People all over the globe celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month in June. The LGBTQ+ rights movement has made tremendous strides over the past few decades and much of the progress in visibility is in part to pride events that have taken place around the world. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the way we gather, we can still celebrate through the various events and webinars in this newsletter, as well as by enjoying the wonderful submissions from our Veterans and staff!

Check out VA’s Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health Dr. Stone’s LGBTQ Pride Month video and visit the Library of Congress website to learn more about the history behind Pride Month.

APPLYING FOR DISCHARGE UPGRADE

Veterans are able to apply for a discharge upgrade if they show that their discharge was connected to their sexual orientation! Go to https://www.va.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions to learn more and apply.

Questions or Feedback? Please Email: V21HONLGBTCareCoordination@va.gov
Celebrate VA Virtual Pride 2021: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) joins the Nation in observing Pride Month in June. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and other identities (LGBT+) community is an essential and expanding segment of our workforce diversity and is committed to workplace inclusion in accordance with the annual Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion, No FEAR and Whistleblower Rights and Protection Policy Statement and associated VA Directives.

VA demonstrates this pledge toward diversity, equity and inclusion by its efforts to recognize and employ standards that exemplify these principles. These leading standards were further fortified by President Biden’s Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation. In response to this Executive Order, VA Secretary McDonough distributed a message to all employees outlining the Department’s plan and execution strategy regarding the promotion of gender diversity and sexual orientation inclusivity.

VA PRIDE EVENTS

VA will host its first virtual Pride Month which will feature a variety of virtual activities throughout the month of June. This unprecedented occasion, is an undertaking that will enlighten, educate and alleviate many misconceptions about the LGBT community and the allies who support them. The first event will be held on June 1st and continue throughout the month with a total of 27 events. Some programs will be presented live on Microsoft TEAMS, while others have been pre-recorded. Attached is a calendar of events with corresponding TMS Registration links and MS Teams access information. Join us online as we celebrate together, United for Equality, in this groundbreaking event. Celebrate VA Virtual Pride 2021 - Links to events (sharepoint.com)
VA Pacific Islands Health Care System LGBTQ Pride presents

A JOURNEY TO YOURSELF

JUNE 28, 12-1:30PM HST

Please join us for a panel event to celebrate LGBTQ Veterans and VA Staff as they share about themselves and their journey.

Register using QR code or visiting https://bit.ly/3tSY8ed
VAPIHCS LGBTQ+ Workgroup Presents:

VAPIHCS LGBTQ+ Employee Mixer

A virtual mixer for all VAPIHCS LGBTQ+ identified employees

When and Where:
Wednesday
June 16th, 12-1PM
Online via WebEx

For more information or for an email invite:
Email Dr. Lisa Kau at Lisa.Kau@va.gov

Webex Meeting Number/Access Code: 199 958 0506
Password: PAIEE8EG5’2
We are happy to announce our 2021 theme is Rise & Pride! Join us at the County Government Center parking lot for a drive through pride event! Pick up goody bags from local community groups and businesses, see fabulous drag queens and order delicious food from local vendors all from the comfort of your vehicle. We want to see your pride spirit so decorate your vehicle or masks to be entered to win fun prizes! You can also pick up your amazing 2021 Pride t-shirt designed by the supremely talented Adare. To inquire about volunteering or vending please click on the “Forms and Applications” button on the main page. Can’t wait to see you, Big Island!
During the month of June fly your rainbow colors in the Honolulu Pride Ride across the streets, bike lanes and pathways of Oahu or anywhere in Hawaii (or around the world).

Choose your own routes and distances; ride solo or in single household or small groups. There will also be a series of hosted group rides. Registration for this new fundraising event will open soon. The proceeds help to underwrite Honolulu Pride in October.

Be creative and fabulous, and show what #HNLPRideRide means to you! We’re celebrating freedom, love and the fact that we’re still here. We’ll be partnering with Biki, offering a chance to try Honolulu’s bikeshare (or enjoy it more).

Together, we’ll showcase Hawaii as a fun and welcoming place for LGBTQ+, our friends, families and allies, and promote cycling as a safe and healthy activity for our community.

