

October 8 & 9, 2020

Through the collective strength and wisdom of clinicians, consumers, academics and advocates to confront the issues affecting these communities, the conference this year focuses on the ways in which the mental health of an LGBTQ+ person of color is affected by identity constructs.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: The call for abstract submissions is effective **Apr 1, 2020**.

Deadline for abstract submissions, **May 31, 2020**

ABSTRACT SELECTION CRITERIA

Abstracts are to be submitted through Google Forms link below:

<http://bit.ly/2020AbstractS>

About the Conference

Keeping the Conference's theme in mind, "**The Environment and Me**", the planning team's collective efforts for this two-day conference will focus on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer-plus and Same-Gender Loving (LGBTQ+/SGL) peoples of color whose life experiences are examples. The collective strengths and wisdom of clinicians, consumers, academics and advocates will examine the academic and personal narrative aspects of overcoming and creating.

The Conference Program is divided into two distinct areas: **Speakers** (invited Speakers will address aspects of the conference Theme and Tracks) and **Presentations** (Workshops, Panel Discussions, and Stand-Alone Presentations conforming to the Conference Tracks). Here are guidelines for abstract submissions; occasionally, an abstract submission may be selected to join our Speaker roster. Carefully read these guidelines.

About Conference Tracks

Workshops and panel discussions are organized around four tracks: Research, Education, Advocacy and Community. Presentations in each track should address the overall Conference theme, "**The Environment and Me**".

When we consider our environment, often we think of the external - where we live, the land and sea, the air and sun, and acknowledging the impact these physical aspects have on our lives, including our mental health, is only one half; the other half is the internal environment - our relationships, how we see ourselves, our cultures, our interactions/interrelationships, our laws, policies, rules, morals and values. This year's we look at both types of environment, particularly, how each impacts our mental health, which in turn drives our behavior, choices and decisions.

Workshops and panel discussions in the four tracks should examine the impact at the micro and macro levels across generations and present/recommend/suggest solutions to systemic issues, taking into account the complexity of these issues as they apply to LGBTQ+ peoples of color and include an analysis of societal issues such as inter- and intra-racism, homophobia and internalized homophobia, transphobia, oppression, wealth acquisition and distribution, power, privilege, inequity.

Submissions should develop frameworks addressing how LGBTQ+ people of color are disproportionately affected by physical and social environmental factors that contribute negatively to their physical and mental well-being, and present clear long-term and sustainable solutions to dismantling these systems that are created by the people who are least affected and who have the most power.

A - Research

Submissions should reflect current research demonstrating how LGBTQ+ peoples of color are affected by both the physical and social environmental factors in their respective communities and should add to the theoretical knowledge and practices explicating the manner in which these factors impact LGBTQ+ peoples of color social determinants of health. As a consideration, for example, what is being done to address the current climate crisis and how does it directly and/or indirectly shape LGBTQ+ peoples of color mental well-being? Presenters are encouraged to present research from a master's thesis, dissertation, and/or other professional research.

B - Education

Submissions are encouraged to focus on the importance of increasing awareness and evidence-based knowledge on physical and social environmental factors, and examine obtaining such knowledge to impact LGBTQ+ peoples of color health and well-being. They should look at effective approaches to disseminating information related to the current climate crisis or changing interpersonal dynamics, for example, that could potentially impact attitudes and beliefs of those who do not see these as threats to lives and communities, including education's role, a social determinant of health, in addressing major issues related to both the physical and social environmental factors affecting LGBTQ+ peoples of color the mental health?

C - Advocacy

Submissions are encouraged to highlight local, national and global grassroots advocacy movements as a model and framework for communities to address the environment's effects on LGBTQ+ peoples of color mental health. And, through examining youth advocacy movements, their responses, mobilization, and activism, abstracts should present the potential environmental impact on these communities' and both the short and long-term effects on their mental health. In so doing, presentations should explore and discuss policy planning and movements toward more environmental awareness and change benefitting these communities.

D - Community

Submissions in this track examine a community's response to both internal and external environmental factors, such as national and local governments' responses, and the burdens on local communities, their culture which can be inclusive of religion, food, music and support networks providing the tools for survival, and the absence of which leaves many LGBTQ+ peoples of color bereft; where communities' responses can be forms of protest against the absence of or slow governmental reaction to their needs; and discusses the internal environmental structures or dynamics in our interpersonal relationships, looking specifically at how issues of respect and acceptance impact community members' mental health.

About Workshops, Panel Discussions and Single Presentations:

(Presentations are 75-minutes duration; suggested, 60 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for Q&A)

Panel Discussions are intended to provide an overview of the topic area, highlighting some key issues needing further exploration, and subsequent policy and program intervention.

