshop will present a model for providing therapeutic support for gender dissonant children and their families. The workshop will feature four speakers. Two clinicians, Rupert Raj and Dr. Solomon Shapiro, will present their approach to providing therapy and support to gender dissonant children and their families. Joan Wiley, the mother of a trans youth, will present her perspective and the most effective types of services and supports that she received as the parent of a gender dissonant child, and now provides to other parents. Finally our fourth panelist, an adult who in their childhood and youth was identified as gender dissonant, will discuss their perspective on effective supports and services.

Together the panel will discuss key best practices and challenges to providing services and supports, to this under-served population.

Objectives:

To demonstrate transpositive theoretical principles and therapeutic practices for health care providers for: a) trans adults, and b) trans or gender-variant youth and their families

D2:27P**Two Spirit Women: The More We Know, the More We Heal****Presenter:**

Doris "Doe" O'Brien-Teengs, Regional Outreach Worker, Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy, Toronto

Aboriginal Peoples have experienced massive cultural genocide in the last 500 years. More specifically in the last 120 years, the most affected groups are the sexually diverse. Aboriginal women and those who are now called Two Spirit people have been targeted and homophobia has been sewn into the fabric of Aboriginal People's consciousness. Coming out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered in any Aboriginal community, whether that is a First Nations, Metis or Inuit community, a rural community or a city is a difficult venture because most of the Aboriginal communities – even 'traditional' Aboriginal cultures are homophobic and proud of it. Only through telling our stories and celebrating our identities will Aboriginal communities be able to come to a place of Aboriginal balance—a place which includes Two Spirit women. The Two Spirit Women booklet 2nd Edition was written to tell the stories of our past, reveal our colonization and to demonstrate how these affect our lives along with our lived experience. These experiences may be individual, but shared; and only through telling our stories and living our lives will we reach a place of healing in our emotional, physical, mental and spiritual selves.

Objective:

To share the stories of Two Spirit women and to show that it is unacceptable to our health and well being to continue to internalize homophobia. Consequently, we need to eliminate heterosexism and homophobia in our communities for our health and survival and for the next generations to come.

D2:28P**Understanding the Needs of Gay Men with Prostate Cancer: New Research and Resources****Presenters:**

Lara Descartes, Associate Professor, Brescia University College, London

Stacey Hart, Associate Professor, Ryerson University, Toronto

Charles Hayter, MD, FRCP(C), Oncologist, Credit Valley Hospital, Mississauga

Gary Akenhead, Documentary Film Editor, Toronto

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in North America, but its impact upon gay men and/or their partners has not received much research attention. Although struggling with the same changes in sexual, urinary, and bowel functioning as heterosexual men, gay men may face additional burdens. For example, some, especially older men, may be uncomfortable talking with their healthcare providers about their same-sex relationship. Moreover, gay men may avoid bringing their partner into appointments, where key treatment decisions are made with health care providers. Gay men, particularly singles, may also lack strong family support systems to help them through their diagnosis and treatment.

In the first part of this co-presentation we will address these and other issues related to prostate cancer and gay men by drawing upon two research studies. The first, based out of the University of Connecticut draws upon data from five focus groups (N=36) conducted with gay men who have not been diagnosed with prostate cancer to reveal their knowledge of the prostate, prostate screenings, and prostate cancer risk factors and treatments. The findings suggest a strong need for physician education about gay men's lives, education with gay men on prostate cancer and screening, and a need for identity-specific support groups should they be diagnosed. The second study, based out of Ryerson University and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston used a web-based survey on quality of life, prostate cancer related symptoms, and experiences in the health care system from gay men diagnosed with prostate cancer. Implications of the findings for gay men coping with prostate cancer and their partners will be discussed, as will implications for health care providers working with gay prostate cancer patients.

Research Team: Lara Descartes, PhD (Co-P1), Marysol Ascencio, PhD (Co-P1), Thomas Blank, PhD (P1), Ashley Crawford, MA, and Tae Hart, PhD (Co-1), David Latini, PhD (P1), David Coon, PhD (Co-1).

In the second part of our co-presentation, a multidisciplinary group from Toronto describes the development and creation of a new DVD resource for gay men with prostate cancer that explores the personal stories and real life experiences of seven courageous gay men. Five of the seven men have or have had prostate cancer, and two of the men are their partners. The film depicts their fears and struggles, and we know that their

courage and humanity will inspire and give hope to those about to embark on their own journey with prostate cancer. Excerpts from the film will be shown.

Team Members: Michael Bartucci, MD; David Evans, medical student; Leah Jamnicky, RN; Pearse Murray, broadcaster, cancer survivor and activist; Heather A Sampson, RN, BA, CCRP, MHSc; Bill Wade, RN.

Objectives:

1. To consider the special needs of gay men in regard to prostate cancer treatment options and support services; to raise awareness about the level of knowledge gay men have about their prostates, prostate health, and prostate cancer.
2. To understand the unique emotional, mental, and physical issues faced by gay men and their partners as they confront a diagnosis of prostate cancer.
3. To understand more about experiences in the health care system and disparities in quality of life for gay prostate cancer survivors.
4. To learn about the development of a new and innovative resource for gay men with prostate cancer.

D2:29P

The Trans Access Project – Making Social Services Accessible to Trans People

Presenter:

*Kyle Scanlon, Trans Programs Coordinator,
The 519 Church Street Community Centre, Toronto*

At The 519 Church Street Community Centre we have spent the last 9 years working closely with a variety of health and social service organizations across Ontario to try to reduce access barriers that kept trans people from effectively using those services. The Trans Access Project views trans health from a social determinants of health perspective, recognizing that trans people's well-being is directly connected to their ability to access safe housing, to receive culturally competent services, and to be treated with dignity at service organizations.

