Hello friends:

**OCTOPUS Weekly Bulletin**

**For the week of Sunday December 8th, 2019**

#WeWillNotBeErased

Outline:
- Trans Lifeline & Trevor Lifeline
- Editorial Comment
- Updated Announcement
- Notes
- Trans Day of Remembrance Transcript by Dkéama Alexis & BQIC
- Quote
- Columbus Dispatch Editorial August 29, 2019
- OCTOPUS LLC Statement and Comment
- Community Meetings
- Employment Opportunities
- Community Events
- Resources
- TransOhio and Equitas Health Free Legal Clinics

**Trans Lifeline**

(877) 565-8860

**TrevorLifeline**

(for youth)

(866) 488-7386

**Editorial Comment**

OCTOPUS Weekly Bulletin includes information published by and provided through many different organizations. The content (final product), including all comments and all information selected for inclusion are the sole decision and responsibility of Kimberly Sue Griffiths working through OCTOPUS LLC. It is available to all, but is designed for the transgender and non-binary community. If you don't like something, please let me know. This is not straight reporting. My opinion is prevalent throughout.
Updated Announcements

1. Meeting Rescheduling and Relocating

Columbus Public Health (CPH) meetings can no longer take place when the CPH building is closed, which includes weekends and holidays. Thus, all parking will be in back of the building and folks will use the main entrance.

All 1st Wednesday 7PM to 9PM, and all 3rd Sunday 3PM to 5PM TransOhio Trans Peer Support Group Meetings are held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 East 16th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201.

The Every Monday 5PM to 7PM Trans Peer Support Group Meetings on holidays are held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 East 16th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201.

2. New OCTOPUS LLC Sponsored Nonbinary Peer Support Group Meetings

Commencing Thursday July 11th, these meetings are being held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215, from 7pm to 9pm on the second Thursday of each month. Attendance is only open to those members of the transgender community and/or the community who identify as Nonbinary or Nonbinary questioning. This would include anyone under the Nonbinary umbrella including but not limited to those who identify as: genderqueer, gender nonconforming, demigender, genderfluid,
bigender, and agender. This support group is being established to more frequently provide an opportunity for discussing Nonbinary specific issues in a safe space.

Notes

- The December 16th Every Monday Trans Peer Support Group Meeting will include a Year End Business Meeting. Voting Will Take Place Regarding a Proposed Change of Group Sponsorship. To be eligible to vote, you must be eligible to attend the meeting, not solely as a support person, and have attended at least two prior meetings of this group in September, October, November, or December 2019.

- Please read the above Updated Announcements for complete meeting changes.

- New OCTOPUS LLC Sponsored Nonbinary Peer Support Group Meetings with the next meeting on Thursday December 12th.

- Mozaic Medical Gender Transition Workshops and Trans/GNC Peer Support Group Meetings to answer questions about medical transition, tailored especially for moving forward with one’s gender-affirmation journey.

- The Ohio Fairness Act has been reintroduced in 2019, now as two bipartisan bills. SB-11 and HB369, which both prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Proponent testimony has been heard in the Ohio Senate.

- OCTOPUS is the acronym for Organizing Communities Transgender Outreach Promoting United Support.
Trans Day of Remembrance Transcript by Dkéama Alexis & BQIC

Hello everyone, my name is Dkéama Alexis. I was invited to speak this evening on behalf of Black Queer & Intersectional Collective. Thank you for inviting me to the stage.

We are gathered here today at the helm of loss and trans death. Hundreds of people across the world were snuffed out of existence this year for daring to live as their authentic selves. Like the year before this one, and the year before that, and the year before that...

To be Black and trans is to be constantly memorializing. It is to watch your people vanish at a dizzying rate, it is to drown and drown again under a wave of grief that never breaks. Almost like the breath snatched from their chest was snatched from your own.

Today might just be the one day out of the few each year that many of you really and truly sit within this grief, but I don’t think I’d be off base to say that Black trans people treat most days -- if not everyday -- like a Day of Remembrance.

As I gaze out over this sea of mainly white faces, I am confident in my knowledge that, though we may rub shoulders tonight, maybe even shed tears together, many of you will return to your lives tomorrow either too indifferent or too immobilized by guilt to do anything about shrinking the list of names that will be read tonight. Hell, most of you probably aren’t even in close enough community with Black folks to be able to thank a Black person this week, let alone disrupt racism in a meaningful way.

Trust me, I haven’t lost the plot. I am well aware that today is meant to remember those who lost their lives to transphobia and gender-based violence, but it would be irresponsible – and honestly obtuse – for me to not go deeper than that. We cannot talk about transness without talking about race and class. It is no coincidence that the overwhelming majority of people we are mourning tonight are Black trans women. They were taken from us not because they were only trans, but because they were trans AND Black AND woman. White supremacy plays a role in their deaths just as much as transmisogyny, and I know a lot of white folks in the room aren’t making substantial efforts to undo their anti-Blackness. It’s very easy to post online “mourn the dead and fight like hell for the living,” without doing any of the work to fight for us afterwards. The list of names grows every year due, in part, to your inaction and silence.

If you’re white and your feelings are hurt by me saying any of this, I literally do not care. I see your hurt feelings and raise you lost Black lives.

Transmisogynoir, or the hatred and fear of Black trans women, is the base from which many violences stem, including any violence that white trans folks might face because of their gender. Perhaps that is polarizing or divisive from where you are sitting. If that is the case, then let it be so. For someone coming from a community that sits solidly in the middle of multiple intersecting oppressions, I don’t get to pick and choose. Black trans people like me live as we often die: without compromise.
I won’t belabor this point for much longer, my intended audience is and will always be Black folks because we don’t have to convince ourselves of our humanity. So now let me shift my attention to Black cis men who might be in the room tonight. Feel free to pick, choose, and re-apply any of the things I said earlier to the white folks in the room, except switch out white supremacy for misogyny.

As it stands currently, Black trans women are dying at your hands most often. So afraid of what it might mean for your manhood to love trans women that you would much rather kill over it instead of confronting the fucked-up notions you hold about gender in the first place.

Yes, you have been rendered both invisible and violable under the reach of white supremacy, but how tragic is that that you continue to make Black women feel powerless so that you may regain some autonomy of your own?

There is no amount of sweet nothings and embraces that you can give Black trans people in private to undo the often-fatal violence you enact behind those same closed doors. Bring your love for Black trans women out into the light. Be loud about supporting your Black trans sisters, just like they are loud in their love and support for you in the streets when another Black cis man or boy is shot down by a cop.

Now, I’m specifically speaking to my Black trans family here: I love you. I see you. I am here with you and for you.