Workshops should be designed to serve as information sharing and skills-building sessions, with handouts, use of audiovisual materials, and participant interaction highly encouraged.

Stand-Alone Presentations allow for information and material to be presented clearly and succinctly.

Continuing Education Credits (CEUs):

Providing an abstract submission satisfies NY State Department of Education requirements, that abstract may qualify and be eligible for Continuing Education Credits for Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Licensed Master’s in Social Work, which will be provided by Callen-Lorde Community Health Center. These requirements are included in the abstract submission form; and require uploading a resume/CV, and a signed and dated Conflict of Interest form. To ensure attendees receive CEUS, responses to numbers 15 through 20 are required.

Subject Matter:

NOTE: Conference Organizers encourage presenters (workshop, panel, stand-alone) to adhere to the title and subject of their accepted abstract/proposal submission and not change their presentation without first obtaining permission from the Conference Organizers. Your abstract was reviewed and selected based on satisfying several criteria. Unapproved changes to presentations on the day of, means that the lead presenter and co-presenters (if applicable) will not be invited to present at subsequent conferences.

Evaluations:

Participants in each session (workshop, panel discussion, stand-alone presentation) will be encouraged to complete evaluations that will look at presenter’s knowledge and grasp of subject matter, presentation, and although subjective, listener’s comprehension and sense of applicability.

Abstract Submissions DEADLINE: Midnight May 31, 2020.

LATE AND OR INCOMPLETE ABSTRACTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

NOTE: Late abstracts will ONLY be considered in the event there is some breaking news or an issue with a significant impact on the mental health of LGBT peoples of color emerges; a presenter would then be selected and invited to submit an abstract.

Submit abstracts here: <http://bit.ly/2020Abstract>

Late and or incomplete abstract submissions **WILL NOT** be reviewed or considered. To ensure abstracts are accepted and considered, below is a requirement checklist:

Abstract Submission Requirements - A CHECKLIST:

Please use the checklist below to ensure that you are properly following the abstract submission guidelines. Complete this checklist before emailing your abstract. It may be necessary to prepare a draft on a separate Word document, to ensure you comply with the required word count. Abstracts submissions exceeding the word count will not be reviewed.

- _____ Abstract title – should be catchy, creative and interesting
- _____ Resume/CV attached
- _____ Abstract introduction (will be used in conference journal), maximum 75 words
- _____ Abstract description – maximum 250 words or less
- _____ Use 12-point font size (Arial font)
- _____ The first person listed on the abstract, with email and phone number, **IS** the principal author/presenter
- _____ All co-authors are listed and aware that their names appear on this abstract
- _____ Abstracts received after **midnight, May 31, 2020** will not be accepted

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Abstract Selection Process

Abstract selection criteria will look at and include topic relevance to the mental health of LGBT Q+/SGL POC and related services, level of interest expected in the proposed session and the overall clarity of the abstract.

The abstract review team will make selections and recommendations; the conference programming planning committee will make final selections and approvals. All decisions by the conference programming committee with regard to abstract selections and the program are final. The conference programming committee reserves the right to reject any abstract, even if recommended by the review team, and also reserves the right to formulate and populate the conference program according to need, applicability, relevance and timeliness.

Notification of abstract status, acceptance or rejection, will be sent during the third week of June, 2020.

Notification of abstract acceptance and rejection will be sent to first author ONLY. If you are notified of your abstract's acceptance, you will have one (1) week to return your confirmation (correct name spelling, academic credentials, presentation title, and affirmation that you will present and not change what you submitted) that you will be presenting at the conference. In the event you fail to respond within the given confirmation timeframe, you will be considered as having abandoned your submission and the Planning Team will choose another abstract/presenter. If the abstract submission consists of more than one author/presenter, the first person listed on the submission is responsible to notify co-authors/presenters of all aspects of the submission, acceptance/rejection and presentation. The decision of the Programming Planning Team regarding abstract selection is final. Due to the overwhelming response and submission of abstracts, planning team members will not be able to respond to individual enquiries.

All presenters must be registered for the conference. Confirmed presenter(s) will receive complimentary admission.

Presenters, coming from outside the NYC area/region, are responsible for their own travel and accommodation. The Conference does not offer reimbursement, honoraria or scholarships.

This Conference is innovative in its audacity to address issues and factors impacting the mental health of LGBTQ peoples of color communities, attracting regional, national and international attention – presenting is competitive.

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Deadline, MIDNIGHT, May 31, 2020