



VA NATIONAL VIRUTAL PRIDE 2023

Schedule of Presentations

Below is the summary of presentations for this year's VA National Virtual Pride 2023. We are excited to bring you some amazing speakers and topics this June in honor of Pride Month. Please join us as we take time to learn more about the LGBTQ+ community and grow in our understanding of how we can all better serve our LGBTQ+ Veterans, their families, and each other.

Registration is required to attend the presentations. The titles of each presentation are the hyperlinks to register for each presentation. Once you register for an event, you will receive an email with the link for the presentation to attend virtually.

Happy Pride!

[Summary of Presentations](#)

Week of June 1st – 3rd

[6/1/23 1330 EST - Opening Remarks – Kick Off Celebration:](#) VA National Virtual Pride officially kicks off its 3rd year with honored speakers delivering opening remarks. At this time, speakers are being finalized.

[6/1/23 1400-1500 EST - I*DEA Influencers Network Presentation:](#) Learn more about VA's I*DEA initiative and how to become an I*DEA Influencer

[6/2/23 1200-1300 EST - Older LGBTQ+ Veterans: Age-Friendly Approaches:](#) VA is the largest provider of health care to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people in the world and Veterans are significantly older than non-Veterans with a median age of 65. This presentation expands on a successful presentation for VA Virtual Pride in 2022 to highlight the experiences of older LGBTQ+ Veterans. Major events in the US Military, VA, and LGBTQ+ civil right movement will be reviewed. The talk will detail ideas and suggestions for creating a welcoming environment and providing affirming care for LGBTQ+ Veterans at VA. The context of cultural humility will be the framework for discussing the need of older LGBTQ+ Veterans. Resources for VA staff, Veterans, caregivers, and allies will be included.

Week of June 4th – 10th

[6/6/23 1200-1300 EST - JAHVA Dermatology Laser Clinic \(Tampa, FL\) Experience:](#) Discuss experiences from the only full-time laser surgery center in the VHA at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, FL. Addressing needs of gender diverse populations including temporary laser hair removal for gender dysphoria, pre-operative laser hair removal (electrolysis for temporary laser hair removal) for gender affirming surgeries and reconstructive procedures for scarring s/p gender affirming surgeries.

6/8/23 1300-1500 EST - How to be an Effective Ally to the LGBTQ+ Community: This introductory training will focus on key concepts related to the LGBTQ+ community (continuums of identity, pronouns, intersectionality), ways to identify and challenge implicit bias, and overview effective allyship skills. LGBTQ+ individuals experience stigma, discrimination, and disproportionate healthcare disparities. Within society, there is a lack of understanding about continuums of identity (sexual orientation, gender identity, biological sex/sex assigned at birth) and the importance of language (pronouns). While many individuals have good intentions, a lack of understanding about the LGBTQ+ community can lead to tense interactions and worse (e.g., healthcare disparities, discrimination).

Week of June 11th – 17th

6/12/23 1100-1200 EST - Veteran and Military Health Care – Education, Women Veterans, & Policy: Panel discussion on specialty health care for Veterans and military service members, women veterans, and current policy concerns.

6/14/23 1100-1200 EST - Supporting LGBTQ+ Veteran and Military Families Through the Whole Health Model: Review unique challenges LGBTQ+ military service members, Veterans, and their families face. Utilize the Whole Health model for a holistic assessment of needs. Specify resources for support in alignment with what matters most to the whole person and family.

6/14/23 1300-1400 EST - A Legal Guide to LGBTQ+ Couples: This session will discuss the various legal issues you may need to consider when you decided to become part of a couple and share your lives with each other. Topics will include discussions of such legal issues such as name changes, renting (or buying) a home together and how to protect your legal status and inheritance rights as home owners, moving into your partner's home, cash and credit issues, who is a legal parent (i.e., adopting a child, fostering a child, health care decisions (powers of attorney and advanced care directives) and estate planning (i.e., will, trusts, etc..).

6/16/23 1200-1300 EST – MPOX: History of MPOX and the current outbreak. Presentation, prevention, and treatment. Inequities/disparities in affected groups and access to prevention and treatment.

Week of June 18th – 24th

6/20/23 1100-1200 EST - PRIDE In All Who Served: A 10-Week Health Promotion Group for LGBTQ+ Veterans: PRIDE is a 10-week health promotion group developed using human-centered design with feedback from LGBTQ+ Veterans (Lange et al., 2020). This presentation will provide an overview of PRIDE, Veteran-reported outcomes (e.g., reduction in suicide risk; increased identity-related protective factors), and ways to enhance access to PRIDE In All Who Served across VHA.

6/20/23 1300-1400 EST - Empowering Nurses to Provide Gender-Affirming Care Post-Operative: Over 134,000 American Veterans are estimated to be transgender. There are approximately 15,000 transgender people currently serving in the military. While support for transgender veterans has improved, there are still challenges. In June 2021, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Denis R McDonough announced gender-affirming surgeries would be covered by VA in the future. However, post-vaginoplasty wound dehiscence frequency is not known, local wound infections after penile inversion vaginoplasty ranges from 4.0-16.8%, and lack of experience and/or knowledge among nursing staff in post-operative wound care for this Veteran population. Therefore, the focus is to improve knowledge in the post-operative wound care for transgender veterans undergoing gender-affirming surgery. Establish a continuum of care post operative through building relationships and programs with other VAs not performing surgeries to ensure safe and optimal outcomes congruent with the veteran's wishes, and establish a standard of care within VA.

6/21/23 1100-1200 EST - Healthcare and Fertility Preservation for Transgender Patients: As an offered service at the VA, it is important for healthcare providers to understand fertility preservation for both transgender men and transgender women. Focus will be on information physicians and healthcare providers need to provide in this unique patient population. Routine health maintenance will be reviewed, as well as a thorough discussion of fertility preservation in both transgender men and transgender women.

6/22/23 1200-1300 EST - Taking an Affirming Sexual Health History: Sexual health is an integral part of overall health. Multiple recommended primary care interventions hinge upon the sexual history. Patients want to discuss sexual health with their clinicians, but many providers feel uncomfortable talking about this or avoid this altogether. Several disparities that affect sexual and gender minority populations relate to sexual health. The goal of this talk will be to provide recommendations on how to talk about sex and bodies with cultural competency and humility.

Week of June 25th – 30th

[6/28/23 1300-1500 EST - The Naked Truth: A Clinical Care Guide to Gender Affirming Prosthetics Helping to Improve Veterans' Experiences and Saving Lives with the Bare Necessities.](#) Currently, very few clinical providers know how to properly determine what gender affirming prosthetic items are appropriate, what information to provide to Veterans about proper use and care, and how to assist Veterans in obtaining gender affirming prosthetic items. These gaps in knowledge decrease access to gender affirming care. This educational training will serve as a template and provide guidance on how to clinically determine what gender affirming items are appropriate for an individual.