

TIES 2019 Schedule
October 19, 2019
University of Richmond

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** Denotes restricted attendance.

VIRGINIA TIES

TRANSGENDER INFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

~ *Plenary Panel* ~

Transgender Advocacy in Communities of Color

Panelists: Dee Curry, Justina Hall, Kayden Addato, Nathaniel Preston

We are proud to welcome these outstanding panelists for the first-ever TIES plenary panel. This plenary is an opportunity for everyone at TIES to gather together for a topic of importance.

Despite multiple barriers, transgender and non-binary people of color (TPOC) continue to build power and resilience within their communities and in greater society. Four advocates from across Virginia and Washington, D.C. will discuss the work they are doing locally to build a better world for transgender communities of color as well as discuss opportunities for collective action. We hope attendees will leave with new connections, insight on the state of trans advocacy in communities of color, and a commitment to work with others on issues affecting transgender people of color. There will be time for audience questions.

~ *Youth Corner* ~

Side by Side will host a Youth Corner for young people middle school-aged and up. This space will have games, coloring, and other engaging activities. It's a space for youth to hang out in-between sessions, meet other youth, and connect with resources. All transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse youth and their siblings are welcome to come by the TIES Youth Corner for any part or all of the day. Side by Side will have staff and volunteers in the Youth Corner all day and lunch will be provided. The Youth Corner is located on the first floor of the Carole Weinstein Center.

~ *Workshop Descriptions* ~

Morning Session 1 : 9:45-10:45

State Violence: A Queer and Trans Health Risk

Presenter: Luca Suede Connolly

This workshop is designed to unpack the nuances of violence the state poses against LGBTQIA+ people. After a brief history of state violence against LGBTQIA+ people, the facilitator breaks down research from affected populations and encourages discussion around courtroom bias, barriers to reporting, law enforcement violence, solitary confinement, incarceration, and sexual violence while incarcerated. This workshop also includes Richmond specific data and cultural analyses of relationships amongst LGBTQIA+ communities and law

enforcement, as well as local resources to support vulnerable people. This workshop is designed for service providers working directly with LGBTQIA+ folks, but is open to all.

Power to the People: Advocating for Trans Equality

Presenter: Carter Brown

Historically, we know that "the people" have the power to create change in society. As people of trans identities, knowing what our powers are as individuals enables our ability to better organize to collectively create social, economic, and political change. This session offers a basic overview of how to be an advocate and/or activist, and organizing for trans equality.

Physical Therapy: Why it matters

Presenter: Charles Dudley

This workshop is intended for transgender people and non-binary people of all genders. Here we will discuss how physical therapy can be an integral part of your social and medical transition. Physical therapy can be your ally when it comes to changes in sensation, carpal tunnel and scar management after surgery. We will also discuss typical aches and pains in the back, hips, neck and shoulders and how they could be linked to your transition.

Chest Surgery Show & Tell

Facilitators: Ted Heck

This is an opportunity for trans-masculine spectrum people to share their chest surgery experiences and outcomes with those who are interested in taking this step toward affirming their identity. "Panel members" will be volunteers from the audience. They will remove their shirts to show off their surgical results, and they will share information about who their surgeon was, cost of the surgery, type of procedure (double incision, keyhole, etc.) and other details in order to help others make informed decisions about their surgeries. Audience members will be able to view the surgical results and ask questions about panel members' experiences. Due to the nature of this workshop, it will be closed to anyone NOT on the trans-masculine spectrum.

Just Your Average, Ordinary, Everyday Trans*/Cis Couple Panel

Facilitators: Angela Callahan and Shawn McNulty

Couples navigating the sea of identities and normative influences that seldom make room for diverse gender coupling will present their successes and challenges in a facilitated conversation with audience participants. The panel is intended to provide first-person narrative to the broad and far-reaching joys and complications that come from living and loving together. Dynamics of race, culture, faith, parenting, and mental health will be explored. Questions welcomed! (OPEN to all)

TransACTION: Advocate and Ally Boot Camp

Facilitators: Amy Mello, Margaret Hughes & David Topping

Anti-trans discrimination is real, and you can stop it. Join us for a unique two-hour session designed to prepare you with the tools you need to advocate for transgender equality at home. You will leave with an action plan on how you can advocate for trans equality going into state-wide elections in November 2019 and the Virginia General Assembly session in January 2020.

