

Reproductive Health and the LGBTQIA Community

The LGBTQIA community is as diverse as the country, and includes members of all races, ethnicities, religions and socioeconomic status, and yet the health needs of this community are frequently overlooked, often with dire consequences. While Americans at-large all too frequently experience multiple healthcare challenges, LGBTQIA people face significant additional health risks. They experience worse overall health status than the general population, less access to health care services, higher rates of smoking, alcohol and substance abuse, greater risk for mental health illness including depression, anxiety and suicide, and an increased risk of some cancers.



Like other at-risk and disadvantaged populations, their health disparities result in large part from stigma, lack of awareness, discrimination and insensitivity to their unique needs. LGBTQIA people's health is profoundly affected by barriers to equitable care, including providers refusing their care, discriminatory policies and practices, not being included in health education initiatives, having to remain closeted in the healthcare setting, and delayed or substandard care. For LGBTQIA people of color this discrimination and the resulting inequities and health disparities are even more pronounced. These profoundly painful experiences have led to deep distrust of the health care system, resulting in dire consequences for the health of LGBTQIA people. Trauma at the hands of healthcare providers, discrimination and fear can and do stand in the way of obtaining vitally needed services and of achieving good health.

LGBTQIA people face especially severe discrimination with sexual and reproductive health. Transgender people frequently report dismissive treatment, verbal and physical abuse, denial of care and having health complaints and symptoms dangerously ignored. They experience difficulty with requesting and receiving care, including breast and cervical cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, fertility care, contraception and pregnancy care, and treatment after rape and sexual assault. Access to compassionate and appropriate care can determine whether people are able to have families.

In a fifth installment of our **Equity, Race and Access to Midwifery** webinar series, NACPM is helping to bring much-needed attention about the

health and reproductive needs of LGBTQIA people to the community of midwives. While this is an **introductory level webinar**, it will provide useful information for midwives striving to create welcoming and culturally-sensitive practices to provide necessary services to the LGBTQIA community. And **Jaqxun Darlin** and **Jamarah Amani** will teach us about an important truth: that making our practices welcoming to LGBTQIA people benefits all people having babies.

Gender, Sexuality, and Inclusion of All Families in Midwifery Practice

Join **Jaqxun Darlin, CPM, LDM** and **Jamarah Amani, LM**, tomorrow, **Wednesday, November 22 from 1:30 - 3 pm ET** for this introductory level workshop. We will explore how providing client-centered care for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and other queer spectrum clients improves and enhances the care we can provide for all families seeking midwifery care. LGBTQIA individuals face many obstacles to healthcare access including a lack of knowledgeable care providers, other people's lack of awareness of identity issues, and outright prejudice and discrimination. This leads to underutilization of healthcare and contributes to health disparities and poor outcomes, especially by individuals with intersecting marginalized identities.

As midwives and birth workers, we are in a unique position to offer culturally sensitive care to this client population, while making simple changes that benefit all families we care for, regardless of identity. Information presented in this workshop is practical and evidence based, and we will make sure you walk away with resources and tools that will help you up your individualized care game!



Jaqxun Darlin, CPM, LDM is a midwife and educator in Portland, Oregon, at Every Body Midwifery & Health and midwife at the Canyon Medical Center, and is the Director of Professional Development for the Midwives Alliance of North America. Jaqxun has over 15 years of experience providing direct health care to queer and transgender people and educational resources to health care providers and community members.

Jamarah Amani, LM believes in the power of birth and that every baby has a human right to be breastfed/chestfed. Her mission is to do her part to build a movement for Birth Justice locally, nationally and globally. A community organizer from the age of sixteen, Jamarah has worked with several organizations across the United States and in Africa on various public health issues, including HIV prevention, infant mortality risk reduction, access to emergency contraception and access to midwifery care. She is director of Southern Birth Justice Network, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working to end shackling of incarcerated women who labor and birth in chains.



[Register Now](#)

Resources on LGBTQIA Health for Providers

There is a growing body of resources on the health of LGBTQIA people available to providers and advocates. Below is a small sampling.

Elephant Circle Blog on [Gender Inclusive Language Experiment](#)

National LGBTQ Task Force [Toolkit for Advocates](#)

Institute of Medicine report on LGBT health issues: *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*

ACNM Position Statement on *Transgender/Transsexual/Gender Variant Health Care*

ACOG Committee Opinion on *Health Care for Transgender Individuals*

NACPM Webinar: Midwifery Charting: Research Findings to Inform Practice



Courtney Everson

Join us on **Monday, December 4, 2017** from 1:30 - 3:00 pm ET for a webinar with **Courtney Everson, PhD** and **Gina Gerboth, MPH, RM, CPM, IBCLC**.

Accurate charting is a critical midwifery skill. This webinar is based on lessons learned during the 4.0 MANA Stats Validation project in conjunction with emerging best

practices in charting for health professionals. We will cover recommendations, skills, and tools that will help midwives to improve charting efficiency, clarity, and consistency.

Resulting improvements in charting can help support validation projects for perinatal data registries, protect midwives and clients during courses of care, and advance midwifery professionalism and interprofessional relationships.



Gina Gerboth

[Register Here](#)

NACPM Virtual Annual Meeting
Friday, December 15, 2017, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, ET

The political landscape for CPMs is evolving, momentum for state licensure is growing, and **NACPM is stepping up** with a growing body of resources for professional development, advocacy and clinical support for you and your colleagues.

Meet your Board of Directors and staff and hear about NACPM's newly-released **Briefing Papers** and the vision for the future of the profession they describe. Hear how NACPM's growing **Chapters** project is generating dynamic new relationships among the midwives in states. Learn more about the upcoming **2018 CPM Symposium** coming next May and **how you can participate** in the planning of this unique event for CPMs and stakeholders. Want to know how NACPM is funding this important work? We are so pleased that you'll be joining us!

[Register Here](#)



CPM Symposium

Your opportunity to weigh in on the critical issues facing childbearing people and midwives is coming soon. Watch your email this next month for a survey designed by the Symposium Program Team to capture your thoughts about priority topics and speakers. The symposium is not like your typical meeting or conference. It's an opportunity to gather the CPM community and other maternity care stakeholders to engage in a process that includes presentations, small group activities, and large group visioning - in short, to plan together for the future of the profession! Get in on the ground floor: your engagement with the CPM Symposium 2018 will begin with this survey which will inform the next steps of the planning. Let your voice be heard and help shape this important event.

SAVE THE DATE! CPM SYMPOSIUM 2018!
May 11-13, 2018
Potomac, Maryland

Join the conversation about the urgent needs of childbearing people in the U.S. and how CPMs can grow and change to better serve more families. We will hear from families from a broad range of demographics and from public health researchers regarding what most concerns them about quality of care available today. We will examine the disproportionate burden of infant and maternal mortality in communities of color, the challenges we face as obstetric workforce shortages worsen, and more.

NACPM

*The future begins with
the way we are born*

Join NACPM Today!

STAY CONNECTED



National Association of Certified Professional Midwives, P.O.Box 340, Keene, NH 03431

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