Trans-specific barriers to accessing health care

Welcome & Housekeeping
- Take care of yourself
- Power Points
- Archived Recording
- Interacting

Navigation tool: Questions

Navigation tool: Raise Hands

Navigation tool: Poll

What we can offer you
- Training and technical assistance
  - 1-on-1 support
  - Webinars
  - Training
  - Publications
- Support for transgender survivors
  - Listservs
  - Referrals
  - Writing to Heal
  - Espavo Project
This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K121 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Thank you

OVW

Agenda

- Framing the issue
- Affordable Care Act
- Hoops and holes
- Higher risk concerns for trans people
- Health care for trans survivors
- What can you do

"Fundamentally, the goal of trans health work is to achieve health equity for trans communities -- and health equity is nothing less than justice."

Income and unemployment

- 4x more likely to have annual income of <$10,000/year
- 2x the rate of unemployment

Lack of health care

- 19 – 64% do not have insurance

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Affordable Care Act & Insurance

ACA: The good news

- More trans* people should be insured
- Pre-existing conditions are covered

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- Anti-trans discrimination is prohibited
Trans-specific barriers: Health care
November 21, 2013

ACA: Not so good news

- Name and gender must match Social Security
- Potentially unwanted disclosure & increased risk
- Discrimination (potential)
- Cultural competency training (not required)

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Trans-exclusions still exist
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Insurance coverage is rapidly changing

Trans-inclusive mandatory coverage

- State Mandated trans-inclusive coverage
  - California
  - Colorado
  - Oregon
  - Vermont
  - District of Columbia

Fortune 500 leads the way

- Human Right's Campaign's Corporate Equality Index 2013
  - 42% = trans-inclusive coverage
    - short-term leave
    - mental health coverage
    - hormone therapy
    - medical visits to monitor hormone therapy
    - surgical procedures

Where are trans people accessing health care?

- Mainstream providers / doctor’s office
- Emergency rooms
- Free and low-cost clinics
- LGBT community health clinics
- Veterans Administration/hospitals
- Street / at home

Hoops and Holes
Poll #1

- Do you need to see a psychotherapist prior to your physician prescribing a necessary medication?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

“Gatekeeping”

1. WPATH standards of care
2. Informed Consent
3. Primary care providers informal informed consent

Trans exclusions

HRC Blog

Pre-existing vs. trans exclusions

"A few years ago, when my doctor helpfully changed my sex from female to male on their records, my insurer reacted by denying 100 percent of benefits until we finally caved and pretended it was a mistake." ~ Scout
Unsupervised hormone use

- 23 - 74% have accessed hormones through non-medical providers

Silicone

- 13 - 47% have injected silicone
- Widespread among transwomen of color

Suicidal thoughts/actions

- > 65% have considered suicide
- 41% or more have attempted suicide

Alcohol and drugs

- 2 – 68% HIV positive
  (highly sub-population specific)

Tobacco

- 45 - 74% use tobacco

HIV
Health care for trans survivors

Cost and importance
- SA/DV survivors need higher levels of care
- Care is critical to healing
- Trans survivors may be unable to access care

Poll #3
- Does your insurance cover screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

Transman and GYN exams
- Buck Angel – PSA

Urgent / immediate care
- Longer term care
Poll #4

- When you go to a health care provider, do you think about if you will be sexually or physically assaulted at their office?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

Quote

- "One assault was in an Emergency Room at a hospital, by a female doctor who I believe was angered by my appearance (I looked male and my hospital bracelet/chart said 'female')."

Incident

- Chastised for not "warning" a SANE nurse

Unable to access care

- Denied care: 19%
- Postponed - discrimination: 28%
- Postponed - cost: 48%
There is hope!

Things are improving

- Professional organization positions
- Policies and Protocols
- Affordable Care Act
- Health and Human Services

What you can do?

- Connect with your local trans resources

What can you do?

- Honor your client’s fears and concerns

Respect.

What can you do?

- Look for alternative care options
What can you do?

- Refer resistant and reluctant providers to
  - pro-trans statements by their professional organization
  - Transgender health care protocols

What you can do?

- Advocate

Questions?

Resources

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Thank you!