Yes, today is our day to remember. TDOR is just about everyday for us like I said earlier, but let’s not forget that the R in TDOR can stand for other things. Some also call today Trans Day of Resilience. That one is tricky for me personally because, while it’s a nice sentiment to acknowledge, resilience isn’t necessarily a compliment or worth celebrating if past experiences cannot be healed due to current and future threats of violence. Black trans women are not interested in just bouncing back and surviving, Black trans women demand and deserve to thrive!

Today is Trans Day of Resistance. War is being waged on Black trans women. The blood of our Black trans sisters has been spilled far too often in parking lots and living rooms and jail cells. Layleen Polanco’s name was only recently added to the HRC’s list of names for 2019, as if it is not a murder when a Black trans woman dies while being caged in solitary confinement at one of the country’s most violent men’s jails. And for what? The state killed Layleen the vicious crime of being poor.

Benji Hart wrote a poem radically reimagining the bill passed in the wake of Layleen’s death at Rikers Island. The poem ends with the lines “Trans elders will have their charcoal locs retwisted in chosen hands. We have never asked permission to sing.”

“I tear up everytime at the part about singing, because it is simply so true! We move through the world with such magic, grace and authenticity that the world is working overtime to snuff it out. Well, beautiful and defiant is the song of the caged bird, and may we keep singing it until it reaches beyond the grave and alights on the souls of our dearly departed.

Today is Trans Day of REVENGE. If anyone or anything presents an obstacle to your freedom: invoke the power of our radical trancelators, cut them at the knees, and keep
pushing on. 
Feel your broken hearts, but do not forget to feel the fire. Resistance, reclamation, and revolution is our legacy.

As black trans people, we have long been fighting tooth and nail for a world where we no longer have any names to say. For a world where we can step outside without fear of humiliation or attack. For a world where Black trans people and women are able to live long, full, healthy lives.

The fire in our hearts will one day burn down this brutal world of borders, cages, and binaries, and we will be the ones left standing to build a new world from its ashes.

Thank you.

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**Quote**

Hate is a disease, fueled by oppression, white supremacy, & fascism, cured by embracing diversity, by education, & by love. - KSG

As always, your ideas and questions are welcome, and we will try to accommodate wherever we can. If you or anyone you know are ever seeking resources and do not know who to ask or where to turn, perhaps we can help. You are welcome to contact me directly, but normally I prefer to schedule phone conversations. Email, texting, or messaging is best.

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**Columbus Dispatch Editorial August 29, 2019**

**Facebook comment:** ACLU of Ohio, through Emma Keeshin, contacted me earlier this week, providing excellent language and suggesting that I submit a Columbus Dispatch editorial. In full support, I included, personalized, and edited their points in support of the Ohio Fairness Act and wrote the following editorial published in the 8/29/19 Dispatch.
Bill necessary to protect LGBTQ from discrimination

The Ohio Fairness Act, (Ohio SB11), is strongly supported by the Ohio business community, LGBTQ Ohioans, and civil rights advocates. With bipartisan sponsorship, it is anti-discrimination legislation designed to protect the lives of LGBTQ Ohioans from the actions of discriminatory employers, landlords, and service workers.

No one should ever be fired, denied housing, or refused services simply because of who they are or who they love. The Sunday Dispatch article "Job Insecurity" illustrated the human toll of an incredible national patchwork of anti-discrimination laws, leaving vast geographic areas where families cannot exercise their human right to live freely and openly. Don’t you want your loved ones equally protected?

Despite the federal muddle, Ohio legislators have both the opportunity and the clear responsibility to save lives by passing this bill. 70% of Americans support nondiscrimination protections, believing they already exist.

Realizing the competitive advantage of protecting workers from discrimination, over 600 businesses joined Ohio Business Competes. Businesses like Starbucks, Honda, and Chase endorse explicit and comprehensive LGBTQ protections to attract the best talent and grow Ohio’s economy.

I’m an LGBTQ advocate, love my family and community, run a business proudly having joined Ohio Business Competes, and understand. It’s past time for Ohio to move forward.

Kimberly Sue Griffiths, Executive Director, OCTOPUS LLC (Organizing Communities Transgender Outreach Promoting United Support)

OCTOPUS LLC Statement

OCTOPUS LLC Statement - November 1, 2018, #WeWillNotBeErased: Transgender & Intersex Community Gathering
We are faced with an unbelievable situation. The presidential administration of our own country has deemed it appropriate to discredit, as TransOhio stated, “science, medicine, current nondiscrimination laws, federal court cases, and public policy.” Anger, outrage, concern, fear, and heartbreak do not really begin to describe the resulting emotional turmoil.

The memo attacking us was issued through the Department of Health and Human Services, and the exclusion is targeted to spread like a contagion to the Departments of Justice, Education, and Labor. This outrageous plan threatens to erase transgender, intersex, non-binary, agender, and gender non-conforming people, defining them out of existence. The U.S. Health Department and the Civil Rights Office have already removed all website language referencing transgender identities. It is time to comfort and support one another, and it is also time to join together, to work together, and ultimately to succeed together. This attack cannot be allowed to stand. It must and will be destroyed.

This blatant discrimination is taking a toll on our community, with Trans Lifeline stating, "Since the HHS memo was leaked, the number of calls to our crisis hotline has more than quadrupled, doubling the number of new callers”.

As we continue to experience bad news from our government almost daily, the feeling of control over our own lives can begin to erode. If this is coupled with personal struggles that we are already fighting to overcome, then anxiety and depression might grow within us. A perception of loss of power can be exacerbated, replacing our hopes and dreams with a personal and cultural
malaise. We may need assistance and should look for options to share our feelings and motivate ourselves to create or regain our passion. Engage your creative side and make or compose something that will boost your self-esteem. Begin setting both short and long-term goals. Research the steps that you need to take to achieve these goals. Write your own mission statement. Help others and in the process help yourself as well. Collaborate. Rekindle hope. Take an opportunity to protest the outrage that you feel. Realize your potential and convince yourself of the truth that too frequently we all may forget. Each of us matters. Each of us can truly make a difference.

Though you may not always be able to draw on it to pull you from the depths, remember that you are courageous. That courage is a part of you just waiting to be grasped. Hope, my friend, is the key. Please never give up on that. Life may not go as we plan, but each new day begins a new lifetime. The past is our basis and offers our challenge. The present is our opportunity. The future is our hope. The driving force includes our courage, our fighting spirit, and our loving heart, all motivating us to reach out for those elusive future goals. We work through the challenges, seize the opportunities, and experience progress, our hopes just waiting there on the horizon of another new day.