We utilize a training model which incorporates standard oral presentation with fun interactive exercises, and trans people who are able to speak as experts based on their experience. Our training program uses a capacity development approach which recruits trans people who have an interest in social services, but little or no education/professional experience and trains them to conduct "Trans Awareness workshops". Our trainers represent a range of backgrounds and experiences

– they may have experience as sex workers, or they may have English as a second language and come to this country as immigrants or refugees; some identify as two-spirit or intersex as well as trans. Regardless of their histories, the Trans Access team trainers are working to change Ontario service organizations to promote trans inclusion practices.

Objectives:

1. To teach appropriate trans terminology and community vocabulary to service providers.
2. To understand the unique cultural and environmental context that impacts on health and well-being of trans people.
3. To promote discussion and share strategies for trans inclusion.
4. To identify the steps an organization can take to become trans accessible.

D2:30P

Health Matters: Effectively Reaching Out to LGBTQ Communities

Presenters:

Thadsha Navaneethan, Diversity Manager, Canadian Cancer Society - Ontario Division, Toronto
Co-Presenters, tbc

This presentation will focus on the Canadian Cancer Society's (Ontario Division) new resource titled "Facts about Tobacco for lesbian, gay and bisexual people: Reasons and resources for quitting smoking". It will first describe The Toronto Rainbow Tobacco Survey: A Report on Tobacco Use in Toronto's LGBTQ Communities (2007) which indicated that the LGBTQ community (in Toronto) is more likely to smoke than the general population (i.e. 36% vs. 17%) and recommended "targeting tobacco control efforts at the LGBTQ population". This study became the catalyst for the creation of this new resource by the Canadian Cancer Society. We will review the process of creating this brochure highlighting the opportunities, challenges and the successes of working in partnership with LGBTQ communities and organizations.

The presenters will discuss the feedback that has been received both provincially and nationally and outline gaps and opportunities for research that could/should be conducted in the area of smoking and cancer in LGBTQ communities in Canada. Lastly, the Society will share other key projects it has worked on or is currently working on that focus on LGBTQ health and cancer.

Objectives:

1. Learn about how CCS supports/works with marginalized populations such as LGBTQ communities.
2. The role of relevant and credible research and how it relates to LGBTQ health.
3. The "how to" in creating a successful LGBTQ health initiative or resource.
4. The role of and the importance of pre/post community engagement, feedback, partnership and networks.

D2:31P

The Value of Pleasure: A Pleasure-Based Approach to Sexual Health Education for LGBTQ Women

Presenter:

Carlyle Jansen, Founder, Good For Her, Toronto

Safer sex and sexual health practices are often deemed unnecessary in the women's LGBTQ community. They are led to believe that STIs are rarely transmitted in their community, and thus experience added challenges when they discover they have transmitted or contracted an STI. With regard to sexual difficulties such as inability to orgasm or low libido, LGBTQ women may experience an added layer of shame and silence because of the assumption that women are supposed to intuitively know each other's bodies. For many LGBTQ women there are gaps in their knowledge of how to enhance pleasure for themselves and their partners while learning about safer, health sex. This workshop will offer a pleasure-based approach to sexual health education.

Objectives:

1. How to weave sexual health and prevention information into information about sexual pleasure.
2. To find out more about STIs and sexual health challenges that affect LGBTQ women.
3. To learn more about the diversity of sexual practices of LGBTQ women.
4. How to attract LGBTQ women to learn about sex and sexual health.

D2:32P**LGBTQ Refugees and Providing Holistic Services: Settlement, Employment, Health and Community****Presenter:**

Suhail Abualsameed, EXPRESS, Newcomer Community Engagement Coordinator, Supporting Our Youth (SOY) Program, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto

Shari Brotman, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, LGBTQ Refugee Research Project, McGill University, Montreal

Edward Ou Jin Lee, First Year Doctoral Student, School of Social Work, McGill University, Montreal

This community-based research project is about the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual transsexual/transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) refugees currently living in Toronto and Montreal. Based on interviews with refugee claimants, service providers and community advocates, knowledge was gathered about how LGBTQ refugees experience migration, the refugee process, settlement services and health care. Furthermore, LGBTQ refugees revealed challenges related to mental health and the potential benefits of community development. Our results will be used to support efforts to develop research, policy and practice within mainstream refugee serving, ethno-cultural and LGBTQ organizations. Included will be a presentation of our community-based zine, which reflect the voices of people that we interviewed on several important themes that emerged from our study.

Objectives:

Providing services and support for LGBTQ refugees in a holistic and comprehensive manner including 1) Establishing LGBTQ friendly and anti-racist spaces 2) Employment matters 3) Addressing mental health issues 4) Developing community 5) Advocating for refugee policy advocacy.

Speaker Biographies

AHRA / LGBTQ Working Group (Coordinated by Rachel Epstein, Coordinator, LGBTQ Parenting Network, Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto), is a group of Toronto-based service providers (physicians, nurses, fertility counsellors, midwives, community development workers, lawyers), researchers (university, institutional, community-based), and consumers of AHR services who, between them, have decades of experience working with and on behalf of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer) individuals and communities.

Elizabeth Abraham is manager of Interpretation and Translation Services at University Health Network, chairs one of the four Diversity Councils organizations, and, in a volunteer capacity, chairs the Board of the Directors of the Healthcare Interpretation Network, and non-profit advocacy group promoting language rights for patients with limited English proficiency and professional regulation of medical interpreters.

Ilona Abramovich is a PhD student in the Adult Education and Community Development program at the University of Toronto-OISE. Her research focuses on LGBTQ youth homelessness and support services. She is interested in arts-informed research and media activism. Ilona has produced several short-films and hosts a podcast on the issues of youth homelessness in Toronto (www.ilona6.com).

Suhail Abualsameed, is the Newcomer Community Engagement Coordinator, Supporting Our Youth (SOY) Program at the Sherbourne Health Centre in Toronto. He is an immigrant to Canada from his native Jordan, a community worker, public speaker, researcher, designer and human rights advocate. Suhail has been working with immigrant and refugee queer youth, and with health related issues within the Muslim communities of the Greater Toronto Area. With a background in architecture and an extensive travel history, Suhail brings diverse experiences and knowledge which he makes good use of in many forums speaking at universities, high schools and conferences around the country and internationally, on issues of identity, human rights, immigration,

youth and queer issues and the social determinants of health.