We've got lots to share with you – from campaign basics to concrete strategies for how you can build power in your area. This is a rare opportunity to learn from national experts about the ins-and-outs of advocacy work, so come ready to hit the ground running. If you've been looking for a way to get more involved and advocate for the trans community – this is it! *The same two-hour long session will be repeated in the afternoon.

MTF/NB Gender Confirming Surgical Options

Presenter: Dr. Keelee MacPhee

This workshop provides an overview of surgery procedures for trans-feminine and non-binary people. This workshop is for anyone wanting to learn more about the surgical process as well as pre- and post-operative procedures. Topics covered will include vaginoplasty, facial feminization, breast augmentation, and body contouring. There will also be time for questions.

We're In This Together: Families In Transition

Facilitators: Shannon McKay & members of He She Ze and We

This workshop will provide a safe space for parents and other adult family members of transgender and/or non-binary young people to make connections, explore feelings, share experiences, and ask questions about how to support their loved one. This session will have a personal feel as participants will breakout into smaller discussion groups. *Please note that this is a closed workshop for adult family members of transgender individuals.

Morning Session 2 : 11:00-12:00

Non-Binary Inclusion in Trans Peer Support

Facilitators: Jon Clark and Anna Sullivan

In this workshop, longtime non-binary support group facilitators will lead a discussion on what they have learned from building their groups and what it takes to make peer support space welcoming and safer for nonbinary, genderqueer, and gender nonconforming people across all intersections. This presentation will start with the basics, then open the discussion up to attendees like a true peer support group. The workshop will finish with questions that were not covered in the discussion and make time for those whose voices weren't heard.

TRANScending Homelessness

Presenter: De Sube

Housing is one of the most vital needs all people share. However, many transgender people have faced discrimination when seeking housing. Such discrimination in addition to family rejection, mental illness, substance abuse and other risk factors leads to higher rates of homelessness in the transgender community. Many homeless shelters will not accept a transgender, gender nonconforming, or non-binary person, and if a trans person is actually accepted into a shelter, the facilities are not guaranteed to be trans-affirming. In this workshop,

we will discuss how transgender homelessness is being addressed in the Commonwealth by the Transgender Assistance Program of Virginia.

Ask a Trans Person

Facilitator: Thalia Hernandez

Are you an ally looking to learn more about the diversity of transgender experiences? Are you also interested in finding out how to get involved in advocating for transgender rights? Many people are still learning what it means to be trans, and only one in ten know they've met someone who is transgender. This "Ask a Trans person" panel discussion is the perfect place for allies looking for an open and welcoming environment to deepen their understanding of the trans community. Four transgender panelists will discuss their experiences and engage with the audience in dialogue about the role they can play to help support the transgender community. This session will have ample time for Q&A.

Revealing Selves

Facilitators: Keri Abrams and Circe Strauss

In this workshop, we will be discussing and revealing the various surgical procedures that are available to trans women and people on the transfeminine spectrum. We will also talk about the various surgeons that perform these procedures. This will be an intimate workshop where the presenters will disrobe and show their individual surgical outcomes while discussing which surgeon they went with and reasons why they chose who they did. Participants who have had surgeries are invited to join in and reveal their outcomes if they so desire. Due to the nature of this workshop, it will be closed to anyone NOT on the transfeminine spectrum.