These are turbulent and often chaotic times for us, and the challenges may at times seem insurmountable, even threatening to destroy the progress for which we have all worked so hard. We will not allow that to happen. We are here. We are visible. We are joined together in love and support. We will not go back. Justice will be ours.
So, with opportunity, fear, and necessity staring us squarely in the face, it is time to make history. – KSG

Comment:
We seek the support of our community, our organizations, our corporations, our government officials and every American who believes in justice, equality, inclusion, and health, to stand with us. We call on the President, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Education, and Labor, to abandon their discriminatory and unjust plans to definitionally erase the existence of transgender, intersex, non-binary, agender, and gender non-conforming Americans. Instead, we ask that the US federal government truly recognize our lives, our contributions to this country, and our humanity. Prejudicial targeting of a courageous but small, marginalized, and misunderstood community is not only inhumane, but unethical. These plans to define us into oblivion and abandon us in a legal abyss cannot be allowed to stand. – KSG

Community Meetings

OCTOPUS LLC Sponsored "Positive Progressions Transgender Community"
Mansfield, OH Second Sunday Trans Peer Support Group Meeting, December 8th, 2019 (3 - 5pm)

Positive Progressions Transgender Community is a transgender peer support group that began in January 2018. Initiated through the planning and organization of Kelli Leelah Quail, and sponsored by OCTOPUS LLC, it is the first of what will hopefully be many more rural and smaller urban area outreach trans support groups. Meetings will be the second Sunday of every month from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Ocie Hill Community Center, 455 Bowman St., Mansfield, OH 44903. Contact: kellizgirl@gmail.com for questions.
December 8th: Second Sunday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm (OCTOPUS LLC sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kelli Leelah Quail) Held at: Ocie Hill Community Center, 455 Bowman St., Mansfield, OH 44903

January 12th, 2020: Second Sunday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm (OCTOPUS LLC sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kelli Leelah Quail) Held at: Ocie Hill Community Center, 455 Bowman St., Mansfield, OH 44903

February 9th, 2020: Second Sunday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm (OCTOPUS LLC sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kelli Leelah Quail) Held at: Ocie Hill Community Center, 455 Bowman St., Mansfield, OH 44903

(New) COSSGPS Plurality Group Meetings Second Sunday, December 8th, 2019 (5–7)

Note: Information provided by Maggie David Haynes

Plurality is when multiple people live in the same body. Contrary to representation in the media, plurality can be a healthy way to exist, and is more common than most people think.

What - COSSGPS is:
- intended to be a safe environment for plural folks to socialize, and to offer and receive support for our everyday lives.
- a peer-led group, not a therapy group; no professional therapists are present.
- facilitated by Maggie David Haynes, with assistance from co-facilitators.

Who - COSSGPS is open to:
- Any member of any plural system: traumagenic, endogenic, mixed-origin, or other; those with or without diagnoses of DID or OSDD systems, who are public about their plurality or not; tulpamancy systems; median systems; etc.
- People who are unsure whether they are plural; or singlets seriously interested in becoming plural, such as through tulpamancy.
- Allies of the plural community, if invited by someone who fits in one of the above categories.

When - COSSGPS meets on the second Sunday of each month, from 5–7 PM Eastern Time.

See also - Group rules & glossary of plurality terms will be provided at the first meeting.

Contact - cossgps@gmail.com

December 8th: Second Sunday 5pm-7pm, facilitated by Maggie David Haynes, with assistance from other co-facilitators. Held at Mozaic Safe Space, 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201.

January 12th, 2020: Second Sunday 5pm-7pm, facilitated by Maggie David Haynes, with assistance from other co-facilitators. Held at Mozaic Safe Space, 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201.

February 9th, 2020: Second Sunday 5pm-7pm, facilitated by Maggie David Haynes, with assistance from other co-facilitators. Held at Mozaic Safe Space, 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201.
**Every Monday Trans Peer Support Group Meetings**  
**Monday December 9th, 2019 (5 to 7pm)**

**NOTICE** The December 16th Every Monday Trans Peer Support Group Meeting will include a Year End Business Meeting. Voting Will Take Place Regarding a Proposed Change of Group Sponsorship. To be eligible to vote, you must be eligible to attend the meeting, not solely as a support person, and have attended at least two prior meetings of this group in September, October, November, or December 2019.

We hope that you will be able to attend the upcoming Every Monday Trans Peer Support Group Meeting on **Monday December 9th, 2019 (5pm-7pm)**. The meetings will normally be held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215. **On Monday holidays they will be held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201.** Park in back and enter through the appropriate entrance. If you need to call me or text me, I can be reached at (614) 582-1678. Feel free to arrive late on Monday if it is necessary to accommodate your personal schedule. Please join us if you can whether you are returning or coming for the first time. We are here to provide an opportunity to discuss our individual experiences and issues and help one another as we share our mutual sense of community on this wondrous journey.

**December 9th:** Second Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

**December 16th:** NOTICE: This meeting will include a Year End Business Meeting. Voting Will Take Place Regarding a Proposed Change of Group Sponsorship. To be eligible to vote, you must be eligible to attend the meeting, not solely as a support person, and have attended at least two prior meetings of this group in September, October, November, or December 2019. Third Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

**December 23rd:** Fourth Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215. (*See details for OCTOPUS LLC People of Color Breakout meeting below.)*

**December 30th:** Fifth Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

**January 6th, 2020:** First Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

**January 13th, 2020:** Second Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

**January 20th, 2020:** Third Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

**January 27th, 2020** Fourth Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215. (*See details for OCTOPUS LLC People of Color Breakout meeting below.*)
Februrary 3rd, 2020: First Monday 5pm-7pm (Every Monday meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

Mozaic Medical Gender Transition Workshop and Trans/GNC Peer Support Group Meetings

Have questions about medical transition? Join us for the workshop and support group session tailored especially for moving forward in your gender-affirmation journey! The services are provided by Equitas Health Behavioral Health Specialists in collaboration with Mozaic. The Workshops will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 5pm to 7pm and deal with Medical Transition Resources, Navigation Tools, Expectations About Surgery, and have a Q&A Session After. **Everyone is welcome to attend the Workshops.** The Trans/GNC Peer Support Groups will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5pm to 7pm and will provide a Support Group for those looking to and in the process of medical and/or social transition. **Only those who identify as Trans/GNC are welcome to attend the Trans/GNC Peer Support Groups.** Mozaic is located at 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201. For more information, please call Mozaic at: (614) 299-2437, Ext. 4119. Contact Mozaic if interested.