Gary Akenhead is a Gemini award winning documentary film editor who likes to give back to his community whenever he can.

Scott Anderson is a research coordinator at the Social Equity & Health Research Section of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. His research experience includes being the research coordinator for a study examining LGBT people's experiences using the adoption system, a research assistant with the TransPULSE project, and a steering committee member of the FTM safer shelter community based research project.

Carole Baker is a counsellor/ psychotherapist in the LGBT program at Sherbourne Health Centre. She has an MEd in counselling psychology from OISE and has been working in the field of trauma for twenty years. One of the highlights of Carole's work is co-facilitation of an expressive arts group, Outside the Lines, for isolated lesbian, bi and trans women. Over the last 10 years Carole has been receiving training and introducing her clients to mindfulness meditation, expressive arts and nature-focused therapy as ways of managing anxiety and fear.

Carissa Bakker is a Master of Arts Candidate in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo. Her research is in the area of community development and marginalized populations.

Lorraine Barnaby has been working in the field of homelessness, HIV/AIDS, harm reduction and mental health for almost twenty years. She is currently a Health Promoter at Shout Clinic, a community health centre for homeless and street-involved youth. Lorraine brings extensive experience in working with community groups, governmental and non-profit organizations, committees and task groups.

Silvana Bazet, a Clinical Member of the Ontario Society of Psychotherapists, is a psychotherapist in private practice in Toronto who specializes in issues related to sexual orientation, ethno-racial identity, migration, and gender identity. She is also an educator who has developed and facilitated numerous workshops since the early 1990s. Silvana is a Latin American lesbian who has been doing social justice work for over 20 years. Silvana lives with an undiagnosed invisible chronic illness. For more information on the invisible chronic illness survey, contact Silvana at queericisurvey@gmail.com

Keli Bellaire has been involved in community organizing in Montreal, Halifax, and now Toronto, for the past six years. She is passionate about alternative education and working with young people. Keli has worked for Leave Out Violence, the Halifax Coalition Against Poverty, and the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs; she is now the Youth Engagement Coordinator at METRAC, working with the Respect in Action (ReAct) youth violence prevention program and integrating a focus on youth across the organization. Keli also loves to dance, sing, and ride her bike.

Karen Blair is a PhD Candidate at Queen's University working in the Sexual Health Research Lab with Dr. Caroline Pukall studying the psychosocial and psychosexual aspects of contemporary couples. Karen completed her master's degree at Acadia University studying the impact of social support for relationships on relationship well-being and health in same-sex and mixed-sex couples. At the time of the conference, Karen will have just returned from a 6 month research internship at the University of Utah working with Dr. Lisa Diamond on issues related to female sexuality and desire.

Christiane Bouchard is a project officer for the Healthy Sexuality and Risk Reduction Program at Ottawa Public Health. She has a University degree in Social Work and has over 25 years of experience in community development and project management. As a consultant she developed the first smoking cessation program for members of the GLBT community as well as a program for those living with HIV/AIDS in Canada. Christiane is also the coordinator of the Gay Zone initiative.

Shari Brotman is an Associate Professor at the McGill University School of Social Work in Montreal. Her work is focused upon exploring intersectional identity and multiple oppression in the lives of queer and racialized communities in Canada. She has participated in community-based research on access and equity in the design and delivery of health and social services and has worked primarily with gay and lesbian seniors and seniors from ethno-cultural communities. She teaches courses on anti-oppression social work practice and qualitative community-based research methodologies.

Ligaya Byrch, MA, has been active in LGBT communities across the province of Ontario. She began by being a part of LGBT organizing in Windsor through the pride committee and via her spoken word radio show LeBiQ Airwaves. She later combined this passion for creating change with academia and completed her Masters of Applied Social Research (Sociology) through Laurentian University. Since that time she has been engaged in research on HIV, housing, homelessness and poverty. Her energy now is focused on the creation of coordinated care for the LGBT community in and around Simcoe County.

Todd Coleman has a degree in Health Sciences and is currently working towards a PhD in Population Epidemiology at the University of Western Ontario. He is currently Project Manager for the Trans PULSE Project and Co-Principal Investigator of the Health in Middlesex Men Matters (HiMMM) Project, a community-based research initiative based in London, Ontario. Todd has several years of management experience and uses this to help coordinate day-to-day activities of Trans PULSE. He is also an active community volunteer with the AIDS Committee of London and London's annual AIDS Walk for Life.

Andrea Daley, MSW, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work, York University. Her research interests include access and equity issues in health care policy and program delivery for members of LGBTQ communities, women and mental illness, and sexuality and identity. Her research has explored the assumption of heterosexuality in health care policy and service delivery with a focus on the psychiatric and mental health service experiences of lesbian/queer women.

Lara Descartes earned her PhD in anthropology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. After postdoctoral work at the University of Michigan, she joined the School of Family Studies faculty at the University of Connecticut. In 2008, Descartes was hired by Brescia University College as an Associate Professor of Family Studies. In addition to GLBT health, her research interests include family support networks, work and family, and popular culture.

Joël Dickinson is a professor at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. Dr. Dickinson's research areas include cognitive processes, methodology, consciousness, evoked response potentials and more recently LGBT research.

Cheryl Dobinson, bisexual writer, researcher, and activist, is currently the Director of Community Programming at Planned Parenthood Toronto. She is also involved in research on bisexual mental health issues as well as on sexual orientation and health disparities through the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. In addition to working on projects such as the bi women's zine she founded in 2002, *The Fence*, she facilitates support groups, leads workshops and teaches courses on bisexuality.

