



Mountain West Transforming Care Conference

Dear Conference Attendees:

Thank you for your interest in attending a conference focused on improving the healthcare experiences of LGBTQ+ people!

Our planning committee would like to take a moment to acknowledge some hard things.

The anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-abortion legislation that is sweeping the United States is negatively impacting queer and transgender community members including our patients, clinicians, and families. Utah is not exempt. It is a reasonable and understandable feeling to choose to confront this legislation with any and all tools at your disposal, which include choosing not to participate in events that occur in these states. We support the rights of all of our colleagues to take actions that they feel are in their personal, professional and political best interests.

We stand in solidarity with you.

We would also like to point out that transgender, gender diverse and LGBTQ-identified individuals live and work in every zip code in America and throughout the world. They will exist regardless of the attempts of governments to suppress and erase them. Given this, it is necessary that healthcare providers who serve these populations (now made increasingly more vulnerable by this legislation) are knowledgeable about the unique healthcare needs of these diverse and resilient communities.

It must also be acknowledged that the healthcare providers in these communities (many of whom are trans- and queer-identified themselves) who serve these populations are themselves under attack and may be experiencing crises both professional and existential by living in a place that is hostile to the work that they do. What's more, these providers are in need of the fellowship and community that exists within collaborations like ours and we owe it to the providers who are tirelessly serving these communities to support them in whatever way we can.

The Mountain West Transforming Care Conference is a grass-roots provider and community organization collaborative effort to educate the primary care and mental health workforce in a conservative, highly religious state on how to meet the various healthcare needs of the marginalized and vulnerable (and amazing and resilient and fabulous) TGD/LGBTQ members of our community.

We believe that we must first do no harm, and that doing nothing is harm.

Finally, the MWTC conference is also hybrid, which means you can support and learn with us (the providers who are doing everything they can to support and care for the TGD/LGBTQ community) without spending any tourism dollars in Utah. Funds received from this conference go directly to the University of Utah Health Transgender Health Program to support our values of education. The AETC and other conference planning partners do not receive funding from this conference.

Sincerely, MWTCC Planning Committee Members