December 10th: Workshop – for Everyone - Second Tuesday, 5:00pm–7:00pm Equitas Health sponsored meeting facilitated by Elijah Blass and Lucy Campbell. Held at: Mozaic, 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201.

December 24th: Trans/GNC Peer Support Group - Only for those who identify as Trans/GNC - Fourth Tuesday, 5:00pm–7:00pm Equitas Health sponsored meeting facilitated by Elijah Blass and Lucy Campbell. Held at: Mozaic, 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201.

January 14th, 2020: Workshop – for Everyone - Second Tuesday, 5:00pm–7:00pm Equitas Health sponsored meeting facilitated by Elijah Blass and Lucy Campbell. Held at: Mozaic, 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201.

January 28th, 2020: Trans/GNC Peer Support Group - Only for those who identify as Trans/GNC - Fourth Tuesday, 5:00pm–7:00pm Equitas Health sponsored meeting facilitated by Elijah Blass and Lucy Campbell. Held at: Mozaic, 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201.

Kaleidoscope Youth Center Genderscope meeting to support Trans* and Gender Non-Conforming Youth

KYC Genderscope:
Are you trans*? Gender non-conforming? Genderqueer? Gender-bending? Questioning your gender? Do you feel like the labels don't fit? Are you **between the ages of 12 and 20**? This conversation space is for you! This group meets every Tuesday, for support and discussion, from 7:00pm - 8:30pm and every Thursday, for an activity and social night, from 5:00pm - 7:00pm at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information Email Liam at: Liam@KYCOhio.org
December 10th: Second Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

December 12th: Second Thursday 5:30pm-7:00pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

December 17th: Third Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

December 19th: Third Thursday 5:30pm-7:00pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

December 24th: Fourth Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215) May be cancelled due to holiday.

December 26th: Fourth Thursday 5:30pm-7:00pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215) May be cancelled due to holiday.

December 31st: Fifth Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215) May be cancelled due to holiday.

January 2nd, 2020: First Thursday 5:30pm-7:00pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215) May be cancelled due to holiday.

January 7th, 2020: First Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

January 9th, 2020: Second Thursday 5:30pm-7:00pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

January 14th, 2020: Second Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

January 16th, 2020: Third Thursday 5:30pm-7:00pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

January 21st, 2020: Third Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

January 23rd, 2020: Fourth Thursday 5:30pm-7:00pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)
Kaleidoscope Youth Center Support Group for Families of Trans* Youth

This support group for families of trans/gender non-conforming youth meets every Tuesday from 7:00-8:30pm at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Email: INFO@kycohio.org or familiesupportgroup@kycohio.org for more details.

**December 10th**: Second Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

**December 17th**: Third Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

**December 24th**: Fourth Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215) **May be cancelled due to holiday.**

**December 31st**: Fifth Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215) **May be cancelled due to holiday.**

**January 7th, 2020**: First Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

**January 14th, 2020**: Second Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

**January 21st, 2020**: Third Tuesday 7pm-8:30pm (KYC sponsored meeting, held at Kaleidoscope Youth Center, 603 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

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**OCTOPUS LLC Sponsored Nonbinary Peer Support Group Meeting, December 12th, 2019**

**New Monthly Meetings**

The location for these meetings is: Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215. These meetings are held from 7pm to 9pm on the second Thursday of each month. Attendance is only open to those members of the transgender community and/or the community who identify as Nonbinary or Nonbinary questioning. This would include anyone under the Nonbinary umbrella including but not limited to those who identify as: genderqueer, gender nonconforming, demigender, genderfluid, bigender, and agender. This support group was established due to an interest in more frequently providing an opportunity for discussing Nonbinary specific issues in a safe space. The meetings are facilitated by a Nonbinary member of the community. We hope that this will benefit everyone in the community, especially those who identify as Nonbinary.

**December 12th, 2019.** Second Thursday 7pm-9pm (Meetings are facilitated by a Nonbinary member of the community and are held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215).
January 9th, 2020. Second Thursday 7pm-9pm (Meetings are facilitated by a Nonbinary member of the community and are held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215).

February 13th, 2020. Second Thursday 7pm-9pm (Meetings are facilitated by a Nonbinary member of the community and are held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119D, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215).

TransOhio Third Sunday Trans Peer Support Group Meetings
Sunday December 15th, 2019 (3 to 5)

We hope that you will be able to attend the upcoming TransOhio Trans Peer Support Group Meeting on Sunday December 15th, 2019 (3pm-5pm). The meeting will be held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201. The church has a parking lot, but it is possible that all access doors will be locked. Please enter through the door from the parking lot. I plan to mark the appropriate entry by posting instructions on the door. Try the door and if locked, please knock. You may need to call me or text me at (614) 582-1678 to come and open the door for you. Feel free to arrive late if it is necessary to accommodate your personal schedule. Please join us if you can whether you are returning or coming for the first time. We are here to provide an opportunity to discuss our individual experiences and issues and help one another as we share our mutual sense of community on this wondrous journey. These meetings are held once a month on the third Sunday from 3pm to 5pm.

December 15th: Sunday 3pm-5pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201.

January 19th, 2020: Sunday 3pm-5pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201.

February 16th, 2020: Sunday 3pm-5pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201.

TransOhio Sunday, Monthly Gender Expansive Youth-Family Support Group
Sunday December 22nd, 2019 (2:00 to 3:30)

Note: This is on hiatus.

Host: TransOhio
Date and Time: Sunday December 22nd, 2019 (2:00 to 3:30)
Location: Columbus Metropolitan Library - Parsons Branch (Confirm location with Michelle)
Address: 1113 Parsons Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43206
Contact Information: Michelle, michelle@transohio.org, with any questions

Details: TransOhio has added this to the support groups they offer!! This is for the Sunday, monthly Youth-Family support group! This is a play/support group for youth moderated by Sherene Gardner, a social worker with years of experience working with youth. This group also serves as a place for family members (immediate and extended) to connect with other family members of gender expansive youth and be able to have a working support group of their own while being available to join in activities with the youth if needed.
Please share and contact Michelle, michelle@transohio.org, with any questions!

December 22nd: Fourth Sunday, 2:00pm-3:30pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting, moderated by Sherene Gardner) Held at: Columbus Metropolitan Library - Parsons Branch (Confirm location with Michelle)

January 26th, 2020: Fourth Sunday, 2:00pm-3:30pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting, moderated by Sherene Gardner) Held at: Columbus Metropolitan Library - Parsons Branch (Confirm location with Michelle)

OCTOPUS Fourth Monday Trans Peer Support Group Meeting for People of Color (Breakout)
Monday December 23rd, 2019 (Breakout 5:30 to 6:30)

This breakout meeting is scheduled for the Monday December 23rd, 2019 meeting (and on the fourth Mondays thereafter). This meeting is a separately sponsored optional, one hour, breakout from the regular meeting, with leadership by Cynthia Angelina Vanessa McGimpsey and LaToya Swanson. This support group was established to create a more frequent opportunity to provide a forum and safe space to discuss trans issues related to people of color. With the possible occasional exception for guest speakers, attendance is only open to those members of the transgender community who identify as persons of color. This breakout is scheduled for 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. If you are a person of color who might find this type of support group just right for you, please come to check it out.

