

Disclosures

- No disclosures. I have no financial relationships with commercial entities producing healthcare-related products and/or services.



Objectives

- Understand importance of creating affirming clinical environments for 2SLGBTQ patients
- Describe four key, practical, actionable elements of affirming clinical environments.



Acknowledgements

Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Cowlitz bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla and many other tribes

Providers, staff, and tribal leadership in the PNW

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Indian Health Service –Rick Haverkate

Boxcar Assembly – Courtney Hermann and Kerribeth Elliott





**See me.
Stand with me.
I'm Native. I'm indigiqueer.**

To hear my story, text DOCUMENTARY to 97779

This campaign is supported with funds from the Indian Health Service and the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund.
Corn basket titled "Yissakishimom: Grain," created by artist Glen Nequatewa

NPAI-HB
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Specific aims:

- 1) Deliver culturally grounded resources for people who identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQ, their healthcare providers, and their allies.

- Posters
- Rack Cards
- Pamphlets

Key Terms

- **Sexual Orientation**
 - Refers to the gender(s) of the people someone is sexually attracted to.
- **Gender**
 - Refers to a person's internal sense of being male, female, both, neither, or something else.
- **Two Spirit**
 - Refers to an indigenous person who expresses their gender identity or spiritual identity in a traditional, non-Western way.

FOR PROVIDERS



"My family supports me. My healthcare provider should, too."

See me. Stand with me.

Lesbian • Gay • Bisexual
Transgender • Queer • Two Spirit

9 in 10 patients would disclose their sexual orientation and gender identity to healthcare providers if asked.*

We're ready to talk about identity. Ask us.

Ask how clients prefer to be identified—every client, every time.

Affirm the good things in your clients' lives by asking about their communities and successes.

Acknowledge the diverse Native concepts of gender and sexual orientation.

Advocate for clients who are Two Spirit or LGBTQ.

NPAIHB
Native Leadership for Indian Health
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*https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28437523;
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28235242

9 in 10 patients would disclose their sexual orientation and gender identity to healthcare providers if asked.*

Ask

- Ask clients how they prefer to be identified. Ask everyone. Ask every time.
- Develop a relationship to improve trust and offer better care.

Affirm

- Use preferred names and pronouns. All staff. Every visit.
- Ensure access to gender-neutral restrooms.

Acknowledge

- There is no universally correct concept of gender identity or sexual orientation.
- Different cultures define gender and sexual orientation in different ways.
- The word Two Spirit refers to a Native person, who expresses their gender identity or spiritual identity in indigenous, non-Western ways.

Advocate

- Train staff to treat all clients with affirmation and respect.
- Become certified as an LGBTQ-affirming provider: wpath.org/gei/certification
- Find and share resources:
 - ihs.gov/lgbt/health/twospirit
 - fenwayhealth.org
 - howardbrown.org

*https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28437523;
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Allie's Story



Allie is Native and queer. After they had a bad experience with a psychiatrist, they avoided seeking mental health and medical care for ten years. Finally, due to trouble concentrating at work and extreme anxiety, they decided to look for a therapist.

"I needed help, and I recognized that my need for help was greater than my fear of being judged," they say.

"I found a therapist who really got me. I could talk to him about anything. I brought up being queer. He didn't bat an eye. It was no problem. I was thinking about alternative sexualities. He was all for it.

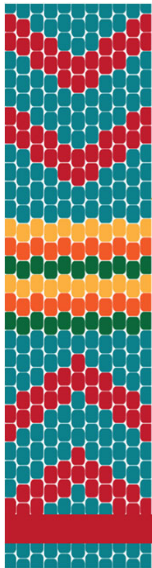
"I thought, Oh. He actually cares about my mental health. It doesn't matter to him—who I'm attracted to, my gender expression. He actually sees what I am doing. He sees me."

"He was very nonjudgmental. I felt safe.

"He changed the way I thought about myself. He changed the way I thought about my mental health. He changed the way I thought about health in general.

"I credit him with saving my life."

To hear the rest of Allie's story, text DOCUMENTARY to 97779.




Celebrating Our Magic:

Resources for American Indian/Alaska Native transgender and Two-Spirit youth, their relatives and families, and their healthcare providers

Specific aims:

- 1) Deliver culturally-grounded resources to **youth** exploring their gender identity and/or choosing to medically transition
- 2) Provide resources and support for **families**
- 3) Increase **health provider** awareness of aspects unique to AI/AN transgender and Two-Spirit youth



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HIV Care and Sexual Health Assessment for American Indian and Alaska Native Patients

Type: eLearning
Date: October 2018





www.npaihb.org/2SLGBTQ/#provider



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Resources

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28437523>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28235242>
- **LGBTQ+ Inclusive Sexual History:**
 - <https://www.mededportal.org/publication/10634/>