For more information or to share your idea for a hosted group ride, please email: info@hawaiilgbtlegacy.com
This year's event is open to the public and free to attend! Explore the ways in which we are advancing LGBTQ+ community-engaged research. Register at https://whova.com/portal/registration/
PRIDE LIVES HERE

Pride is alive wherever there are champions of equality. Commemorate and celebrate with us at
HRC.org/Pride

https://www.hrc.org/campaigns/celebrate-pride-with-us

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BEND TOWARD JUSTICE

YOGIS FOR EQUALITY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAv1HAib1aM
Our stories as LGBTQ people are beautiful, celebratory, dynamic, sometimes heartbreaking, but always worthy of attention. This variety of work celebrate the diversity, joy, resilience, and strength of the LGBTQ community. Grab our recommended reads and immerse yourself in our community’s stories in the comfort of your own home!

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR PRIDE SEASON**

Turn up the volume and jam out to these Spotify playlists

Shea Diamond’s playlist

DJ Nico’s playlist

Betty Who’s playlist
UNITED IN EQUALITY

VA PIHCS LGBTQ+ PRIDE

TO CONTACT THE LGBTQ+ WORKGROUP
EMAIL: V21HONLGBTOUTREACH@VA.GOV
SHOW YOUR PRIDE!

I celebrate PRIDE because dignity & respect are fundamental rights for everyone!

I celebrate PRIDE because I value everyone's humanity.

I celebrate PRIDE to honor those who advocated for all.

I celebrate PRIDE for those who don't have privilege to.

I celebrate PRIDE because America needs to keep growing forward.

I celebrate PRIDE because it's empowering.
Art by LGBTQ+ Veterans

By Debra Smith (she/her/hers)
Pride is being comfortable in my own skin.
Acknowledging who we are and what we stand for...
We’ve always been here... from the past, present and future.
-Pomai (she/her/hers)
Videos and Photography
by Cash Court (he/him/his)

Two self portraits, one when I was in the military and one from the pandemic

Transgender Veterans/Soldiers Memorial Day:
https://youtu.be/SHUbBwrYfRY

My poem, Edible:
https://youtu.be/qYpgScX1we4
I'm writing about recent events in my journal, which I don't keep regularly, but I feel like recent events were significant enough to record. Maybe writing this down will help me process my feelings so that I don't have to talk to anyone about how I've been feeling. It doesn't occur to me that the things I'm writing will, in about 5 years, serve as evidence that my feelings are not fake, that I'm not rewriting my own past, and that I've always felt this way. As I'm closing out the journal entry, I write the words "I'm not a man and I don't want to be." The significance of this is lost on me. I never understood what it meant to be a man. I always told myself that I didn't feel like a man because I wasn't good enough. I wasn't strong enough, or confident enough to call myself a man. I was broken.

"And it's really really painful that they completely fail to understand what I am. I am alone."

This was the closest that I'd ever come to accepting myself, but it hurt so much that I didn't think I'd survive if I got any closer. Since coming out in 2020 I sometimes wonder if I was right. The pain and fear have been intense. I can't say for sure that I'd still be around if I had let myself understand what I was going through at that time.

I joined the Navy at 21 because I had already given up on finding any purpose or satisfaction in life. I had a lot of debt and no ambition, so I thought that the least I could do was live for someone else for a while and end things with a clean slate, so that I wouldn't be a burden on anyone. The conformity, conservatism, and masculinity all chafed terribly, but I expected them, so I endured it. I tried to make friends and socialize when I had the energy, which was not very difficult. I always put a lot of effort into making other people comfortable around me, so it's not surprising that I was reasonably well-liked.

In 2015 I was 24 years old. I had gone out drinking with some "buddies," as I would occasionally do. We ended up joining a table of older women, probably in their 30's, and we found out they were married. Of course we should have called it a night at that, but we were all enjoying ourselves, so we continued spending time together. Despite being likeable and reasonably attractive I was so uncomfortable acting out the role of a man that I had never been in a relationship at all at this point in my life. Even if I could get myself to ask someone out, I couldn't hide my disdain for how they must see me. I would find myself almost wishing to be rejected, so of course I always was. This night was different. I knew that these women were married, so I ruled out the possibility of dating or sex and didn't worry about being seen as a man. We were all just lonely people having a good time together. I was talking with this one woman and there was something different about her. Or was there something different about me? I felt like she saw me. For the first time in my life I think someone saw who I actually was through my eyes and she wasn't disgusted. She said I was beautiful, and she could feel how sad and lonely I was. She had ended up giving me her number, and I was hoping to talk to her later about what it was she might have seen, to get to know myself better, and maybe become friends. On the ride back to the barracks, one of the guys mentioned that he saw her give me her number. He warned that I shouldn't get involved with a married woman, and how this whole night shouldn't have happened. The others agreed. They said I should delete her number. I agreed that this whole night was a mistake and told them that I would delete it. They didn't believe me. I should delete it right now. I protested, but they took my phone from me and erased the first genuine connection I had made with a stranger.