December 23rd: Fourth Monday 5pm-7pm (Breakout 5:30pm-6:30pm) (OCTOPUS sponsored meeting, run by the leadership of Cynthia Angelina Vanessa McGimpsey and LaToya Swanson) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119C, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

January 27th, 2020: Fourth Monday 5pm-7pm (Breakout 5:30pm-6:30pm) (OCTOPUS sponsored meeting, run by the leadership of Cynthia Angelina Vanessa McGimpsey and LaToya Swanson) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119C, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.
February 25th, 2020: Fourth Monday 5pm-7pm (Breakout 5:30pm-6:30pm) (OCTOPUS sponsored meeting, run by the leadership of Cynthia Angelina Vanessa McGimpsey and LaToya Swanson) Held at Columbus Public Health, Room 119C, 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

TransOhio First Wednesday Trans Peer Support Group Meetings
Wednesday January 2nd, 2020 (7 to 9)

We hope that you will be able to attend the upcoming TransOhio Trans Peer Support Group Meeting on Wednesday January 2nd, 2020 (7pm-9pm). The location for these meetings is Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201. The church has a parking lot, but it is possible that all access doors will be locked. Please enter through the door from the parking lot. I plan to mark the appropriate entry by posting instructions on the door. Try the door and if locked, please knock. You may need to call me or text me at (614) 582-1678 to come and open the door for you. Feel free to arrive late if it is necessary to accommodate your personal schedule. Please join us if you can whether you are returning or coming for the first time. We are here to provide an opportunity to discuss our individual experiences and issues and help one another as we share our mutual sense of community on this wondrous journey. These meetings are held once a month, from 7pm to 9pm, being at the same time and place as the first Wednesday TransOhio sponsored Transgender Partners Peer Support Group Meetings, unless those meetings are on hiatus.

January 2nd, 2020: First Wednesday 7pm-9pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201.

February 5th, 2020: First Wednesday 7pm-9pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

March 4th, 2020: First Wednesday 7pm-9pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting, facilitated by Kimberly Sue Griffiths) Held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

TransOhio Transgender Partners Peer Support Group Meetings:
(This is a great opportunity to share with and support other transgender partners.)
Meetings are ON HIATUS until further notice.

These meetings are normally held once a month, from 7pm to 9pm, being at the same time and place as the first Wednesday TransOhio sponsored Trans Peer Support Group Meetings. The gatherings are designed to educate, support, and create community for all partners of transgender and genderqueer individuals, with all partners welcome.

ON HIATUS: First Wednesday meetings, when not on hiatus, run from 7pm-9pm (TransOhio sponsored meeting) Held at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church, 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201.
Employment Opportunities

1. Equitas Health Careers: Open Positions

http://jobs.jobvite.com/equitashould

Equitas Health is Ohio’s premier community-based, not-for-profit response to HIV/AIDS, from prevention to diagnosis and treatment. But we’re also so much more. We are culturally competent comprehensive healthcare for the LGBTQ community. We are primary care, dentistry, and gynecology. We are counseling and behavioral health. We are 15 offices in 11 cities throughout Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia serving tens of thousands a year — and growing. We are Care for All — the underserved and beyond. We are hope, and we are yours.

It is the policy of Equitas Health that no employee or applicant will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, gender-identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, HIV status, genetic information, political affiliation, marital status, union activity, military, veteran, and economic status, or any other characteristic protected in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. This policy applies to all phases of its personnel activity including recruitment, hiring, placement, upgrading, training, promotion, transfer, separation, recall, compensation, benefits, education, recreation, and all other conditions or privileges of employment. Equitas Health values diversity and welcomes applicants from a broad array of backgrounds.

2. AIDS Healthcare Foundation – Columbus Jobs

https://careers-aidshealth.icims.com/jobs/search?searchLocation=12781-12819-Columbus&ss=1+&mobile=false&width=884&height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-300&jun1offset=-240

WHO WE ARE: Does the idea of doing something that really makes a difference in people’s lives while being well-compensated intrigue you? Are you looking to work for an organization that encourages growth and success from each and every one of its employees? If so, AIDS Healthcare Foundation is the place for you!

Founded in 1987, AIDS Healthcare Foundation is the largest specialized provider of HIV/AIDS medical care in the nation. Our mission is to provide cutting edge medicine and advocacy, regardless of ability to
Through our healthcare centers, pharmacies, health plan, research and other activities, AHF provides access to the latest HIV treatments for all who need them.

**AHF’s core values are:**
- Patient-Centered
- Value Employees
- Respect for Diversity
- Nimble
- Fight for What’s Right

**Benefits at AHF**
AHF offers comprehensive benefits to help our employees do and be their very best! These benefits are intended to enhance employee physical, financial, spiritual and professional health.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR SUCCESS!
The role of an HIV Testing Counselor is vital to helping AHF with our mission to provide compassionate and informing care to our clients. Within their duties of HIV testing, this position has the opportunity to engage in outreach within the community and educate those at risk. Caring, personable and relatable counselors enhance the probability of clients returning for services in the future.

Providing the best possible care can also ensure clients are well-informed to protect themselves in the future.

The HIV Testing Counselor can help the Public Health Department team within AHF further develop by contributing a team centered attitude and new outreach strategies. In addition, giving feedback to their manager about how service could be improved will allow the team member to enhance their contribution.

The Testing Counselor adds consistent value to the PHD Team by adapting to various situations with ease and by being flexible.