Farzana Doctor is a social worker and consultant in private practice, specializing in working with individuals and couples dealing with sexual orientation, gender identity, substance use, and relationship issues. She is also a clinical trainer and supervisor, specializing in group and individual counseling with LGBTTTQ people and people of colour and has written or co-authored books, book chapters and articles on these topics. Her first novel, *Stealing Nasreen* was released in 2007 and she has just completed a second novel. For more info, check out www.farzanadoctor.com

Rachel Epstein has been a queer parenting activist, educator and researcher for close to 20 years and coordinates the LGBTQ Parenting Network at Sherbourne Health Centre in Toronto. She recently edited a collection of writings entitled *Who's Your Daddy? And Other Writings on Queer Parenting* (Sumach Press, 2009), and is the 2008 winner of the Steinert & Ferreiro Award (Community One Foundation), recognizing her leadership and pivotal contributions towards the support, recognition and inclusion of queer parents and their children in Canada.

Stephanie Gazzola is currently a graduate student in the Applied Social Psychology program at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research focuses on body image and prejudice against gay men, lesbian women, and transgender people. She completed her undergraduate degree with honours and at the top of her class at Wilfrid Laurier University, where the majority of the research presented was completed.

Loralee Gillis, Research and Policy Coordinator at Rainbow Health Ontario (RHO), is responsible for supporting the development of LGBT health research in Ontario and for encouraging public policy that supports LGBT health. Before coming to RHO, she worked as the manager of Research and Evaluation at the Association of Ontario Health Centres, the umbrella organization of Community Health Centres in Ontario. In that role she acted as Principal Investigator on a number of large research grants and supported research capacity building in the sector. Loralee has also worked as a front-line service provider in street outreach and needle exchange services. In addition to having a long history of political activism, Loralee is one of the founders and co-organizers of the Toronto Women's Bathhouse. Over the last decade she has spent lots of her spare time fighting legal battles which ensued after the Toronto Police raided the Women's Bathhouse in September 2000. Loralee grew up in Peterborough, Ontario.

Blair Groves is an exceptional community developer. He has over 20 years experience working in community and social services and is currently a member of the Community Outreach Team of Rainbow Health Ontario (LHIN 3 – Waterloo Wellington). A strong focus of his work has been based in the (dis)ability community for the inclusion of people into community life. His work with numerous organizations throughout Ontario comes from a human rights and asset-based perspective. Blair is a father and is acutely aware of the dynamics of Queer parenting and has assisted in raising recognition of diverse families. As someone who has lived in farming communities his whole life, Blair has considerable expertise in issues facing LGBT people living in rural areas.

Stephen Green has worked at the University Health Network (UHN) for 20 years as a Patient Care Assistant in various settings including Psychiatry and Medical Surgical ICU. He is an experienced advocate for LGBT Human Rights and is one of the Founders of the UHN Rainbow Pride Committee. He has also held a seat on the Toronto General Hospital Diversity Counsel and participates yearly in the Black History Month Activities.

Tim Guimond is a Staff Psychiatrist and Clinician Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). He works clinically in concurrent disorders. Dr. Guimond's research interests are in advanced statistical analyses, harm reduction, and motivational interviewing. The research Poster displayed at this conference was prepared by the Exploring Choices team Peter Hall and Carol Strike.

Peter Hall is a research coordinator at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and St. Michael's Hospital. He is completing a dissertation for a doctoral program in psychology, which focuses on sexual risk taking and harm reduction. Peter is also a Canadian Certified Counsellor and has a private psychotherapy practice with a primarily GLBT focus in Toronto's vibrant GLBT community.

Marlene Ham is currently completing her BSW through Laurentian University. Marlene has been active in LGBT organizing throughout the province and currently sits on the Simcoe County LGBT Network as a representative for Youth Link.

Stacey Hart received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Southern California. After an internship at the Palo Alto Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, and a National Institute of Mental Health fellowship at Stanford, she spent four years as faculty in Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, before joining the Department of Psychology at Ryerson in 2007. Her research centers on psychological factors associated with adjustment to illness in chronically-ill individuals.

Charles Hayter, MD, FRCP (C), is a radiation oncologist with an interest in prostate cancer and gay health issues. Other key members of the team include: Pearse Murray, a prostate cancer survivor, Gary Akenhead, an award-winning filmmaker; Bill Wade, a nurse and leader of a support group for gay men with cancer; Michael Bartucci, a recent medical graduate; and Heather Sampson, a researcher.

Ellen Hibbard is a 3rd year PhD student at Ryerson University in Communications and Culture in Toronto and is President of the Ontario Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (ORAD). ORAD focuses on providing opportunities for LGBTTIQ2S and Deaf community(ies) to network and socialize and also provides referral for services and information. Ellen's focus is how web-based technology can be used by Deaf Academics and Sign Language Interpreters. She is profoundly Deaf. She graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technology Institute of Technology for the Deaf in the United States in 1997 with a Bachelors of Science in Biotechnology. She received her Masters of Science from the University of Rochester in 2004. She did research for 10 years in the molecular biology field. She also taught science for three years in a Deaf residential school in the US prior to moving to Toronto for her PhD studies. She is passionate about cross-cultural understanding for both Deaf and Hearing people. She is advocating for understanding among Hearing people about Deaf Culture. She loves to meet new people, travel, learn new things, and make new friends. She joined the Ontario Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (ORAD) because she wants to be active in the LGBTTIQ2S community here in Toronto and show Deaf Culture at the same time. She is Deaf and American. She uses the upper case "D" for Deaf to identify herself as culturally Deaf (which means she considers herself belonging to the Deaf Community), uses American Sign Language, and has a history with Deaf Culture. The lower case "d" for deaf means a condition of not being able to hear. She does not use the term "hearing impaired" at all because it means she is a hearing person with an "impairment". She does not consider herself as someone who has "an impairment." She is a person who adapts to life in the world around her with strong culturally Deaf identity. Her deafness is not a disability; it is another "condition of being", such as short, tall, or female.

