## VA National Virtual PRIDE

Bringing together the LGBT+ Community on a national platform for the first time in VA history. Descriptions and times are found below the calendar of events.

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<td>Between Sexuality and Spirituality: Why No One Should Ever Have to Choose with Chaplain Lea Brown</td>
<td>LGBT+ Legal Q&amp;A w/ Ms. Deborah McCallum, OGC</td>
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### June 1-4

1st – (1:30-3:00 EST) LGBTQ Affirming Therapy with Dr. Heather Sperry & Dr. Lauren Cunningham
This presentation will define LGBT+ specific terms and briefly discuss prevalence rates of LGBT+ people and relevant health disparities. The presentation will then focus on the role of a mental health provider in providing affirming therapy and advocacy to LGBT+ people. This talk is based out of Veteran Health Indiana within Indianapolis, IN.

2nd – (1:00-2:30 EST) Affirmative Care for LGBT+ w Q&A at end with Dr. Tiffany Lange
This introductory training will focus on the continuums of identity (sexual orientation, gender identity, biological sex, gender expression), the impact of discrimination, relevant healthcare disparities, and ways to encourage a welcoming environment for all (employees and Veterans). Time will be available for Questions.

3rd – (12:00-1:00 EST) Between Sexuality and Spirituality: Why No One Should Ever Have to Choose with Chaplain Lea Brown
Through theological reflection and personal story, this presentation will focus on stereotypes, lived experiences and realities of many LGBT+ people with religion and spirituality, and why VA chaplains and staff need to know how best to support LGBT+ Veterans when it comes to their spiritual journeys. Length 20 – 40 minutes.

4th - (1:00-2:00 EST) LGBT+ Legal Q&A
Ms. McCallum will discuss the rights of LGBT+ employees and veterans including the anti-discrimination protections under Title VII. She will also answer questions that participants might have concerning specific LGBT+ issues that may arise in the workplace.

(2:30-4:30 EST) Employee Education for LGBT+ Vets: Panel Discussion and Training with Diana Cass
Improving LGBT+ Veteran Healthcare Experience will teach you about our LGBT+ Veteran patients, what terminology to use, how to create a safe space, and what polices and resources are available to you. We will follow that with a Q & A session with three current LGBT+ Veterans who will talk about their experience as patients at the VA.

### June 7-11

7th – (12:00-1:00 EST) PFLAG=Parents Family and Friends of the LGBT+ with Ann Miller
Ann Miller is the regional director for the gulf region of PFLAG. PFLAG is the oldest and largest national organization dedicated to supporting LGBT+ individuals and their families. Advocating for the rights of LGBT+ individuals, especially youth, drives her passionate work for PFLAG.

8th – (12:30-2:00 EST) Raising a Transgender Child and Family Dealing with the Transition by Debi Jackson
Raising a transgender child and family dealing with the transition. She also talks about the negative information the child faces from outside a supportive home.
**June 14-18**

14th – (1:30 - 3:00 EST) Affirmative Care for Transgender Veterans
This introductory training is geared towards mental health professionals and focused on building cultural competencies for working with Transgender and Gender Diverse Veterans.

15th – (11:00 - 12:00 EST) Workforce Development Course: Unconscious Bias with Laura Baker
What is Unconscious Bias?  How Does it Affect Me? What Can I Do About It?  By the time you are done with this session you will be able to answer these questions and understand how Unconscious Biases can affect the workplace and your life.

16th – (11:30 - 12:30 EST) Soldier of Change: From the Closet to the Forefront of the Gay Rights Movement with Steve Snyder-Hill
When "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the official U.S. policy on gays serving in the military, was repealed in September 2011, soldier Stephen Snyder-Hill (then Captain Hill) was serving in Iraq. Having endured years of this policy, which passively encouraged a culture of fear and secrecy for gay soldiers, Snyder-Hill submitted a video to a Republican primary debate held two days after the repeal. In the video he asked for the Republicans' thoughts regarding the repeal and their plans, if any to extend spousal benefits to legally married gay and lesbian soldiers.

Stephen wrote the book: Soldier of Change: From the Closet to the Forefront of the Gay Rights Movement. Snyder-Hill has traveled the country with his husband, giving interviews on major news networks and speaking at universities, community centers, and pride parades, a champion of LGBT+ equality.

Stephen Snyder-Hill joined the military in 1988 and was deployed in 1990 for Operation Desert Storm. He went into the US Army reserves and was redeployed twenty years later in 2010 for Operation New Dawn. Throughout his military career Snyder-Hill received numerous awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal. He earned a master’s degree in Dietetics and minored in Exercise Physiology at The Ohio State University. He is retired from the US Army as a Major in November of 2019 and works as a Dietitian for Columbus Public Health in Columbus, Ohio.

17th – (11:00 - 12:00 EST) Intimate Partner Violence in the LGBTQ Community with Amy Bourne
What is Intimate Partner Violence?  How does it affect our LGBT+ Veterans?  How can we make them feel safe disclosing this issue while receiving care at the VA?  Amy Bourne answers these questions and delves into the data that makes up a section of violence within this community.

