Agency staff may want to continue the discussion about the intersections of transgender, disability and trauma. The May 23, 2013 FORGE webinar contained an interview of Joe. These questions may help bring greater understanding to working with transgender survivors who also live with disability. Choose a few questions that feel most relevant (or challenging) to you.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Joe defined “codependence” as “Not listening to or trusting my own voice or sense of things.” What do you think of this definition?

2. Joe said his most dangerous “pot” was the trauma pot, because when it gets out of control, that’s when he can get hurt or hurt himself. Does it surprise you that he thinks the trauma “pot” is more dangerous than his trans or disability pots?

3. Do you ever feel overwhelmed by “how much is on your client’s plate?” How have you reacted? Is there a different way that you would like to react in the future?

4. To what extent, if at all, do you agree with the idea that was stated in the interview that people just need to be listened to and heard?

5. Joe said he delayed his gender transition for 10 years because his therapist said his trans identity was the result of his not having resolved enough of his sexual trauma history. He further noted that this viewpoint “risked his life” because it increased his depression that his 8 to 9 years’ of trauma work wasn’t enough to resolve his transness. How common do you think this therapist’s belief might be?

6. Did it surprise you to hear that a psychiatrist at a gay and lesbian center repeatedly misgendered Joe in front of his trainees, even though Joe corrected him five different times? Why or why not?

7. Joe said it was really helpful to him to have his partner in the room when he is working with a therapist or advocate. What is your policy or inclination about inviting partners in? Do you think people who are trans and/or have disabilities may be different on this point than those who are not trans and do not have disabilities?

8. Joe said doing something that he “connected with” or had meaning for him improved his physical health as well as his mental health. Do you think this might be true for other survivors? If so, how do you foster this?

9. Joe links helping a survivor recognize their strengths with empowering them. Would this be your definition of “empowerment”? Why or why not?