Erica Hummel is a graduate student in the Master of Arts Tourism Policy and Planning program in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo. She is researching leisure motivations and experiences of sexual minority adults in Ontario.

Sandra lafrate is a Social Worker who has worked at the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) for the last five years as a Care Coordinator. For the last four years Sandra has worked with Casey House Staff to assist clients to set up home care services, apply for long term care and to ensure a smooth transition 'home'. Sandra has worked with the Senior Pride Network. At the CCAC Sandra has organized a training day discussing how to provide transgender sensitive care to clients in the community.

Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco has lived in Canada since 1985. He acquired his HIV in 1986 and his PhD in education in 1999. He is a published creative writer and a social scientist. From 2003 to 2009, he worked as the BC Community Based Research Facilitator, funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), and taught creative writing at Goddard College, Vermont. Currently, he is the Program Manager of University Without Walls: The Next Generation of HIV Researchers in Canada (funded by CIHR) at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network.

Ed Jackson has had a long history of involvement with LGBT and HIV/AIDS community organizing in Toronto, beginning in the Paleolithic period as an editor of the early gay liberation journal *The Body Politic*. He helped give direction to HIV prevention in Canada in the formative years as Director of Community Education at the AIDS Committee of Toronto. During that time he developed some of the earliest prevention programming and research initiatives in Toronto targeting gay men. After a ten-year break in the corporate world of educational publishing, he returned to HIV work three years ago as the Director of Program Development at CATIE (Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange).

Carlyle Jansen is the founder of Good For Her, a feminist sexuality shop and workshop centre in Toronto, and a co-founder of the Sexual Health Education and Pleasure Project. She is a bisexual woman who has led pleasure-based sexual health and educational workshops for 14 years to people of all orientations, genders and sexes. She has been featured on The Discovery Channel, Women's Television Network, several documentaries, The Toronto Star, McLeans Magazine and The Globe and Mail.

Marilyn Kanee has been Mount Sinai Hospital's (MSH) Diversity and Human Rights Advisor since 2000 and is a member of the Hospital's Anti-Homophobia/Transphobia Action (AHA) Committee. The Diversity and Human Rights Office at MSH strives to create organizational change by addressing harassment and

discrimination complaints, providing training on human rights and related issues, and developing policies to ensure equity in the hospital for patients, visitors and workers.

Margo Kennedy, MSW, RSW, has been working as a social worker for the past 19 years. She presently works at Princess Margaret Hospital as an oncology social worker and in volunteer training. Margo is the Past-Chair of the University Health Network Pride Campaign.

Michael Kennedy, MSW, RSW, CSFT, PhD, is currently a full time professor with Georgian College in their Social Service Worker Program where he has been instrumental in developing the program since its inception. Michael specializes in clinical training and supervision, and teaches social work practice at the college, university and post graduate levels throughout Ontario. He is an accomplished certified solution-focused-practitioner. He holds a PhD from the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, specializing in qualitative research methods.

Dorina Kirilova is a graduate of the Bachelor of Health Science Program at McMaster University and is currently pursuing a Master's in the Health Research Methodology Program. She has worked closely with Lori Ross of the Social Equity & Health Research Section, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health on exploring satisfaction with mental health services in the LGBT communities. Dorina is now working towards a Thesis concerning public engagement in health assessment technology decision making.

Ed Kucharski, MD, CCFP is a family physician at Sherbourne Health Centre. He attended medical school at the University of Ottawa and finished his residency training at the University of Toronto. His residency training was at a site within the Department of Family and Community Medicine that had many trans clients. He has been working with trans clients and their families, partners and friends for the past five years. He was a reviewer for Sherbourne Health Centre's Trans Protocols and is currently the centre's Medical Director.

Michelle Le-Claire, at 22 years old, is a community leader, activist and social worker within the trans community who dealt with homelessness throughout her teens as a transwoman. She now facilitates Trans Youth Toronto at The 519 Church Street Community Centre, Trans Youth Beyond the Binary at Associated Youth Services of Peel, is a Community Engagement Team member for the TransPULSE Project, and a Youth Services Worker for Eva's Satellite. Michelle also provides

consulting services, has presented at George Brown and Conestoga College and is involved in many community organizing events. Most recently she was the Vice President of Education, and before that, Commissioner of Advocacy and Equity, for the Students' Association of George Brown College.

Edward Ou Jin Lee is currently in his first year of his doctoral studies at the McGill School of Social Work. His areas of interest include critical race, feminist and anti-colonial theorizing, anti-oppressive practice, migration, sexuality and LGBTQ refugee issues. Ed is committed to pursuing a scholar-activist orientation through an engagement with community-based/participatory forms of research and social justice. He is presently involved with numerous queer and anti-racist community initiatives and activism including AGIR (Action for LGBTQ refugees and immigrants), Ethnoculture (LGBTQ ethnocultural community event organizing) and Coalition Multi-Mundo.

Laurie Letheren is a lawyer at ARCH Disability Law Center. Laurie has extensive work experience in the areas of income maintenance for persons with disabilities and in other legal areas that are significant to the disability community, including housing law and human rights. ARCH Disability Law Centre (ARCH) is a community legal aid clinic dedicated to advancing the equality rights of persons with disabilities.

Nathaniel Lewis is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. His work has focused on a number of health and social geography topics, including place determinants of mental health among sexual minorities, locational decisions among same-sex couples, and quality-of-life issues in smaller Canadian cities. He recently participated in the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Gender and Health Summer Institute, and has published his work in *Health & Place* and *Urban Studies*.

Judith MacDonnell, RN, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health at York University. Her research has focused on LGBTQ activism, access and equity, policy processes, education, career/workplace dynamics and intimate partner violence. She is co-chair of the Rainbow Nurses Interest Group of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO).

Janet Mawhinney, MA, is a senior diversity consultant and educator currently with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Her work is about equity and organizational change including employment equity, cultural competency, harassment and discrimination, bias 'free' hiring, and health equity. She has been a core member of the LGBTIQ change efforts at CAMH.

