

Opportunity Conference: Professional Sessions Advancing LGBTQ and HIV Health Equity

2020 Conference Call for Abstracts

The fourth annual Opportunity Conference's Professional Sessions will be held on April 20, 2020 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 2020 conference.

About the Conference

Since its inception in 2017, the Opportunity Conference has become Minnesota's premier convening focused on health and health policies that affect the LGBTQ community and people living with HIV or AIDS. Previous Opportunity Conferences offered rare opportunities for health providers and practitioners, researchers, and policy makers to come together to address the broad array of disparities experienced by these populations.

In 2020, Professional Sessions offered on April 20 will include plenary keynote speaking opportunities and up to two dozen concurrent sessions on a wide range of LGBTQ and HIV health related topics. A separate day of Community Sessions, focused on a general (i.e., non-practitioner) audience will take place Saturday, April 18. **This call for abstracts is specifically aimed toward presentations for the Professional Sessions on April 20.**

The anticipated attendance is 200-250 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: improve care through evidence-based clinical practices, improve care through evidence-based clinical practices, improve climates for LGBTQ patients and clients through policy, system and environmental change, assess current health and human service systems changes at federal/state/county levels and define LGBTQ health disparities based on new/emerging data. For those new to this work, there will be introductory sessions available.

The host organization, JustUs Health (created in 2018 by the merger of the Rainbow Health Initiative, the Minnesota AIDS Project, and Training to Serve) is an LGBTQ health-advocacy and HIV-supportive services organization located in St. Paul. JustUs Health leads the work in Minnesota to achieve health

equity for diverse gender, sexual, and cultural communities through research, education, advocacy and supportive services.

Conference Objectives

We invite you to submit an abstract proposal to the 2020 Opportunity Conference.

As we reflect on the health of LGBTQ and HIV 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 and HIV 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 polices, 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.

2020 Opportunity Conference, Target Populations, Tracks, and Learning Objectives:

In 2020, we want to focus our content on specific populations and topics: HIV treatment and prevention, Transgender Experiences, Aging in the LGBTQ or HIV communities, and LGBTQ Health in general.

Additionally, we need to respond to our participants' requests for workshops that share **practical applications** in these areas: Clinical practice, research and policy, systems and advocacy. They are also seeking **advanced level topics and presentations**. A limited selection of Beginner's level workshops may be offered for those new to the work. Therefore, we seek proposals that address these populations, topics, tracks and learning objectives:

Clinical Applications:

- Learn how to use evidence-based clinical practices to improve care for LGBTQ and HIV patients.
- Integrate inclusivity in every layer of care.

Innovative Research:

- Discover implications of health disparities based on new/emerging data
- Discover new approaches to conducting research with LGBTQ communities

Institutional Policy, Systems and Advocacy Change:

- Promote knowledge of the latest policy, system and environmental proposals to improve the climate for LGBTQ clients.
- Give employees the tools necessary to improve the climate for LGBTQ clients and employees.
- Understand current health and human service systems changes at the federal/state/county levels.

Presentation Options

To respond to our attendees' requests, we ask that your presentation not include definitions of routine ("LGBT 101") terms and identities. Entry level terms and data may be presented in a Beginners track or a single introductory session.

Interactive Workshops (75 minutes)

This option requires an interactive component beyond a question and answer format. Again, we ask that your workshop not include definitions of routine terms. Each workshop should also conclude with a call to action. Proposals should include a title (10 words maximum) and content description (300 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.

Workshops (60 minutes)

This option is the more traditional presentation format. Again, we ask that your workshop not include definitions of routine terms. 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 (300 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 Time on December 1, 2019. No extensions will be granted.

Tentative Presenter Calendar

October 2019	Call for Abstracts submission form online
December 1, 2019	Deadline for submissions
Early December 2019	Submissions sent blind to reviewers
Early January 2020	Abstract Committee makes final recommendations
Late January 2020	Presenters notified and confirmed
January 31, 2020	Conference registration opens
January 31, 2020	Conference program available
April 18, 2020	<i>Conference – Community Sessions</i>
April 20, 2020	<i>Conference – Professional Sessions</i>
April 24, 2020	All presentations from both the Community and Professional Sessions available online

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 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 January 24 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 March 1, 2020. If the primary presenter is unable to attend the conference and has made arrangements for someone else to present, please contact us. Registration fees will be waived for Presenters and co-Presenters if the group does not exceed three.

The registration form will be available in February 2020 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 and/or HIV care/prevention;
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 December 1, 2019 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: Clinical Application, Innovative Research, Institutional Policy and Systems Change or Advocacy.
2. Content level: Beginner, intermediate, or expert
3. Format: 75- or 60-minute Workshop
4. Subject population: Lesbian, gay man, bisexual/pansexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, HIV-positive
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 300 words. Abstract titles 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 (preferably with 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 February 2020.

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.

Questions

Questions can be addressed to the following:

oppcon@justushealth.org

Opportunity Conference