I never understood the way men think. I doubt I ever will. But at least now I know that it's not because I'm broken. I'm not a man. And I don't want to be.
I came across a topic that really captured my mind
A topic that makes you pause
Visualize
Attempt to wrap your mind around what someone else must have gone through
Living in the shadows
Fear of self-acceptance
Sleepless nights
Time away from those that mean most
Can you place yourself in their shoes
Are you willing to take a moment to see it the way they do
War time lullabies
Secrets they’ve kept locked inside
Are you willing to share the pain they’ve been through
Selfless desire to serve
Holding the weight of the world
All done without us knowing who they really are
Each person working as one
Blended lines
She Her Hers
He Him His
They Them Theirs
Equal sacrifice
Equal bravery
Equal courage
Equal integrity
Why is it important to celebrate PRIDE at the VA
Because EVERY Veteran Sacrificed and Served one in the same
WEBINARS FOR PROVIDERS

Telehealth and PrEP/HIV Outcomes
Friday, June 11th 2021, 7am-9am HST
Participants of this training will learn about the current research in telehealth and PrEP/HIV care outcomes, including PrEP @ Home and considerations for the administration and management of PrEP during COVID-19. Additionally, training participants will explore the topic of PrEP program implementation in a health center setting, including best practices for systems of care and improving adherence.
Register at: Webinar Registration - Zoom

Working With Older Veterans Who Are LGBT
Wednesday, June 23rd 2021, 9am HST
The purpose of this webinar is to review the unique needs of older LGBT Veterans. Special attention will be paid to how a trauma-informed approach can positively impact services for this Veteran population.
Access Links: Non-VA employees click here. VA employees click here.

Minority Stress & Health of Transgender People
Monday, June 28th 2021, 7am HST
The investigators will be presenting a webinar on the Minority Stress and Health of Transgender People: Results from NIH-funded TransPop Survey. This survey is one of the first-ever attempts to collect a nationally representative sample of transgender people in the United States and four researchers will present data from this study (www.transpop.org). Dr. Ilan Meyer will discuss the original recruitment methods used for this study and the accomplishments as well as challenges of using this approach to identify and collect information from transgender people. Dr. Sari Reisner will describe the sample in terms of gender and sexual orientation identities and discuss implications of the diversity of identities for research on transgender people. Dr. Jody Herman will describe select findings on the prevalence of minority stressors, including victimization and discrimination and events that occurred in childhood as well as more recently in the person’s life. Dr. Tonia Poteat will describe findings on cardiovascular disease (CVD) and reporting increased odds of CVD related to minority stressors.

In order to participate in this webinar, attendees will need to register. This event is free and open to the public! To learn more about the webinar series and to register, please visit the website: https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/sgmro/scientific-webinar-series.
Understanding and Facilitating Trauma Recovery Among Sexual Minority Women Veterans

Women’s Mental Health Monthly Clinical Training Thursday June 10th, 9-10am HST
Presented by: Colleen Sloan, PhD

To attend on the day of the presentation click on this link to the Adobe Connect session: http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/wvmh/.

LGBTQ+ Cessation: Strategies for Engagement and Impact
If the registration is not working correctly, you will need to search TMS by the course number: #44881

Program Description:
The LGBTQ+ population smokes at rates 50% higher than the general population and new evidence shows with the rise of e-cigarettes, this disparity is growing. The history that has created this disparity will be shared, including basics about population terminology, and about population access to care barriers, especially those related to smoking cessation. This live virtual knowledge-based presentation will introduce practical strategies to change the level of community engagement and welcome in your facility, for those Veterans in cessation. This educational webinar is appropriate for healthcare teams.