John McIntyre is a fourth year McMaster University student in Honours Biology and Psychology. He is completing an Honours Thesis project under the supervision of Dr. Lori Ross with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. John is also one of two recipients of the UQAM Sexuality and Gender Diversity: Vulnerability Resilience Honours Thesis student grants for his work with Dr. Ross. He plans to follow a career focusing on the needs of LGBT communities in either law or research.

Arti Mehta is the Coordinator for Women's Programming at Planned Parenthood Toronto, focusing on programming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and other women who have sex with women. She has worked with LGBTQ communities in Scarborough and Toronto including projects in breast health promotion, anti-violence work, South Asian women's communities, and by creating arts-based spaces for youth.

Steven Mock is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies and the Department of Health Studies and Gerontology at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Mock's research is in the area of lifespan development focusing on the social nature of coping and decision making.

Anthony Mohamed has served as Diversity and Special Projects Coordinator at St. Michaels Hospital since 1995. Drawing from more than 20 years experience in community and social justice initiatives, Anthony has specialized skills in facilitation, program management and applying an intersectional anti-oppression framework. He has worked in leadership roles with groups such as the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Toronto Police Services, CUSO, South Riverdale Community Health Centre, University of Toronto, and the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention. He has also worked and/or traveled throughout all seven continents and can communicate in English, French and Spanish. His Masters of Environmental Studies, specializing in "cross cultural community health promotion," emphasizes his commitment to leadership, health and diversity. He is a

member of the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference and recipient of the 2005 Founders and Builders Award from the Centre for Equity in Health and Society.

Dick Moore is the coordinator of the Older LGBTTT Program at The 519 Church Street Community Centre in Toronto and the convener of the Senior Pride Network. He has extensive experience consulting with and training providers of services to seniors. He was part of a group that worked with Toronto Long Term Care Homes and Services Division to develop a Tool Kit to make long term care LGBTTT friendly.

Kate Moore has over 15 years experience facilitating trainings on valuing diversity at agency and private camps. One of her passions is providing transformational techniques to youth and their service providers to create safer spaces. She has been a keynote speaker at conferences for the public and private sectors on building cultural bridges using an appreciative inquiry approach. Her past roles include: Senior Business Transformation Consultant with the Ontario government, Manager of the Multiculturalism Program with the federal government, facilitator with Skills for Change, Coordinator of International Services at Ryerson University, and director of a private camp. Her education includes Transformational Leadership Certification from the Hendricks Institute, a Masters of Arts from Université Laval, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo. She is excited to be part of the Rainbow Health Ontario Conference.

Nick Mulé, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at York University in Toronto, Canada. He was a founding board member of the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition (CRHC), and founded and was former chairperson of the Rainbow Health Network (RHN). Dr. Mulé is co-chair of the Rainbow Health Ontario Research and Policy Network and is the founder of the new provincial LGBT group Queer Ontario. Additionally, Nick is a psychotherapist in private practice serving gender and sexually diverse populations in Toronto.

Devan Nambiar is the Education and Training Coordinator at Rainbow Health Ontario. Devan has been working in the ethnoracial and gay/MSM and HIV sector for 20 years. In 2002, he was presented with an honour roll award by the Ontario AIDS Network and in 2006 he was the recipient of the Canadian AIDS Society Leadership Award. He worked for ten years as a Treatment Educator at the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange. He is co-author of two national publications, *A Practical Guide to Complementary Medicine for PHAS (CATIE, 2004)* and *A Practical Guide to Herbal Therapies for PHAS (CATIE, 2004)* as well as a contributing editor to the *Practical Guide to Nutrition for PHAS (CATIE 2007)*. He is one of the Co-principal Investigators of *Improving the Capacity of the HIV Sector to respond to the Ethno-Racial MSM: Tapping Front-Line Expertise and Wisdom*, OHTN. Devan is working as project consultant on a CBR research study; *Mobilizing Ethnoracial Communities Against HIV Stigma and Discrimination*, Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment. Devan writes for the e-zine, www.positivelite.com as a health writer. He is currently completing his studies in Addiction Counselling at McMaster University and serves on the HIV Ethics Review Board of University of Toronto and on the board of directors of the Canadian Treatment Action Council.

Thadsha Navaneethan has been working in the social service sector for over a decade with extensive experience in the areas of equity, anti-oppression, social justice and community development. She also has a strong background in policy and organizational development. Thadsha is currently the Manager of Diversity for the Canadian Cancer Society – Ontario Division. In her role she oversees the integration of diversity into all aspects of the Society's strategies, plans, policies and practices.

Doris "Doe" O'Brien-Teengs was born in Moose Factory, Ontario and was raised in Moosonee by her Cree mother and Irish Canadian father. Interested in stories and history since early childhood, she believes that our lives are every day spoken through our actions and words. She works for the Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy in Toronto. She wrote *Two Spirit Women* 2nd Edition, which was published in 2008. She lives with her partner, Nancy, and their two children just outside of Toronto.

Marnie Potter has over 15 years of experience working with children, youth and families in community and camp-based settings. She holds an undergrad in environmental geography and a Masters in Social Work from Carleton University. She has spent the last two years working as a Community Developer for the Around the Rainbow Project, out of Family Services à la famille Ottawa. This is a project which seeks to create inclusive educational and public spaces for children 0-12 years of age from LGBTTQ families. Her great passion is to meld the areas of recreation and leisure within the social work and social justice framework to create and deliver programs for high risk children and youth.

Caroline Pukall is currently an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at Queen's University where she is also the Director of Sex Therapy Services. She runs the Sexual Health Research Lab where she conducts research with her students on a wide variety of topics related to sexuality, sexual health and female genital pain. Dr. Pukall's clinical interests lie in the areas of male and female sexual dysfunction and chronic pain.