_We at AIDS Healthcare Foundation believe that each individual is entitled to equal employment opportunities without regard to race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, age, veteran status or disability. The right of equal employment opportunity extends to recruiting, hiring selection, transfer, promotion, training and all other conditions of employment._

3. **To find the Neighborhood Health News postings:**

Go to the NHN direct link at [www.columbus.gov/neighborhood-health-news](http://www.columbus.gov/neighborhood-health-news) or go to Columbus Public Health’s website at [www.columbus.gov/publichealth](http://www.columbus.gov/publichealth) and scroll all the way down to the Job Opportunities or to the very bottom of the page to the Neighborhood Health News icon.
Community Events

1. Mozaic Safe Space and Trans Resource Center

Host: Mozaic

- Dates: Daily, September 17th, 2018 forward, Monday – Friday
- Time: M,T,W,F: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM, (Testing 11 AM – 6:30 PM); Th: 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM, (Testing 12 PM – 6:30 PM)
- Location: Mozaic Safe Space
- Address: 2228 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43201
- Contact: Call: (614) 340-6731, or Email: mailto:mozaic@equitashealth.com

Details:
Are you transgender, gender non-conforming, genderqueer, non-binary, a butchqueen, or questioning your gender? Come to Mozaic's Safe Space and Trans Resource Center! This is open to the whole of the non-cisgender, non-questioning community but PRIORITY will be given to PEOPLE OF COLOR.

Each week, Monday through Friday from 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM, our staff will be on-hand, prepared to offer FREE and CONFIDENTIAL HIV/STI testing, and prepared to help you access.

FREE or LOW COST, GENDER-INCLUSIVE resources for...
--- food
--- shelter
--- housing
--- health care (hormones, STI treatment, medical providers, etc.)
--- clothes
--- and more!

This is a RECURRING, WEEKLY event. We look forward to helping our community access the resources they need!

2. Holiday Party with Mozaic and TransOhio

Hosts: Mozaic and TransOhio

- Date and Time: Saturday December 14th, 2019 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Location: Summit on 16th United Methodist Church
- Address: 82 E 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201
Details:
Join Mozaic and TransOhio for our first joint holiday party! We will be celebrating the season with our local LGBTQIA+ community with food, games, and more!

- While we will be providing food and drinks, we encourage folx to bring a dish to share! Potluck style!
- We will have board games to play and will have a bingo game with prizes!!
- Wear your best ugly holiday sweater!
- All ages welcome! This is an open event for the queer and trans community and our allies.

Please RSVP and follow the event for additional details!

3. Redbird Books to Prisoners

**Host:** Redbird Books to Prisoners
**Date and Time:** Sunday December 15, 2019; 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
**Location:** The Midden
**Address:** 379 Chittenden Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

**Details and Information:** RedBird Books to Prisoners /P.O. Box 10599 /Columbus OH 43201, mailto:redbirdprisonabolition@gmail.com; Founded in 2011; **Mission:** Why Abolition? Historically, and in the context of the United States, the word "abolish" has been attached to movements whose goal is to end slavery. RedBird Prison Abolition self-identifies as a prison abolitionist group in keeping with this history of liberation, and in our desire to completely destroy the institution of prisons and jailing. We propose and support putting fewer people into prisons, getting people out of prison and developing alternative approaches to justice while dealing with social problems. We also support efforts to reduce the many harms prisoners face and maximize what freedoms they do possess while imprisoned.

**About:** When: Every 1st and 3rd Sunday 5 - 7pm; Where: The Midden; 379 Chittenden Ave; Mailing Address: RedBird Books to Prisoners /P.O. Box 10599 /Columbus OH 43201

**General Information:** All of our activities are guided by what prisoners ask for and tell us they need. That means we do lots of different things as methods to support people inside. We do all sorts of projects, like:

**SETTING UP PENPALS:** - Penpals mean a ton to people in prison, and we have a big list of prisoners looking for someone to write to!

**CIRCULATING PRISONER NEWSLETTERS AND WRITING:** - We transcribe and help circulate info for jailhouse lawyers, along with other zines, essays, and newsletters made by prisoners.

**PRISONER ART SHOWS:** - We collect prisoner art and organize gallery shows to exhibit their work.
WORKSHOPS: - We have workshops on all sorts of stuff! Prison industrial complex, the Lucasville uprising, how to do prisoner support, and more.

LETTER WRITING NIGHTS:

4. T-talks

Host: T-talks and Wild Goose Creative

- **Next Date and Time: To Be Announced**
- **Location:** Wild Goose Creative
- **Address:** 2491 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43202

Contact: m.me/transstorytelling, derosa.art@gmail.com

https://www.youtube.com/user/DeROSAart

Details: Welcome to our FIFTH, most excellent event! Trans, or "T" Talks, is an ongoing, monthly storytelling event for and by the trans community that seeks to lift voices, raise awareness, and inspire healing through the power of storytelling, with the hope of dismantling discrimination and violence against the trans community at large.

The hope is that by sharing our stories with the rest of the queer/ally community and, especially, those outside the trans/queer community, we can dismantle the ignorance of who we are. And, thereby, fight against the hate and violence that threaten our basic human, inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We believe that proper education is key to the success of empathy, which is the cornerstone of understanding. So, "T" talks then counts as an informative, educational series with the higher goal of activism and advocacy.

Presented by Felicia DeRosa and Wild Goose Creative, “T” talks invites the full spectrum of the trans-identified community - in an open mic format - to share stories of their experience in a safe, inclusive, community environment. This month's theme is to be announced. Each open mic contributor will be offered five minutes to share their story. To get the ball rolling, this month we will have featured storytellers: to be announced. Assisting them will be the amazing ASL combo of Amy Parker Delorenzo and Lee Conley.

Friends and allies are encouraged to attend and to listen actively, and attentively. This is a safe space. You are welcome and included here. Your existence matters. Be you. Be heard. Be Loved. ♥
5. Greater Columbus LGBTQ Health Coalition Meetings

**Host:** Columbus Public Health
- **Next Date and Time:** Monday January 13th, 2020 from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
- **Follow up Dates:** Except when moved due to a holiday, 2nd Tuesdays every other month from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
- **Location:** Columbus Public Health, Room 119D
- **Address:** 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215.

**Details:**
**MISSION**
The Greater Columbus LGBTQ Health Coalition is a community-based initiative that consists of health care providers, caregivers, community leaders, organizations and allies, all with the goal of fostering positive health and safety outcomes within the city’s gender and sexually diverse communities. This includes, but is not limited to, becoming a visible voice of advocacy for gender and sexually diverse clients, educating and providing inclusive wellness resources and filling data gaps in research.

6. 2020 Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference

- **Date:** Thursday July 23rd, Friday July 24th, Saturday July 25th, 2019
- **Location:** Pennsylvania Convention Center,
- **Address:** 129 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
- **Time:** To be determined
- **Host:** A Program of Mazzoni Center
- **Website:** [https://www.mazzonicenter.org/trans-wellness](https://www.mazzonicenter.org/trans-wellness)
- **Presentation submission deadline:** To be announced.