Presenter: Scout, MA, PhD, Executive Director, National LGBT Cancer Network

Date / Time: June 28, 2021 / 3:00pm – 4:00pm ET

Location: Adobe Connect/VANTS through registering in TMS (click on link to register above)
Slides via Adobe Connect: http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/tobacco/
Register in TMS* for CEUs: LGBTQ+ Cessation: Strategies for Engagement and Impact
The CARE (Crisis and Recovery Enhancement) TA Center is excited to host their first ever conference, “Listening, Learning, and Leading: Anti-Racism in the Crisis Continuum of Care.” Join them June 16-17, 2021 from 8:30am to 5pm to access a range of presentations related to the crisis continuum of care, justice diversion, recovery supports, and anti-racist clinical and hiring practices that strive for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the behavioral health workforce. Driven by resilience and the healing power of community like Black Joy and Indigenous intergenerational wisdom, this conference engages difficult discussions directly with evidence-based hope. By listening to lived experience in storytelling and music and learning about professional predecessors of color and current best practices, they hope to inspire us to imagine and lead anti-racist change in the crisis continuum of care.

**LGBTQ BIPOC Crisis Care and Justice Diversion Six-Part Series, Speakers:** Ali Guajardo, LCSW, Isabella Restrepo, MA

**Session 1- SOGIE 101: Let’s Talk Sexuality, Let’s Talk Gender**

**Session 2- Intersectionality in practice: Understanding the Unique Experiences of Queer BIPOC Foster Youth**

**Session 3- Transcarceral Care: Criminalization and Containment in the Foster Care System**

**Session 4- Trauma-Informed Justice Diversion: The Person-Brain Model Part 1**

**Session 5- Trauma-Informed Justice Diversion: The Person-Brain Model Part 2**

**Session 6- Building on Queer BIPOC Cultural Strengths from the Individual to Communities**

**Transgender and Non-Binary Crisis Care Two-Part Series**

**Torture and Dehumanization of Latinx Transgender Undocumented and Asylum-Seeking Immigrants via US Detention Proceedings, Speaker:** Laura P. Minero, PhD

**Panel: Transgender and Non-Binary Resistance: Going Beyond Resilience, Panelists:** Laura P. Minero, PhD, Sergio Dominguez, Jr., Kadesha Evans, DNP, RN, Sam del Castillo

**Panel: LGBTQ People of Color Reflect on Crisis Care**

**Lived Experience Accessing Care, Panelists:** Jane Stueber, Eddie Cannedy, Hufsa Ahmad, MSW

**LGBTQ and BIPOC Culture as Healing**

**Dance as embodied knowledge, healing and resistance, Panelists:** Alfonso Cervera, Steve Rosa, Justin Morris, Irvin Manuel Gonzalez

**Queer Art as a Source of Healing, Resilience, and Resistance, Panelists:** Dicko Chan, Kumi Iman, Blasia Discoteca, Sebastian Hernandez
Register Today!

Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence presents...

2021 kNOw MORE Webinar Series:
Advocacy & Services - Addressing LGBTQ+ Community
June 16 - 17, 2021
June 23 - 24, 2021

♦ Day 1: LGBTQ+ Core Concepts (June 16th)
Register in advance for this webinar: Click Here
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hi6X2AysTnCALaoURaLtoQ

♦ Day 2: Barriers, Advocacy, and Creating Access to Services for LGBTQ+ Survivors (June 17th)
Register in advance for this webinar: Click Here
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ffm84YNFSg2v-bXF4mx2kQ

♦ Day 3: Anti-Bias & Sex-Segregated Services (June 23rd)
Register in advance for this webinar: Click Here
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IRHSGvU3S2u9ucIEIJNirw

♦ Day 4: Uplifting Resilience and Practical Actions (June 24th)
Register in advance for this webinar: Click Here
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5vRavGc-SLKCuXD3thCwrv

We are currently working with University of Guam for CEUs.

Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence

For more information, visit www.GuamCoalition.org or email info@guamcoalition.org

This webinar is funded in part by the Grant #2019-MU-AX-0014, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women and Grant #G-2001GUSDVC awarded by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this event do not necessarily reflect the views of these funding agencies.
YOU’RE INVITED

Save the dates for this LGBTQ+ Hawai‘i Series

**JUNE 19**
Noon – 2 P.M. HT
Screening of the award-winning films *A Place in the Middle* (partial screening) and *Kapaemahu* (full screening), followed by a conversation with Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu also known as Kumu Hina, a Native Hawaiian teacher, cultural practitioner and filmmaker.

**JULY 10**
Noon – 2 P.M. HT
Presentation by the Hawai‘i Dept of Health’s *Gender and Sexuality Minority Working Group* on LGBTQ+ youth health outcomes in Hawai‘i.

**JULY 24**
Noon – 2 P.M. HT
Panel featuring LGBTQ+ young adults and parents of LGBTQ+ youth.

*These events are for LGBTQ+ people, their families and loved ones, and allies. Youth under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian or have their permission to attend.

Registration Link: [pflagnation.al/HawaiiPrideSeries](http://pflagnation.al/HawaiiPrideSeries)
Imagine a magical incantation that casts a shield, this tenacious barrier from microscopic enemies. Along with this protection, a sense of empowerment blossoms within you. You are no longer vexed by that creeping darkness – that insidious dread: “It’s only a matter of time”, “I’ll eventually get it”, “It can’t be helped”. It would be so liberating!

All of this is not smoke and mirrors, a distant fantasy dreamt by the hopeful. This empowerment is real. It’s a simple routine: wake up in the morning and take a little, blue pill every day.

**That is the science of HIV PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis).**

PrEP is a daily pill that can reduce the risk of contracting HIV by over 90%. The following are those who are at higher risk for HIV exposure:

- Have sex with men and are not in a monogamous relationship
- Is HIV-negative and in a sexually active relationship with an HIV-positive partner
- Share needles and inject drugs

Around 40,000 new yearly HIV infections are diagnosed across the United States in recent years. Of the 37,968 new diagnoses in 2018, 69% of were among gay and bisexual men. Because of this, HIV prevention is an important healthcare priority within the VA.

PrEP is available to all veterans who are considered at risk here at VA PIHCS. A specialized team is here to provide comprehensive care such as sexual health and wellness, routine screenings, and medication management.

For veterans interested in enrolling in PrEP, please contact your PACT team for more information. For clinicians and staff wanting more information about the HIV PrEP program, please contact the Academic Detailer:

Steven.Nishimoto@va.gov

References:


SAY GOODBYE TO TOBACCO

LGBT ADULT TOBACCO USE AND CESSATION

Across the country, cities and small locales, community organizations, and community members are gearing up to celebrate Pride Month. Fifty-two years ago, June 1969, police raided the New York City Stonewall Inn, setting up six days of protest, which is now known as the Stonewall Uprising. As part of VA’s June Pride Month activities, this month’s Tobacco & Health Tobacco Cessation Clinical Update Audioconference will feature Dr. Scout, the Executive Director of the National LGBT Cancer Network discussing their work to reduce tobacco and cancer-related disparities in LGBTQ+ populations.

Individuals in LGBT communities are 1.5 to 2.5 times more likely to smoke cigarettes compared to cisgender heterosexuals. Now new research is showing the same for e-cigarette use. Using recent data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), researchers found that among LGBT adults, their use of e-cigarettes was almost double that of heterosexual adults.[i]

While there are multiple reasons behind higher smoking rates in the LGBT community, the stress of navigating discrimination and lack of support from the general public, plays a huge role. This type of stress often precedes adulthood and for LGBT youth, it is reflected in their smoking rates—LGBT students are more than twice as likely to be daily smokers (4.0%) compared to heterosexual students (1.9%).[ii]

For a long time, tobacco companies were seen as supporters of LGBT communities through their sponsorship of events, including many such events for Pride Month. Now organizations like the National LGBT Cancer Network are working to help communities make their Pride events smoke-free. The delinking of Pride events from their history of sponsorship by tobacco companies and from smoking in general, puts the emphasis back on the health of LGBT communities. One such area of needed emphasis involves cancer as research has found that the LGBT community has a “cluster of risk factors” that would lead them "to have a greater cancer incidence and later stage diagnosis."[iii]