Jake Pyne is a trans activist with a background in sexual health promotion and sexual assault prevention work. Jake coordinated the Trans Access Project at The 519 Community Centre from 2002-2008 and co-led the FTM Safer Shelter Research Project investigating barriers to shelter for homeless trans men in Toronto. He is currently the Community Development Coordinator for the Trans PULSE Project and a Research Trainee with the Centre for the Study of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health.

Rupert Raj has been working as a clinician (psychotherapist and gender specialist) since 2000 and as a Psychotherapist in the LGBT Program at Sherbourne Health Centre in Toronto since 2002. He provides individual, couple, family and group therapy for trans people (adults and teens), gender-divergent youth, those questioning their gender identity, and their loved ones. Rupert has also provided collaborative family therapy with a transpositive psychiatrist (Dr. Solomon Shapiro) for "transforming" families, including transsexual/transgender teenagers or gender-dissonant children. He also provides professional training workshops on trans-related issues and transpositive care at conferences and agencies. Rupert has published a number of clinical articles and research papers including: Raj, R. (2008). Trans forming couples, trans forming families: Therapeutic support for transpeople and their loved ones. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*. (Vol. 4(1)). Haworth Clinical Practice Press.

Raj, R. (2007). Transactivism as therapy: A client-self-empowerment model linking personal and social agency. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy*. (Issue (3/4): Activism in LGBT Psychology Practice). Haworth Clinical Practice Press.

Gapka, S., & Raj, R. (2003). *The trans health project report*. Ontario Public Health Association. (http://www.opha.on.ca/ppres/2003-06_pp.pdf).

Lori Ross, PhD, is a Research Scientist in the Social Equity and Health Research Section of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. Her primary research focus is health and social services access for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people, and particularly LGBTQ parents and families.

Will Rowe has been actively involved in queer and trans communities for over twenty years. He has an MSW from McMaster University and has worked in social services over the past fifteen years in areas of anti-poverty/anti-violence and trans activism. Will currently facilitates Hamilton's trans peer support group and is a counsellor at KW Counselling within the OK2BME Program, where he works with queer and trans youth and facilitates the trans/gender questioning youth group.

Natalie Rowlandson has a first-hand account of the effects of homophobia on LGBT families from her work as a classroom teacher. Her activist work has focused on raising awareness about the prevalence of homophobic violence and advocating for Gay Straight Alliances in schools. She is currently a graduate student in the Faculty of Education at Lakehead University. For her Masters thesis, she is conducting research on the experiences of LGBT parents in their children's schools in Northern Ontario.

Hershel Russell, MA, MEd, is an experienced psychotherapist, who has been counselling trans people and their families since 1995. He is himself an older, white, transgendered man, who is actively involved in program and policy development with health care providers and government decision makers. Hershel also works as an independent professional trainer on a range of diversity-related issues, and has presented at conferences, in-service training days and community events across Ontario. Hershel's lively and engaging capacity-building workshops about working with trans communities have proved both popular and effective in a wide range of health and social care organizations. As a trained Adult Educator, Hershel believes that effective learning is always an active process, that respect for

everyone's dignity is key and that shared, well-timed laughter can accomplish much! Participants frequently comment on how easy it feels to raise difficult or awkward questions in his workshops and to discuss them with complexity. Hershel is an active contributor to current debates in the often controversial and rapidly changing field of trans health care.

Kyle Scanlon is a trans activist, researcher and front-line community worker. He's been a member of the Gay Bi Queer Trans Men's Working Group, a Co-Principal Investigator on the FTM Safer Shelter Project and a Co-Investigator on the "Trans Pulse Project". Kyle is currently the Program Coordinator for Trans Programs at The 519 Community Centre where he also coordinates a team of trans people to develop skills in social services while delivering trans access trainings to service providers.

Ayden Scheim coordinated the Trans Men's Pap Campaign at Sherbourne Health Centre. He has worked on a number of research and health promotion projects about gay, bi, and trans men's issues. He co-authored the report "Getting Primed: Informing HIV Prevention with Gay, Bi, and Queer Trans Men in Ontario" and a forthcoming fact sheet on HIV and trans MSM for the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at UCSF. He also works at Fred Victor Centre while completing a degree in Sociology at the University of Toronto.

Kirsten Schmidt-Chamberlain has a Masters Degree in Community Health Promotion. She is the former Executive Director for Durham Hospice and recently began as the Coordinator for the Central East Hospice Palliative Care Network, based in Whitby. She has spent the bulk of the last 14 years working in rural Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Northern Ontario – primarily focused on marginalized communities and social justice. She and her spouse Liz, and their three sons now live in Pickering.

Solomon Shapiro is a Toronto-based child and adolescent psychiatrist, specializing in gender identity issues, who heads up the Gender and Sexual Orientation Service at the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre. He provides individual and family therapy for gender-dissonant children, adolescents and young adults, as well as trans-identified teenagers and adults. Additionally, he has a practice at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) as well as a private practice. Dr. Shapiro is also Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

Tess Sheldon is a lawyer at ARCH Disability Law Center. She is undertaking her doctoral studies at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. ARCH Disability Law Centre (ARCH) is a community legal aid clinic dedicated to advancing the equality rights of persons with disabilities.

Jackson Sherratt is a Research Assistant at the Social Equity and Health Research Section of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. He holds a BA and MA in Religious Studies from Wilfrid Laurier University and is currently pursuing an MSW at the University of Toronto. His Master's thesis research, which was conducted under the supervision of the Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights, examined the cross-cultural utility of the UN Genocide Convention.

Howard Shulman is the Coordinator of The 519 Anti-Violence Program (AVP) at The 519 Church Street Community Centre. The AVP offers advocacy and support for individuals who have experienced hate related violence/harassment based upon sexual orientation or gender identification. Howard has facilitated workshops on homophobia to groups that include the Toronto Police Service, The Canadian Race Relations Foundation, The Ontario Human Rights Commission, and the University of Toronto.