18th – (2:00 - 3:00 EST) LGBT+ Legal Q&A
Synopsis: Ms. McCallum will discuss the rights of LGBT+ employees and veterans including the anti-discrimination protections under Title VII. She will also answer questions that participants might have concerning specific LGBT+ issues that may arise in the workplace.

**June 21-25**

21st – (12:30 - 2:00 EST) Legal History of LGBTQ Military and Veteran Service with Dr. Timothy Bussey
Will discuss legal history of LGBT+ military service.

22nd – (12:30 - 2:00 EST) Do Ask. Do Tell.: A Panel Examining LGBTQ Military and Veteran Service
This panel will bring together past and present military servicemember to talk about LGBT+ military service during and after “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” It will examine how discriminatory policies continue to impact the lives of veterans. Finally, it will highlight key tools for ensuring dignity and respect for all who serve.
23rd – (12:00-1:00 EST) Identify Organizations In and out the VA and network for LGBT with a focus on Transgender Care with Zander Keig

Review VHA Directives pertaining to LGBT+ Veterans. Summarize the work of the NMW TGCT. Recommend LGBT+ Veteran and military community resources.

24th – (11:00 -12:30 EST) Transgender Employee Transition Guidance - Presented by Sterling Akins and Andrew Hunter

Overview of VA Handbook 5975.4, Transgender Employee Transition Guidance. This Handbook provides guidance on the Department of Veterans Affairs policy and procedures on facilitating a smooth and supportive process for transgender and gender non-conforming employees undergoing gender transition in compliance with all applicable workplace laws, regulations, and directives. The presenters will guide participants through each section of the Handbook and outline the key components of a successful transition plan. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to: Identify the purpose, background, and scope of VA Handbook 5975.4; communicate a basic understanding of the terms and definitions identified in VA Handbook 5975.4; communicate a basic understanding of VA policies regarding Diversity & Inclusion and Equal Employment Opportunity as it pertains to gender identity; identify roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in a VA employee’s transition in the workplace; identify and communicate key transition plan elements; and provide resources and guidance to VA employees and supervisors regarding transgender and gender non-conforming employees undergoing gender transition in the workplace.

(12:30 -1:00 EST) Statement by Assistant Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine

Dr. Levine has prepared a statement for this event. She is the first Transgender member of a Presidential cabinet, a start in helping our community overcome boundaries. This will be a LIVE event.

(1:00-2:00 EST) LGBT+ Legal Q&A

Synopsis: Ms. McCallum will discuss the rights of LGBT+ employees and veterans including the anti-discrimination protections under Title VII. She will also answer questions that participants might have concerning specific LGBT+ issues that may arise in the workplace.

25th – (1:30-2:30 EST) Providers Education and Training for LGBT+ Care by Dr. Traci Stewart

Improving the LGBT+ Veteran Healthcare Experience through Communication, taught by Dr. Traci Stewart, will help providers and staff by explaining the importance of basic communication principles to LGBT+ health. Dr. Stewart will review common health concerns of LGBT+ patients including gay and bisexual men, lesbian and bisexual women, and transgender men and women.

June 28-30

28th – (2:00-3:30 EST) Pisces Healthcare Prosthetic Options and How to Order

The covered topics will include gender affirming prosthetics, vendor options, prosthetic sample kits, and eligibility criteria.

29th – (1:00-2:00 EST) LGBT+ Legal Q&A

Synopsis: Ms. McCallum will discuss the rights of LGBT+ employees and veterans including the anti-discrimination protections under Title VII. She will also answer questions that participants might have concerning specific LGBT+ issues that may arise in the workplace.

(2:30 - 4:00 EST) Suicide Prevention for LGBT+ Veterans with Morgan Bresko MPH, LCSW

This presentation will review LGBT+ Veteran history, impacts of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy, and what we can do as VA Employees and community members to create a more accepting and safe community for all Veterans. This talk is based out of the Portland VA Health Care System in the State of Oregon.

30th - (12:30 -1:30 EST) Active Duty Transgender Service Member and Advocate: Alivia Stehlik

Major Alivia Stehlik came out as transgender to her unit and in 2017 volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan. Today she will share insight of her experience of deployment, how the ban on transgender service members impacted her, and the current climate since the ban has been ended. Alivia shares powerful examples of the value diverse service members bring to the success of the military and how equity needs to be considered for supporting each individual. Alivia will examine these challenges through the lens of privilege and oppression as well as what she has learned about herself through these experiences.

(2:00 - 4:00 EST) Gender Awareness and Pronoun Usage with Jack and Tisha

The Gender Awareness and Pronoun Usage course for VA healthcare providers provides an in-depth look at American gender concepts, including the origins and lasting impact of a binary gender system. Staff will be provided tools to understand how gender identity functions within the VA culture and policies.
All times listed in the description are Eastern Time for programming purposes.