Building Support and Connection Together

Facilitators: Angela Callahan and Shawn McNulty

A dialogue, facilitated by counselors, with partners living in Trans*/Cis couples. It can be hard to find ways to speak our truths and reflect to each other what we need from our relationships, and the dynamics of those needs shift for all sorts of reasons. From friendships, to kinship relationships, these issues tend to follow us, but processing struggles and strengths in our intimate relationships can be some of the most foundational and necessary work we do. This will be a group support session intended for individuals and couples with gender diverse relationships. (Open to individuals/couples)

FTM/NB Gender Confirming Surgical Options

Presenter: Dr. Keelee MacPhee

This workshop provides an overview of surgery procedures for trans-masculine and non-binary people. This workshop is for anyone wanting to learn more about the surgical process as well as pre- and post-operative procedures, including top surgery. There will also be time for questions.

Advocate for Your Trans Child in School

Facilitators: Ted Lewis and Shannon McKay

Parents, family, and caregivers are invaluable advocates for their LGBTQ+ children, specifically for transgender youth. This workshop will provide tangible ways that adults can advocate for

transgender youth in our school system. Facilitated by He She Ze and We and Side by Side leaders, the workshop will focus on key legal information, resources for advocating for your child, and how to make big impacts in your community. Join us for an interactive workshop and discussion.

Afternoon Session 1 : 1:45-2:45

Trans Voting Rights 101

Presenter: Jennifer Safstrom

Having ID that doesn't match your gender identity or presentation should not affect your right to vote. But with increasingly strict voter ID laws, trans people may face barriers—both because of difficulties in obtaining an ID that's accepted, or because they might run into bias or misunderstandings of the law when it comes to their gender. This workshop will provide participants with an overview of key issues affecting the voting rights of Virginians, with a focus on the unique challenges faced by transgender voters in the voting process, and tips for advocating for the needs of trans voters across Virginia. We will leave time at the end for questions.

Respectfully United – Allyship without Tokenism

Presenter: Carter Brown

As allies of trans, gender nonconforming, and non-binary people of color, efforts in building diversity and inclusion can sometimes be a sensitive feat. With good intent, the outcome of these efforts are often tokenizing, possibly creating more damage to those of who you wish to show support. Let's engage in deeper conversation about what tokenism looks like for Black trans/gnc/nb people, and allow us to offer more insight and suggestions on how to create truly welcoming and inclusive spaces.

Responding to Religion

Facilitators: Michelle Black and Ann Zweckbronner

Every family is different. For families with deeply rooted religious traditions, it can be challenging to navigate conversations around trans identity and faith. This round table discussion will be led by two Christian parents who have transgender children, and they will share their own families' unique journeys and open up the floor to questions from participants. Both co-facilitators are white and recognize that their personal stories are not representative of other faith traditions or racial experiences, and encourage individuals and families from other backgrounds to participate in this open dialogue.

Transgender People of Color Roundtable

Facilitator: Jay Corprew

This will be an interactive discussion for all trans, gender diverse, and gender-questioning individuals who identify as people of color. Together, we will share experiences and information related to our identities as transgender people of color. This is a space to learn from each other, address challenges unique to trans people of color, and connect with our community.

Packing, STPs, Harnesses, and Prosthetics

Presenter: Kelly Royster

This workshop will describe the ins and outs of different ways of packing, discuss options for the use of harnesses and prosthetics, and provide resources on how they can be a part of your transition. This session is intended for trans men and trans-masculine folks who are interested in learning more about packing, STP (stand to pee) devices, harnesses, and other prosthetics. There will be time for participants to share their own experiences and ask questions.

TransACTION: Advocate and Ally Boot Camp

Facilitators: Amy Mello, Margaret Hughes & David Topping

Anti-trans discrimination is real, and you can stop it. Join us for a unique two-hour session designed to prepare you with the tools you need to advocate for transgender equality at home. You will leave with an action plan on how you can advocate for trans equality going into state-wide elections in November 2019 and the Virginia General Assembly session in January 2020. We've got lots to share with you – from campaign basics to concrete strategies for how you can build power in your area. This is a rare opportunity to learn from national experts about the ins-and-outs of advocacy work, so come ready to hit the ground running. If you've been looking for a way to get more involved and advocate for the trans community – this is it! This two-hour long session will be repeated in the afternoon. *This two-hour long session is a repeat of the training provided in the morning.

Insurance Coverage for Transgender-related Healthcare

Presenter: Noah Lewis

The law protects transgender and nonbinary people's right to access healthcare under public and private health insurance plans. But people still go without much-needed care because health plans commonly exclude or deny coverage for transgender-related healthcare. Advancing our community's health means learning how to understand insurance coverage, how to apply for coverage and how to challenge denials. Learn skills that you can use yourself and take back to your community and be part of advancing trans health equality.

Medical Options for Youth

Facilitator: Lisa Griffin

Sorting through available information and disinformation about medical treatment for trans and non-binary youth can be scary and overwhelming for parents. This session will provide decision-making guidance regarding puberty blockers and hormones, based on established best practices as well as recent research. A Q&A session will follow.

Afternoon Session 2 : 3:00-4:00

Talk Saves Lives

Presenters: Kathe Goller and Casper Sturm

This is an introduction to LGBTQ+ suicide prevention. This presentation will cover what we know about this leading cause of death, the most up-to-date research on prevention, and what we can all do to fight suicide. Participants will learn the common risk factors for suicide in LGBTQ+ populations, how to spot the warning signs in others, and how to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and those in our community safe.

Transgender Vocal Training: A Gender Affirming Approach

Presenter: Kevin Dorman

During this workshop, we will discuss the basics of transgender vocal training. This area of transition-related healthcare is rarely discussed but an incredibly important part of some people's transition. The session will outline who vocal training can benefit, optional areas to target, the basic timeline of training, and the pros and cons of receiving this service online. There will be time to answer questions from the audience.

Change Your School: Building a Vibrant GSA

Facilitators: Emma Yackso and Helen V. Mays

Want to learn how to start a Gender and Sexuality Alliance, or afterschool LGBTQ+ club in your school? Tried to start one, but hit some roadblocks? Already have a GSA, and want to make it better? Come learn from leaders at Side by Side, an LGBTQ+ youth center based in Richmond, about strategies, advocacy, and the many different visions a GSA can have. We can help you troubleshoot any obstacles at your school, and create a plan for your GSA to be the safe, vibrant, supportive space you want.

Trans-masculine Roundtable

Facilitators: Kelly Royster and Caden Haney

This round-table discussion is intended for trans and gender diverse individuals who have a masculine gender identity or expression. Together, we will share experiences and information related to our social, legal, and/or medical transition. This is a space to learn from each other, address challenges unique to trans-masculine individuals, and connect with our larger community.

Reunión de Hispanoparlantes Transgénero

Presenter: Xemi Tapepechul

Esta reunion de Hispanoparlantes Transgenero sera un espacio de escape del mundo Anglosaxon. Hablaremos de temas que afecta a nuestra comunidad, centrando a lxs Hispanoparlantes monolinguales, y Hispanoparlantes Negrxs, Indigena, y de Color. Temas incluyen: migracion, activismo, arte, salud Transgenero, y mas.

This caucus of Spanish-speaking Transgender people is an escape from the Anglo-Saxon world. We will talk about topics that affect our community, centering monolingual Spanish speakers,

and Black, Native American Spanish-speakers of Color. Topics include: migration, activism, art, Trans health, and more.

Trans-feminine Roundtable

Facilitator: De Sube

This round-table discussion is intended for trans and gender diverse individuals who have a feminine gender identity or expression. Together, we will share experiences and information related to our social, legal, and/or medical transition. This is a space to learn from each other, address challenges unique to trans-feminine individuals, and connect with our larger community.