Kelly Smith is a PhD Candidate at Queen's University in the Psychology Department working in Dr. Caroline Pukall's Sexual Health Research Lab. She is currently doing her Clinical Internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. Her research primarily focuses on the psychosocial and psychosexual aspects of female genital pain within the context of intimate relationships.

Miriam Smith is a Professor in the Department of Social Science, York University, Toronto. Among other works, she is the co-editor of *Critical Policy Studies* (with Michael Orsini, 2007), editor of *Group Politics and Social Movements in Canada* (2008), and the author of *Political Institutions and Lesbian and Gay Rights in the United States and Canada* (Routledge 2008). Her areas of interest are public policy, public law and LGBT politics in Canada and the U.S.

Danielle Sutherland is the Co-Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee for Project Acorn, a leadership retreat for youth from LGBTQ communities. She has been involved with the Ten Oaks Project since 2008, including two summers as a Camp Counsellor at Camp Ten Oaks. Danielle recently graduated from Carleton University with Highest Honours achieving her Bachelor's in Social Work and is currently working towards her Masters in Social Work at Ryerson University. While at Carleton University she wrote her honours essay on why Queerspawns need services entitled: "Queerspawns Need Space Too: Why Children with LGBTQ Parents Need Services, Support and an Identity". Danielle identifies as Queerspawn and has spent a large portion of her life advocating for more services and support for Queerspawns. Danielle did her fourth year Bachelor of Social Work placement with Around the Rainbow and will be doing her Masters of Social Work placement with the LGBTQ Parenting Network. She is also doing her Major Research Paper at Ryerson on Queerspawns and identity. Danielle has spent the last five years shaping her dream of creating space for Queerspawns. Danielle has grown up in Newmarket with her mother, her mother's partner, and her two sisters and her father lives close by with another sister. Danielle is looking forward to getting involved with the Toronto communities after being away for three years during her time in Ottawa at Carleton. Danielle's partner is currently living in Thunder Bay and they are looking forward to 2011 when she will be done school and they can live together in Toronto after two years of long distance.

Roberta K. Timothy, PhD, has worked for over 18 years utilizing an anti-oppression approach as a therapist, group facilitator, researcher, community organizer, professor, and clinical supervisor. She has created, practiced, and researched in the areas of intersectional violence, work culture and organizational change, Resistance Education, Creative Resistance, and Anti-Oppression Psychotherapy™ in a variety of environments both locally and globally. Roberta has been working as a consultant for the past 12 years. Her areas of expertise include: Human Rights, Adult Education, Community and International Development, Counselling Psychology, Women and Gender studies, and Political Science.

Mercedes D. Umana, PhD Candidate (C Psych), has over 15 years of experience facilitating personal, community, and organizational development and healing processes locally and transnationally as an educator, therapist, researcher and consultant. Mercedes utilizes Resistance Education and Creative Resistance as emancipatory anti-oppression methodologies to actualize change. Mercedes' areas of interest include anti-oppression skills building, conflict resolution, crisis management, individual and community trauma, organizational empowerment processes, and individual, community and organizational resistance/resiliency building.

Deidre (D-Lishus) Walton is an activist and facilitator doing social justice and anti-oppression work, with a particular focus on anti-racism, women's issues and the LGBTQ community. D-Lishus is also a performer who uses dubpoetical stylings to highlight the personal within the political, and give voice to experiences that underscore our common humanity. She combines these skills to deliver engaging, inclusive workshops that provide a safe space in which to explore ideas and express creativity.

Gerald Walton has been an activist for LGBT equity since the mid 1990s when he publicly opposed anti-gay efforts of religious-right organizations. As a former "ex-gay," he had become familiar with fundamentalist Christian anti-gay activism designed to exploit fear and perpetuate ignorance. Currently, he draws from his experiences as a former "ex-gay" to inform, educate about, and advocate for LGBT youth. He teaches in the Faculty of Education at Lakehead University.

Joan Wiley is the founder of TransParent Canada, a resource and peer support network for the parents and allies of transgender and transsexual children, which is affiliated with PFLAG. Parents across North America and abroad have contacted her and TransParent has received local and national media attention. Joan was a founding director and is a current partner in OUTniagara, the umbrella organization for the gender- and sexual-diverse community in Niagara and a close ally of Transgender Niagara. With the assistance of two partner organizations, TransParent this year helped to create the My Name Fund, a financial resource to assist Niagara's transgender individuals with the costs associated with applying for a legal name change in Ontario. Joan is a longtime member of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara where she helped to shepherd the congregation

through the Welcoming Congregation process. Joan sits on the Advisory Committee of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation in the Public Health Department of the Regional Municipality of Niagara. She was also a contributor to the guidebook Families in TRANSition, a resource guide published by Central Toronto Youth Services for the families of trans children.

At Brock University, where she is a full-time writer/editor in University Marketing and Communications, Joan is a volunteer director and workshop facilitator on the Positive Space Campaign Committee and a board member of Justice at Brock. She was part of a team that pulled together resources for a trans pamphlet that is friendly and relevant for gender-variant students, faculty and staff. Since 2005, she has spoken to more than 6,500 Brock students. Last year, Joan received a Women of Distinction Award from YWCA Niagara Region for working alongside the trans community. In 2007, she was one of three Canadians to receive the inaugural National Champion Against Homophobia Award from PFLAG Canada. In 2006, she was honoured to receive the award for Outstanding Individual Contribution to the Niagara Pride Community from OUTniagara. She's also received a Best Practices award from Brock University in 2009. Joan's strength comes from other "trans parents" and from individuals who identify as gender variant.

Crystal Young currently lives in Sudbury, Ontario with her 14-year-old daughter. She recently graduated from the psychology (honors) program where with the help of her thesis supervisor (Dr. Joël Dickinson) became interested with health issues relating to LGBT communities. Crystal presented a poster of her undergraduate thesis results at the 71st Canadian Psychological Association conference in Montreal (this past year) and is continuing her interests pertaining to the LGBT community while pursuing a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology.