

Opportunity Conference

2018 Conference Call for Abstracts

The second annual Opportunity Conference will be held on March 26-27, 2018 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, MN. The Planning Committee cordially invites you to submit an abstract for presentations related to data/research, care practice and providers, intersectionalities, institutional change or educational curriculum in LGBTQ health to be considered for presentation at the 2018 conference.

About the Conference

Nationally there are very few LGBTQ focused conferences and an even smaller number of those focus on health and health policies beyond HIV/AIDS. The 2017 Opportunity Conference offered a rare opportunity for health providers and practitioners, researchers and policy makers to come together to address the broad array of disparities experienced by the LGBTQ communities in the Midwest.

The two-day schedule will include plenary keynote speaking opportunities and up to 30 concurrent sessions on a wide range of LGBTQ and HIV health related topics.

The anticipated attendance is 400 individuals from a variety of professions including medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, counseling, case management, addiction support, spiritual care, advocacy, education, and rehabilitative services as well as policymakers and advocates for systems change.

Participants will develop strategies to: define LGBTQ health disparities based on new/emerging data, improve care through evidence-based clinical practices, improve climates for LGBTQ patients and clients through policy, system and environmental change, and assess current health and human service systems changes at federal/state/county levels.

The host organization, Rainbow Health Initiative (RHI), is an LGBTQ health advocacy organization located in Minnesota. RHI fulfills its mission of advancing the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities through research, education and advocacy.

The conference is supported by a Planning Committee consisting of community advocates and representatives from: CLUES, LGBT Therapists, Outfront Minnesota, Rainbow Health Initiative, Training to Serve, United HealthGroup, Mayo Clinic, University of St. Catherine, Livio Health, Essentia Health, Medica and MN AIDS Project.

Conference Objectives

We invite you to submit an abstract proposal to the 2018 Opportunity Conference.

As we reflect on the health of LGBTQ communities, we find innovation in research, promising new care practices, and creative health policy solutions juxtaposed against a precarious political climate that threatens not only to rollback recent progress, but to dramatically reduce health care access. We also find troubling increases in the discrimination, stigmatization, and the marginalization of LGBTQ communities as we review queer social determinants of health. We are encouraged to discover that care providers, faculty, and policy-makers are empowered with new research, health policies, and care practices. Yet we are frustrated to learn that too often they find themselves isolated and having to navigate erratic and politically charged environments.

We seek proposals that acknowledge and actively seek to address this dichotomous reality. We observe that resilience in this field appears to be rooted in approaches that are specifically integrative or deeply collaborative.

Proposals should address one of the following tracks and at least one of the conference learning objectives outlined below.

Innovative Research Track

New research describing LGBTQ health disparities or new approaches to conducting research with LGBTQ communities

Intersectionality Track

Describing clinical practices and/or policy proposals specifically addressing the intersection of Race/Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity

Care Provider Track

Addressing the lived experiences of care providers by describing one (or more) of the following: evidence-based LGBTQ clinical practices, LGBTQ access to care, electronic medical records, minority stress theory, interprofessional collaboration, integrative healthcare, or the prevention of burnout.

Institutional Policy and Systems Change Track

Policy frameworks to support systems changes at individual clinics, large medical systems or within regulatory and legislative systems to improve health outcomes for LGBTQ patients and/or support LGBTQ employees

Educational Initiatives Track

Describing LGBTQ health curricula and initiatives to support medical students, residents, and faculty.

2018 Opportunity Conference Learning Objectives:

- Define LGBTQ health disparities based on new/emerging data
- Describe evidence-based clinical practices to improve care for LGBTQ patients
- Explain policy, system, and environmental proposals to improve climate for LGBTQ patients

- Explain policy, system, and environmental proposals to improve climate for LGBTQ employees
- Review current health and human service systems changes at federal/state/county levels

Presentation Options

Symposia (90 minutes)

Symposium presentations include 3 to 4 talks on a common topic. Proposals should include a symposium title (10 words maximum), a summary of the symposium theme (200 words maximum), as well as titles (10 words maximum) and summaries (200 words maximum) of the expected contribution of each participant. You will be asked to include the chair's name, title, affiliation and contact information as well as names and affiliations for all other authors.

Workshops (75 minutes)

This option is the more traditional presentation format, however, priority will be given to workshops that include an interactive component to them and/or case studies (if appropriate). Each workshop should also conclude with a call to action. Proposals should include a title (10 words maximum) and content description (500 words maximum). Workshops can include multiple presenters on a single topic. You will be asked to include the names, titles, affiliations and contact information for all of the participants.

General Information

Submission Deadline

Materials must be submitted online by 11:59 PM Central Standard Time on October 1, 2017. No extensions will be granted.

