Communities We Live and Work
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Agenda

- Introductions
- RECLAIM’s History
- Healing Justice
- Allyship
- Systems of Oppression and Intersecting Identities
- Engaging Individuals, Families, and Communities for Change
Who is this person in the front of the room?

Introductions
Name, preferred pronouns, and something about who you are?

Introductions
What are you most passionate about and what are you most grateful for?

Introductions
Our history
Making a way out of no way....
imPossible
Reclaim’s Mission

RECLAIM works to increase access to mental health support so that queer and trans youth may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms.
Intersectionality/Connections/Associations/integration/deep healing over time/name and resist oppression/relation/inclusion/partnership/continuity/accompainment/whole bodies-whole minds/humanization/value individual components of collective identity
Healing Justice
Theory of Change

Social Justice as Healing Justice
Healing Justice

“healing justice” is understood as a broader framework that aims to describe the relationship between social justice work and spirit by focusing both on the consequences of systemic oppression on the hope and agency of community members as well as how communities can heal and be restored to vibrant ways of living.”

Ginwright 2015
Healing Justice

- Disability Justice
- Gender Justice
- Economic Justice
- Indigenous Sovereignty
- Immigration Justice
- Racial Justice
In this way, “healing justice organizers” are acutely aware of the ways in which stress, lack of resources, failing educational systems, violence, and prolonged exposure to trauma all diminish the capacity to foster optimism, empowerment, and social change. In addition, healing justice organizers are critical of public policies that create more violence, stress, hopelessness and lack of opportunities in schools and communities and treat these policies as harmful to the individual and collective, social, spiritual and emotional well-being of community members”. 
From this understanding RECLAIM seeks to engage a healing justice model of care that engages individuals, families, and community partners to create ecological systems change in resistance to racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, cissexism, and ableism.
Be the change...
RECLAIM

Allyship
Being in Allyship
With....

An active, consistent, and arduous practice of unlearning and re-evaluating, in which a person in a position of privilege and power seeks to operate in solidarity with a marginalized group
• Allyship is not an identity—it is a lifelong process of building relationships based on trust, consistency, and accountability with marginalized individuals and/or groups of people

• Allyship is not self-defined—our work and our efforts must be recognized by the people we seek to ally ourselves with
  • it is important to be intentional in how we frame the work we do, 
    i.e. **we are showing support for...**, **we are showing our commitment to ending [a system of oppression] by...**, **we are using our privilege to help by...**
Responsibilities if Allyship

“We are not acting out of guilt, but rather out of responsibility”

• we actively acknowledge our privilege and power and openly discuss them
• we listen more and speak less
• we do our work with integrity and direct communication
• we do not expect to be educated by others, we build our capacity to receive criticism
• we embrace the emotions that come out of the process of Allyship,
• our needs are secondary to the people we seek to work with we do not expect awards or special recognition
We invite to begin a path toward Allyship
Systems of Oppression and Intersecting Identities
Social oppression is the socially supported mistreatment and exploitation of a group of individuals. Social oppression is based on power dynamics and an individual's social location in society.
Cycle of Systematic Oppression

Stereotype

Internalized Oppression

Prejudice

Power Economics

Oppression

Discrimination

Rosetta Eun Ryong Lee (http://tiny.cc/rosettaline)
Acts of Resistance

Begin with...

A fearless searching of the soul and self reflection

“We need to be weapons of mass construction, weapons of mass love. It’s not enough just to change the system. We need to change ourselves.”
Individual Identity and Change

“To know who I am is a species of knowing where I stand. My identity is defined by the commitments and identifications which provide the frame or horizon within which I can try to determine from case to case what is good, or valuable, or what ought to be done, or what I endorse or oppose. In other words, it is the horizon within which I am capable of taking a stand.”

Charles Taylor, Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity
INTERSECTIONALITY

in·ter·sec·tion·al·i·ty
/in(t)ərsekSHəˈnalədē/

• noun

the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

• "through an awareness of intersectionality, we can better acknowledge and ground the differences among us"
Engaging Individuals, Families, and Communities for Change
The Power of Identity and Narrative in Creating Change

“We must move people to see, think, and feel differently about social issues and how they work so that they respond differently to social problems.”

By Nat Kendall-Taylor / Chief Executive Officer at Frameworks Institute
Healing is Resistance

“RECLAIM took me in and committed to helping me build myself back up when everyone and everything else told me to give up. Without their love, their open hearts...I would not be alive today. Healing is my resistance.”

-Lucian, 23
The Power of Narrative

The Story of Self
- invites a relationship with you
- Who are you? Why are you here?

The Story of Us
- invites people to come together as a community/collective
- Who are we? Why are we here?

The Story of Now
- invites us to take action
- What do we need to do? Why do it now?
While the conventional stories of our history and our social roles provide a powerful gravitational pull, storytelling has always played a significant part in challenging the status quo.

American Values Institute, 2013
THOSE WHO TELL THE STORIES RULE SOCIETY.

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Questions?

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