



***Welcoming & Including the LGBTQ +
Community in Reproductive Health
Spaces***

Land Declaration

About Me & One Iowa



My Story & Why This Matters



Reproductive Justice and the LGBTQ + Community



Reproductive Healthcare: Screenings, Exams, Treatment

Visibility

- LGBTQ+ reproductive healthcare siloed as “separate”
- Reproductive healthcare materials unnecessarily gendered
- Myths about accessing reproductive healthcare as LGBTQ+ individuals, especially Trans and Nonbinary patients

Safety

- (2021 Iowa LGBTQ HNA): Of those who were out to their provider, sixteen percent (16%) of respondents reported they have been refused treatment by a doctor or other provider
- 60%+ of Trans and Nonbinary patients report having had a negative experience with a healthcare provider in their lifetime.

Access

- LGBTQ+ folks are disproportionately impacted by poverty and houselessness and are more likely to be under/uninsured.

Reproductive Advocacy

Visibility

- Reproductive advocacy focuses heavily on white cisgender straight women, from branding to leadership

Safety

- Trans-exclusionary advocacy erases the experiences of Trans and Nonbinary community members
- Members of the LGB community labeled as “high risk” and othered

Access

- Advocacy spaces largely inaccessible to LGBTQ+ community members

Common LGBTQ+ Exclusive Themes

- Body parts and the healthcare they require are gendered
- LGBTQ+ reproductive healthcare needs are a liability to healthcare as a whole
- Every provider is equipped to work with patients regardless of their identities
- LGBTQ+ patients don't need specific spaces to access reproductive healthcare

Who Does This Harm?

- Two Queer women starting their IVF journey
- Transmen and Nonbinary parents giving birth and accessing full-spectrum care
- Transgender patients accessing medical care
- LGBTQ+ individuals attempting to access cancer screenings and long-term cancer care
- LGBTQ+ youth who are undereducated in sexual health education spaces
- *People of all gender identities and sexual orientations*

LGBTQ+ Affirming Values

- All bodies, regardless of identities, need access to reproductive healthcare
 - However, the form this healthcare takes may look different
- LGBTQ+ community members are core to reproductive justice work, not a footnote
- If we are not advocating, educating, and serving LGBTQ+ community members, we are not engaged in reproductive justice
- Gender-affirming care is reproductive healthcare
 - What should we do when this care is under attack?

What can we do?

- Partner with LGBTQ+ organizations to build inclusive and comprehensive programming
- Educate every part of the healthcare system on LGBTQ+ healthcare needs- not just providers
- Develop systems for supporting LGBTQ+ staff
- Rethink your language, branding, and mission to include all genders- when in doubt, zoom out
- Get uncomfortable
- Be prepared to lose something

Thank you for continuing to fight for LGBTQ+
community members