



Holistic Health for Trans & GNC Southern Communities: Putting Culturally Humble Clinic Health, Harm Reduction, and Preventative Health Program Under One Roof

Presenters:

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE



**Tucker Barker has nothing to disclose.
Chris Daunis no disclosures.**

Some Background



Who are we?

Tucker Barker (they/them) is a Prevention Coordinator at CrescentCare, doing HIV and Hep C testing in three parishes across southern Louisiana, as well as harm reduction programming at our SSP. They are a queer, trans New Orleanian from Mid City. They have a background in education reform in the post-Katrina landscape and worked as a racial justice trainer and community organizer for years before stepping into healthcare work. They are now on their way to becoming a Board-Certified Health Coach, working specifically with LGBTQ+ communities.

Chris Daunis (he/him) is a public health professional who has worked in HIV prevention and research for over nine years. Additionally, he has worked in LGBTQ+ advocacy, health, events, and visibility for over seventeen. A large part of his career has taken place in New Orleans, LA where he helped to develop and implement the Louisiana Wellness Center Project and manage programs around re-entry, job placement, young black MSM, archaic HIV exposure laws, and stigma.

Issues and Context



The Issues

Case Rates

According to the most recent CDC HIV Surveillance Report, Louisiana ranks 4th in the nation for HIV case rates.

As of 2019, there are currently 8,333 people living with HIV in the New Orleans Eligible Metropolitan Area; of this number, 180 (2.4%) identify as trans masculine or feminine. Of NOEMA TGNC PLWH, 86% are engaged with care, 66% are retained in care, and 64% are virally suppressed.

Systemic Access

Historically, trans and non-binary communities have been systemically denied gender affirming care. Findings of the 2015 National Transgender Discrimination Survey by the NCTE show that of respondents from **southern states, 22% reported being refused medical care due to their gender identity/expression**. Specifically, **in Louisiana, 33% of respondents were living in poverty**.

Chest Binding

The New York Times reported a 2017 study in Boston of **1,800 transmasculine respondents showed 97.2% had experienced negative physical symptoms due to binding**. **16 out of 28 participants** at the NOLA Bound Binder Exchange reported experiencing at least one of the following symptoms due to binding: trouble breathing, back pain, dizziness, red marks on the skin, broken or damaged ribs, and tingling in hands/fingers.

The Trans Advisory Committee



An Umbrella of Education, Advocacy, & Community Involvement

The Trans Advisory Committee started in 2017 when TGNC workers at CrescentCare decided to come together to steer culturally humble programming for our clients across programs. Currently our work consists of:

- A Training subcommittee providing cultural humility workshops for new hires, CC departments, & external agencies.
- A Community Forum subcommittee engaging TGNC southerners in forums for healthcare-related organizing and advocacy, external workshop facilitation, as well as creating spaces for open mics, tabling, art-selling, and sharing restorative practices.
- A Legal Advocacy subcommittee supporting both individual clients and community organizers in The Real Name Change Campaign, working to end classist policies that bar many TGNC people from accessing legal name changes.

Gender Care Services



The Gender Clinic

As a direct result of the feedback from the TGNC community forums and focus groups facilitated by the Trans Advisory Committee (TAC), trans workers at CrescentCare were able to successfully advocate to open **the first gender-focused clinic in the state of Louisiana in November 2017.**

We use an informed consent model for HRT access and have streamlined in-house behavioral health clearance for patients to access gender affirming surgeries. The TAC also facilitated the coordination of the first partnership of surgeons able to offer vaginoplasty in-state as of November of 2019.

Over the last 3 years the clinic has grown from one afternoon/week with 1 provider and 1 Nurse Navigator, to 4 days a week with 4 providers and 2 navigators. Eight ancillary physicians also provide gender affirming care to patients outside of the Gender Clinic.

Crescent Care currently serves **over 1000 people of trans experience from throughout the regional south** who come to receive care from as far away as Florida, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, Alabama and North Carolina. All of this has happened while Crescent Care has never specifically advertised any gender-focused services.

More Programming for Our People



Wellness Center (WC)

- The WC Project began as the Gay Men's Wellness Center under the CDC special projects grant PS 12-1201 in 2010 and CrescentCare's WC is one of 6 in the state.
- In its conception the WC was focused towards Gay and Bisexual Men, and later extended its reach to TGNC individuals.
- Services provided then: HIV/HCV/Syphilis rapid testing, Syphilis RPR, Oral/Anal/Urine analysis for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia, mental health services, social and physical activities, combating stigma, and other various resources.
- Since conception, the project and has been deemed a necessary intervention and is funded through various grants.
- Services provided now:
 - HIV/HCV/Syphilis rapid testing, Syphilis RPR, Oral/Anal/Urine analysis for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia, PrEP
 - 2019: 1553 visits with 884 unique patients

NOSAP: The N.O. Syringe Access Program

The New Orleans Syringe Access Program provides safe harm reduction materials to the community to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases and offer autonomy to historically marginalized communities in their healthcare goals. People who inject drugs, Trans and GNC clients, and anyone with the desire to receive or dispose of sterile syringes can access the program free of charge and anonymously, as well as receive referrals to other services collocated at CrescentCare.

Wait, more Programs? Wow!



T.W.E.E.T.

House of T.W.E.E.T. (Transgender Women's Engagement and Entry to Care) works to educate and empower the trans femme community in the New Orleans area by creating a safe, brave space to discuss topics relating to health and wellness of the body and mind. In doing so, House of T.W.E.E.T. created a network of support and resources to uplift one another. From their extensive peer navigation program to holding weekly teach back sessions aimed at empowering community members with tools to be their own health care advocate, T.W.E.E.T. is a much-needed access point in trans femme communities in New Orleans and across the South.

NOLA Bound: Binder Exchange

Through a partnership with a national company making chest binders, we are able to provide free chest binders to community members in need. Before COVID-19, we would measure clients for accurate sizing, allow them time to try on different styles, colors and skin tones in their size, and then talk about safer binding practices. We are hoping to start this important program again soon!

Contact Info



How to Reach Us

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