Anyone trying to quit smoking has their best chance at success if they combine cessation medication with behavioral counseling. Medications include nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and bupropion or varenicline. Some of these medications in combination, such as the nicotine patch plus gum, are even more effective than one alone. It’s important to take Veteran preference for counseling into account: some Veterans may prefer to participate in group tobacco treatment with other LGBT Veterans, whereas others may have different preferences. Share all of the counseling options available through your facility and from VA’s quitline 1-855-QUIT-VET.
ALLYSHIP

Amy Hufstedler, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)

Too many spaces and organizations have the reputation of representing hatred and exclusion for the LGBTQ+ population. An ally within the Veteran’s Affairs Healthcare System today must play a role in ensuring that the VA is not one of them. At the one-on-one level, every staff member and provider can show LGBTQ+ Veterans that they are welcome and that their service will be honored in an inclusive and affirmative way.

However, within the culture of a large healthcare system, higher-order change happens when research and advocacy on a widespread level indicate that it needs to happen. Advocacy for improving the VA experience of LGBTQ+ Veterans and the need for inclusive services from informed providers is the responsibility of every member of the team. It can be easy to assume that it is “covered” by the development of trainings and expansion of available services in recent years, but with much still to be done, the onus falls on every staff member and provider. Not just the LGBT Care Coordinator/team, not only LGBTQ+ staff members... everyone.

SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

VA Pacific Islands

Veterans with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), or related identities may face unique health challenges — including a higher risk for mental health issues and suicidal ideation than their non-LGBT counterparts.

Mental Health Triage: Walk-in, Monday-Friday 0730-1600 (located on the 1st floor of Ambulatory Care Center)

Crisis Line numbers:
- Honolulu-ACCESS @ 808-832-3100
- Neighbor Islands-ACCESS @ 1-800-753-6879
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline @ 1-800-273-TALK, press 1

Website: www.veteranscrisisline.net

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.
LGBTQ people experience higher rates of discrimination, harassment and outright violence throughout their lives, in multiple settings, including at the workplace or when they go to healthcare settings. Such negative experiences can contribute to severe health outcomes such as depression, substance use, self-harm, and suicidality. VAPIHCS offers resources to help support Veterans that experience such things.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) refers to violence and aggression between intimate partners which can include physical, sexual or psychological abuse or stalking. IPV Coordinator: Nova C. Akau, tele: 808-465-0760

Military sexual trauma (MST) is the term used by VHA to refer to experiences of sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that a Veteran experienced during military service. MST related care is free, even for those who are not service-connected, did not report the MST at the time, have no documentation of the MST or not eligible for other VA services (for example, due to the length of service requirement). For more information, please contact our MST Coordinator at 1-800-214-1306 or via My HealtheVet Secure Messaging to the Military Sexual Trauma Care Coordinator.

The VA White Ribbon employee campaign encourages Veterans and Staff to sign a pledge to stop violence against others and proudly wear the white ribbon throughout the work day.
HEALTHCARE EQUALITY INDEX

2020 Leader Designation

Spark M. Matsunaga VA Medical Center (ACC) was designated a 2020 LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader!

LGBT PROGRAM

VA Pacific Islands

Our Purpose is to foster an inclusive, knowledgeable, and affirming atmosphere for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Veterans at the VA PIHCS as well as to work toward resolving the health disparities that exist for LGBT+ Veterans.

♦ LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator. The care coordination program aims to create a more welcoming environment, increase the number and variety of services, provide trainings, and advocate for quality care.

Care Coordinator: Mary Harlinger (she/her/hers)

♦ LGBT Special Emphasis Program Manager. The special emphasis program aims to foster an inclusive and affirming atmosphere for LGBTQ employees, consumers and visitors.

Program Manager: Lisa Kau (she/her/hers)

♦ Psychology Postdoctoral Resident specializing in LGBT+ health care. This program was established nationally to promote LGBT+ affirmative knowledge/practices across VA Medical Centers.

2020-2021 Resident: Lisa Kau (she/her/hers)

Resources for VA Employees:
SharePoint Site for Transgender Veteran Health
SharePoint Site for LGB Veteran Health

Resources for Veterans: LGBT Program Website

For more information, questions or feedback, call 808-433-7348 or send a secure message via MyHealtheVet to group, LGBT Care Coordination.