It Takes Time: Navigating Family Dynamics

Facilitators: Lisa Griffin and Shannon McKay

Transition is a complex journey undertaken by everyone in the family, including not only the trans child and parents, but also extended family members. For example, what happens when a sibling is asked intrusive questions at school? When a grandparent is not on board? When an aunt or uncle says the cousins are “too young to understand”? Or, what happens when parents don’t agree with one another about how to best support their child? This session will address these questions and more about complex family dynamics.

Afternoon Session 3 : 4:15-5:15

POC-Inclusion in LGBT Groups: Moving to Action

Presenter: Sam Burns

This workshop is intended to help members and leadership of LGBT organizations around Virginia, particularly those that serve the transgender community, to assess the structure of their organization and come out with tangible steps to move from being a passive non-racist organization towards an active anti-racist organization. We will discuss the importance of POC inclusion and share best practices on building sustainable anti-racism into our organizations. Knowing that guilt can sometimes paralyze white leaders in the LGBT community, we will create an environment of growth and acceptance, rather than judgement.

Debrief Session for People of Color

Facilitator: Thalia Hernandez

The purpose of this workshop is to create an intentional, safe space for TIES attendees who identify as people of color to come together and discuss their experience at TIES conferences past and present as well as what they’d like to see moving forward from a proposed TIES Inclusivity Committee. A representative from the TIES planning team will introduce the session and bring up some points to start off the conversation. After this, the representative will leave if the attendees prefer to facilitate the discussion among themselves. At the end of the discussion, the representative will rejoin the conversation to clarify what participants feel comfortable sharing out from the session to the greater TIES planning team.

Strategies for Reducing Intimate Partner Violence

Presenter: Ames Simmons

Internalized transphobia and criminalized identities for transgender and non-binary people who are living with HIV, using syringes, and/or trading sex make us more vulnerable to power and control tactics. Those tactics create increased risk of intimate partner violence for TGNB people. This interactive, tools-focused workshop aims to present strategies that can reduce intimate partner violence for transgender and non-binary people. By the end of the workshop, you will be able to recognize power and control tactics that are unique for TGNB people, describe decriminalization strategies to reduce violence for TGNB people, and define body-positive thoughts to enable resilience.

Non-Binary Roundtable

Facilitators: Justina Hall and Levi Walter

This round-table discussion is intended for anyone who identifies outside the gender binary of male or female to share experience and information related to their social, legal, and/or medical transition. Attendees can address challenges unique to non-binary individuals, learn from one another, and connect with a larger community. Please note this is a closed session or those who identify outside of the gender binary.

It's Never Too Late

Presenter: Keri Abrams

This workshop aims to counter the misconception that transitioning later in life is not possible or not as fulfilling. Age is not a major block to transitioning, so enjoy being "YOU" no matter what your age may be! We will discuss considerations and perspectives on transitioning later in life, then open up the conversation to sharing audience experiences. This workshop is intended for people who have transitioned, are considering transition, or are currently transitioning later in life, but all are welcome to attend and learn more.

Sexy Time

Presenter: Zain Welsh

We'll be breaking the taboos of sex & sex toys for transgender individuals, and all identities that we take as lovers. We'll be learning about the sex toys developed with transgender anatomy in mind, as well as opening up the discussion to exploring and trying new things in the bedroom, and outside of it as well. This is a safe space to talk about foreplay, fetishes, kinks, and so much more. This session is intended for those 18 years of age and older due to discussions and photos of sexually explicit content.

Being Trans in the Age of Trump

Facilitator: Dee Curry

Panelists: Rhonda Steward, Eleadah Clack, Emmelia Talarico, Jazzmen Sutherlyn, and Tillman White

Would you like to know firsthand how current policies are impacting the trans and gender nonconforming community? Come and join the conversation with several advocates discussing

their response to the politics of fear and hatred heightened by Trump's administration, their hopes for 2020, and so much more.

Now What? Next Steps

Facilitators: Lisa Griffin and Shannon McKay

After a full day of learning and connecting with other families at TIES, let's talk about what inspired us. How we can move forward and support one another and our loved ones as a united community? What are the next steps?