**RESOURCES**

1. Equality Ohio Legal Clinics

**Host:** Equality Ohio
Next Date and Time: Call (614) 224-0400 to verify. Next will be December 17, 2019 from 3 PM – 7 PM
Follow up Dates: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 3 pm - 7 pm
Location: Stonewall Columbus
Address: 1160 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43201

Details
The Equality Ohio Legal Clinic offers FREE legal representation to members of the LGBTQ community in the following areas of law:

1. Criminal Justice Support/Advocacy, including protection orders, victims of crime compensation application, and law enforcement support interaction;

2. Family Law, including child support, custody, divorce, and guardianship;

3. Consumer Law, including identity theft, consumer debt negotiation, and creditor fraud reports;

4. Benefit Support, including health insurance, food assistance, and Social Security Disability applications;

5. Administrative Agency Support, including unemployment compensation and complaints to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission;

6. Expungement/Criminal Record Sealing;

7. Legal Name Changes;

8. Landlord/Tenant Law.

Have a legal question or concern? Please feel free to drop by anytime between 3pm - 7pm. An Equality Ohio Legal Clinic Attorney will be available on the second floor of the new Stonewall Columbus facility. Please walk in the building and use the elevators located on the left-hand side of the foyer. After exiting the elevators on the second floor, please turn left.

Are you not able to visit during these hours? That’s okay! Fill out a brief intake form on our website, and an Equality Ohio Legal Clinic team member will reach out to you! The intake form can be found here: https://www.equalityohio.org/legal-clinic/intake/
2. Transcend Legal

On Monday July 16, 2018, in Cincinnati, Ohio, I had the pleasure of learning about transgender-related health care and insurance from Noah E. Lewis, Executive Director of Transcend Legal. I also learned more from Noah through his presentations at the Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference on Saturday August 4, 2018. Please check out their website for helpful videos and insurance related information.

Transcend Legal
3553 82nd St. #6D
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
(347) 612-4312
https://transcendlegal.org/

Transcend Legal helps people get transgender-related health care covered under insurance. We also help transgender people in New York get their name & gender legally recognized. The era of routine exclusion of transgender-related care is over. No one should be paying for hormones, surgeries, or puberty-delaying treatments out of pocket anymore.

Our Trans Insurance Roadmap videos are the place to start learning about your health care rights. The videos cover the basics of learning what your plan will cover, how to apply for coverage, and what your options are if you are denied.

3. Trans Health Equality Network Email reports on Proposed HHS Ruling, From Noah Lewis of Transcend Legal

HHS Issues Proposed Rule to Align Grants Regulation with New Legislation, Nondiscrimination Laws, and Supreme Court Decisions

NCTE statement:
https://transequality.org/press/releases/trump-administration-erases-civil-rights-protections-for-lgbtq-health-programs

Announced by HHS this morning, the rule immediately removes any requirement that recipients of grants from HHS enforce nondiscrimination rules that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Impacting all discretionary and non-discretionary grants across the Department, the rule will allow anti-transgender discrimination in HIV and STI prevention programs, opioid programs,
youth homelessness services, health professional training, substance use recovery programs, and many other life-saving services addressing crises with a disparate impact on transgender people in the US.

HHS has already separately moved to allow discrimination in Medicare and Medicaid programs through the elimination of an Obama-era rule protecting transgender people from discrimination in health care. The rule announced today will also remove rules prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion.

--

Noah E. Lewis, Esq.
Executive Director
Transcend Legal

4. Judge vacates Trump’s rule that would allow doctors to discriminate against LGBTQ people

From LGBTQ Nation by Alex Bollinger - Wednesday, November 20, 2019

“A third judge has ruled against the Trump administration’s rule that would allow doctors and other medical professionals to refuse to treat patients for religious reasons, vacating the rule entirely in a summary judgment.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup of the Northern District of California joined federal judges Stanley Bastian in Spokane and Paul Engelmayer in New York, the judges who ruled earlier this month that the Department of Health and Human Services’s religious exemption rule from this past May violated numerous federal laws. …

The rule would have allowed health care workers to refuse to treat people if doing so violated their religious beliefs, even without notifying their employers. The rule also expanded the types of workers who could claim a religious exemption to doing their jobs to include billing staff, receptionists, and emergency responders. …

Alsup ruled against HHS, saying that the rule went far beyond HHS’s authority when it comes to interpreting statutory law.

“When a rule is so saturated with error, as here, there is no point in trying to sever the problematic provisions,” Alsup wrote. “The whole rule must go.”
“Today’s court ruling blocked the President’s heartless, unlawful attempt to restrict the healthcare rights of women, LGBTQ individuals, and countless others,” said Becerra in a statement. …

“That is now three judges in two weeks who have recognized the Denial of Care Rule for what it is, an egregious and unconstitutional attack on women, LGBT people and other vulnerable populations,” said Lambda Legal’s Jamie Gliksberg in a statement.

HHS has been attacking LGBTQ equality with other rule changes, including attempting to overturn Obama era guidance that banned discrimination against transgender people in the Affordable Care Act and allowing the recipients of HHS grants – including adoption and foster care agencies – to engage in religion-based discrimination.

This ruling does not address those other rules.”

5. The Ohio Fairness Act, SB11 – 2019, HB369 – 2019

On Wednesday October 16th, 2019, the Ohio Fairness Act was “introduced by Rep. Skindell (D) and Rep. Hillyer (R) in the Ohio House. If OFA passes, LGBTQ Ohioans will be protected against employment discrimination, housing discrimination, and discrimination in accessing basic goods and services.” HB369 will include protections “to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.” https://legiscan.com/OH/bill/HB369/2019

On the morning of February 13th, with OCTOPUS LLC being a member of Ohio Business Competes, I received great news from Alana Jochum at Equality Ohio. The Ohio Fairness Act has been reintroduced as a bipartisan bill, SB11. If you are willing to also send a personal thank you email, just revise the format provided to change it from a business to a personal email. Hopefully this time we will get this bill passed and begin protecting the Ohio LGBTQ+ community from discrimination. The link to the bill is being shared with you through Box.


To amend sections 9.03, 124.93, 125.111, 153.59, 153.591, 340.12, 511.03, 717.01, 1501.012, 1751.18, 2927.03, 3113.36, 3301.53, 3304.15, 3304.50, 3314.06, 3332.09, 3721.13, 3905.55, 4111.17, 4112.01, 4112.02, 4112.021, 4112.04, 4112.05, 4112.08, 4117.19, 4725.67, 4735.16, 4735.55, 4744.54, 4757.07, 4758.16, 4765.18, 5104.09, 5107.26, 5123.351, 5126.07, 5165.08, 5312.04, 5515.08, and 5709.832 of the Revised Code to enact the Ohio Fairness Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, to add mediation as an informal method
that the Ohio Civil Rights Commission may use, and to uphold existing religious exemptions under Ohio’s Civil Rights Law.