Presenter Calendar

July 2017	Call for Abstracts submission form online
August 2017	Conference registration opens
October 1, 2017	Deadline for submissions
Early October 2017	Submissions sent blind to reviewers
Late October 2017	Abstract Committee makes final recommendations
Early November 2017	Program Committee finalizes content
Early November 2017	Presenters notified and confirmed
December 1, 2017	Presenter conference registration due
Mid January 2018	Conference program available
March 26-27, 2018	Conference

Submission Format

All abstracts are to be submitted via the online submission form. The form is available at www.opportunityconference.org.

Abstract Selection and Notification

The Abstract Committee will meet in late October to select abstracts and make recommendations regarding the conference sessions to the Program Committee. The Abstract Committee will review only based on content in a blind review process. The Program Committee makes final decisions based on the expert Abstract Committee as well as other factors (for example ensuring topic, subject and demographic diversity). The Program Committee will assign the time and date of presentation on the conference schedule.

If your abstract is accepted, you will be notified by email on or around November 11, 2017 of your presentation date and time. This notice is sent to the contact person for each session. If the presentation has more than one presenter, the contact person is asked to share the information with the other presenter(s).

Conference Registration

All presenters are required to register for the conference and pay the applicable registration fee no later than December 1, 2017. If the primary presenter is unable to attend the conference and has made arrangements for someone else to present, that person must register for the conference and pay the applicable registration fee. Presenters can register for one day (\$130) or two day (\$200) registration.

The registration form will be available in July 2017 on the conference's website. The registration form will list the conference registration fees.

Selection Criteria

Abstracts should reflect or include:

1. Internal consistency of purpose/aims and methods;
2. Clarity of presentation;
3. Implications and significance of the research, practice, or policy for LGBTQ health;
4. Application to the objectives and content topics.

Priority will be given to abstracts that include an interactive component and/or call to action for participants.

Eligibility

The presentation may have been accepted at a previous regional or national meeting by the abstract submission deadline. Please note that presenting at the Opportunity Conference may make submission ineligible for other national/regional conferences.

Presentations that report the results of data/research must have the research completed by the abstract submission deadline to be eligible for presentation.

Health is broadly defined and does not have to fit into Western medical philosophy and approaches. Political climate is also broadly defined to include both legislative change and societal challenges.

Abstract Submission Instructions

Only those submissions which fully comply with the instructions will be reviewed. All completed applications received by October 1, 2017 will be independently and blindly reviewed by the Abstract Sub-Committee and volunteers.

Abstract Submission Form

The Opportunity Conference uses an online abstract submission. The form is available at www.opportunityconference.org.

Abstract Preparation

All Abstracts should address the appropriate selection criteria as addressed above. As appropriate for the abstract, including research, practice and policy, the Abstract Sub-Committee asks that you include content related to the specific implications and significance of the study for LGBTQ and HIV health.

Topic Areas

In addition to specific content regarding the presentation, you will also be asked to identify which of the following identifies or best fits your presentation:

1. Content type: Data/Research, Intersectionality of Race/Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity, Care Provider Practices and Systems, Institutional Policy and Systems Change, or LGBTQ Educational Curriculum.
2. Content level: Beginner, intermediate, or expert
3. Format: Symposia or Workshop
4. Subject population: Lesbian, gay man, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming
5. Specific demographics: Communities of color, youth, older adults, and/or non-metro

Blinded Abstract

Please **DO NOT** include: Authors, Affiliations or grant information in the Abstract as the peer review process is BLINDED.

Length

The abstract shall not exceed 500 words. Abstract titles should be centered and may not exceed 75 characters.

CE Application Information

We collect the needed information for the CE application form at the time you submit your abstract(s). You will need to provide the following information before you can submit your abstracts:

1. One to two objectives;
2. Short bio for the presenters (including pronouns).

Conflict of Interest

In addition, each presenter will complete the Conflict of Interest (COI) statement, including an electronic signature, as part of an abstract submission.

Information After Abstracts Are Selected

Conference Brochures and Registration Form

Abstracts accepted for podium or workshop presentation will be listed in the program schedule posted on the conference website and handed out at the conference. The program schedule and registration form will be available on the conference website in November, 2017.

The onsite printed program will include the specific time for each abstract presentation and meeting room assignments. Abstracts may list multiple study authors. The onsite printed program may list a maximum of two authors with an asterisk to indicate that additional authors will be listed with the abstract in the conference proceedings.

Commitment

Each submitter or contact person will be notified about the Program Committee's decision on acceptance of an abstract. Each author is asked to accept the invitation to present. We ask that presenters take very seriously their commitment to present, except in cases of true emergency.

There is a charge of \$60 if a presenter notifies the conference that they will not participate after the proceedings are finalized. The conference publishes an errata sheet to be distributed with the proceedings indicating the names of individuals and their abstract titles that appear in the book but who did not present at the conference.

Conference Hotel Information

The conference will be held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. The conference has made special arrangements with the Embassy Suites Hotel next door to the Conference Center. Reduced rates are available until February 23, 2018.

Questions

Questions can be addressed to the following:

Abstract submission process

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