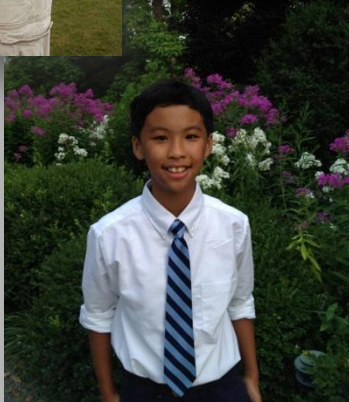




TransActive GENDER CENTER

21st Annual Pacific Northwest Public Employees Diversity Conference

**Serving Transgender Children, Youth,
Their Families & Communities**



Presented by:
Jenn Burleton
Executive Director
TransActive Gender Center



TransActive GENDER CENTER

Founded 2007

A national leader in serving the diverse needs of transgender, gender fluid, genderqueer and gender nonconforming children, youth and their families.

2013:

TGC added 219 families to our client base.

2013:

Secured coverage for pubertal suppression treatment under the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid).

2014 (October):

TGC is serving nearly 400 families in the Portland (Oregon) metro area alone.

66% of youth we serve are under age 12.





TransActive
GENDER CENTER

A Holistic Approach



EDUCATION

“START” workshops, provide gender-focused cultural competency training to community groups, schools and professionals in multidisciplinary settings



ADVOCACY

Securing and protecting the rights of transgender & gender nonconforming children, youth and their families through conflict resolution and enhanced education



SERVICES

Individual, couples, group and peer-support counseling, comprehensive case management & medical referrals for primary care, pubertal suppression & cross-sex hormones and more



RESEARCH

Working with independent and university-based researchers on studies that measure and reflect the experiences of children, youth and their families

Primary Challenge to Inclusion

- We live in a cisgender dominant world (to the exclusion of **ALL OTHER GENDER EXPERIENCES**)
- It's difficult for adults to empathize with a child whose gender reality is **WAY** outside the box adults have been told is “normal”.
- Hearing that your little boy feels like a little girl is akin to finding out they are from another planet.



Secondary Challenge to Inclusion

Cultural & Institutional Adulthood:

- Prejudice and accompanying systematic discrimination against young people
- Bias in favor of adults, their ideas, activities and desires
- Abuse of power that adults have over children
- Disregard for a child having intrinsic rights independent of their parent, caregiver or the State



**SOMALIA
UNITED STATES**

Tertiary Challenge to Inclusion

LGBT

Misperception that diverse gender identity & diverse sexual orientation are one in the same

The pervasive “culture war” focus on expanding equality for same-sex relationships has left the public confused regarding how the “**T**” and gender itself is different from sexual orientation.

- Tomboy behavior is acceptable (to a point) for girls; Feminine behavior **remains** unacceptable for boys and gender diverse male children and youth are frequently sent for counseling
- **Gender diverse people are at much higher risk of suicide and violence than other minority populations**
- Racial & ethnic minority populations experience amplified versions of the above due to significant intersecting oppressions
- Transgender adolescents and teens may be denied access to proven 'Best Practice' interventions such as pubertal suppression and gender affirming hormone treatment

- Obvious biological and scientific realities regarding human diversity are ignored, rejected or denied in favor of “**traditional**” enforcement of restrictive gender roles
- Gender nonconforming youth are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD in adulthood than other youth¹
- They may be subjected to unethical reparative or “change” therapy (currently illegal in California & New Jersey)
- 83% of transgender people have thoughts of suicide² and 41% report having made at least one suicide attempt³

1. Harvard School for Public Health, *Pediatrics*, (2012)

2. Newton Massachusetts Education Development Center, Inc.

3. National Center for Transgender Equality/National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (2010)

Thanks to the work of TransActive staff and community allies we have achieved many milestones:

- **Coverage for pubertal suppression & mental health care**
- **Transgender student rights**
- **Changes to birth certificates without requiring surgery**
- **and much more, including...**

January 1, 2015:

Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) coverage for cross-sex hormones and transgender-related surgical procedures.

**Let us help YOU & your organizations
better serve these kids and families**



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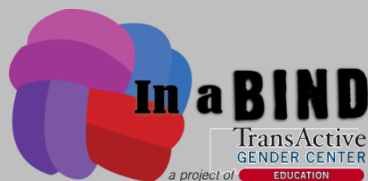
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TransActive Gender Center is a non-profit organization



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