Ohio Business Competes

You are getting this email because your organization is a member of Ohio Business Competes, a nonpartisan coalition in support of adding LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination policy in housing, employment, and public accommodations at the state level in Ohio.

I have some good news for you: the Ohio Fairness Act has been reintroduced as a bipartisan bill, SB11. The primary sponsor is Senator Nickie Antonio (D), and the co-sponsors are Senators Craig (D), Fedor (D), Maharath (D), O'Brien (D), Sykes (D), Thomas (D), Williams (D), Yuko (D) and Rulli (R).

Our Ask—Please Send A Quick Thank You to Sen. Michael Rulli for Co-Sponsoring and making this bill bipartisan. His email is rulli@ohiosenate.gov and his office number is 614-466-8285. Please also thank primary sponsor Sen. Nickie Antonio at antonio@ohiosenate.gov or 614-466-5123. Please let me know if you email these Senators by replying to this email.

• Sample Email Template:

Dear Sen. Rulli,

My business [insert name] is part of Ohio Business Competes, and I am deeply grateful for your support of SB 11, the Ohio Fairness Act, to protect LGBTQ Ohioans. This common sense nondiscrimination bill will help companies like mine in Ohio attract and retain top talent, and it makes Ohio a more competitive state overall.

I am deeply grateful for your support of SB 11.

Sincerely,

XXX

Our Secondary Ask—We are going to do a press conference soon to announce that Ohio Business Competes is 600 members strong. This is a good opportunity to show your consumers and colleagues your brand supports the LGBTQ community. If you can participate in the press conference or provide a quote, please contact grant@equalityohio.org.

Thank you!

Alana Jochum, Esq.
Board Member, Ohio Business Competes
Executive Director, Equality Ohio

Protagonist Ohio Senate testimony took place on Wednesday May 22nd.
6. Equality Bulletin: Lil Nas X nabs CMA, openly gay Black Muslim elected in Ohio (a 1st!), another bad judge

First openly LGBTQ Muslim in Ohio elected to office.
“Dr. N.J. Akbar won his race for the Akron Board of Education, becoming one of the first openly LGBTQ Muslims ever elected in the United States and the first in Ohio history. Akbar will be one of just three openly LGBTQ black elected officials in the state of Ohio when he takes office, and one of just 21 openly LGBTQ elected officials in the entire state.” Read more at The Victory Fund.

Ohio University announces finalists for LGBT Center director position.
"Nearly a full year after the abrupt removal of Ohio University’s LGBT Center director, the university has named three finalists to take over the position. OU also announced dates and times for public forums featuring the three candidates.” Read more at the Athens Messenger.

Latest Trump nomination is "one of President Trump’s most dangerous and alarming judicial nominees to date."
"Lambda Legal pointed to a letter the group signed along with 20 other LGBTQ advocacy organizations opposing Menashi’s confirmation. Among the groups' concerns was how Menashi 'unambiguously asserted his opposition' to same-sex marriage ahead of the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision, a landmark Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage across the U.S." Read more at NBC News.

Lil Nas X is the first openly gay Black musician to win a CMA.
"Lil Nas X made history Wednesday night at the 53rd CMA Awards when he became the first openly gay black musician to take home a win from the Country Music Assn. His hit ‘Old Town Road,’ a collaboration with veteran country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, was named the musical event of the year. The song similarly made history, ruling at No. 1 on Billboard’s Hot 100 chart for 19 weeks, until Billie Eilish’s ‘Bad Guy’ dethroned it in August.” Read more at the LA Times.
Important: we need your testimony to move the Ohio Fairness Act forward. The Ohio Fairness Act is now in the Ohio House. Your testimony can help us push it over the line! If you submitted testimony earlier this year: that was for the Ohio Senate. We need you again. Submit testimony here.

GIVE TO EQUALITY OHIO

WITH SUPPORT FROM

Paid for by Equality Ohio
370 S 5th St Ste G3
Columbus, OH 43215
United States

7. The PRIDE Study

Please take the time to consider participating in the PRIDE Study. Check out the website. It could be of great benefit to the community in working toward improved healthcare. Plus, it can be fun to share.

Equitas Health Institute for LGBTQ Health Equity has provided the following information. The PRIDE Study is now available and they would love to hear from you. The goal of this study is to improve the health of the LGBTQ community. The way to complete that is through learning how being LGBTQ affects your health and an answer is through you. By voluntarily sharing your information you are helping the Pride Study to complete their goal. At any time you are able to drop out of the study, this study is completely optional. This study was created by members and allies within the LGBTQ community for the LGBTQ community. To learn more information visit: https://pridestudy.org/study.
8. National Center for Transgender Equality


The long awaited results are finally here.

**TransOhio and Equitas Health Free Legal Clinics**

If you need assistance in completing your paperwork for the process, attend one of the free legal clinics scheduled around the state to meet with counsel to assist you, or contact Equitas Health. During open Name and Gender Change Legal Clinic hours, trained attorneys will provide one-on-one counseling about the gender- and name-changing process.

Helpful information about name and gender change information is available at the National Center for Transgender Equality website, including Declaration of Gender Change on Ohio Drivers License forms, birth certificate information, policies, and procedures.

**TransOhio** and **Equitas Health**, are conducting their Free Legal Name and Gender Marker Change Clinics to be held around the state of Ohio in the upcoming months. The Upcoming legal clinics schedule is as follows, with some (Bold *) as tentative projections:

**January 15, 2020 (Wednesday)** – Dayton - 6pm to 8pm – To be determined.

**January 29, 2020 (Wednesday)** – Portsmouth - 6pm to 8pm – To be determined.

**February 19, 2020 (Wednesday)** – Athens - 6pm to 8pm – Ohio University LGBTQ Center (To be determined)

More clinic dates, locations, and times will be announced soon.

Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. To register, Email legalclinic@equitashealth.com or call (614) 987-5525.

TransOhio is a community partner of this program and is available to provide financial assistance to community members who need funds to help complete the process of name changes by assisting with the payment of court filing and publication fees, etc. An application for such funding is available on the TransOhio website and should be available at the clinics.
Thank you for recognizing the reality of evolution, of gravity, and of climate change, and recognizing that the earth is round.

Justice, equality, truth, and good health,

Kimberly

Kimberly Sue Griffiths  
Executive Director  
OCTOPUS LLC  
(Organizing Communities Transgender Outreach Promoting United Support)  
(614) 582-1678, cell  
griffithskimberlys@att.net  
Pronouns: she/her/hers