



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AT THE NATIONAL TRANS HEALTH CONFERENCE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA –Less than two months remain when the Board of Directors and staff of Someone Cares of Atlanta open the 5th annual National Trans Health Conference at the Hilton Atlanta Airport in Atlanta, Georgia on November 8 thru 10, 2018 under the theme “Transgender Wholeness: Mind, Body & Spirit.”

Associate Professor at Texas Women’s University Kimberly Parker, Ph.D., MPH, MCHES is set to open the conference on Thursday, November 8, 2018 speaking to Sharing the Voice that Matters: Innovative Data Sharing for Improving Transgender Health. Dr. Parker shared, “Women, especially women of color, and transwomen, occupy a lessor or reduced space in society regardless of biology or expressed gender. As transwoman experience a level of marginalization based on the intersection of gender, race and class, it becomes increasingly important to share first person experiences to improve overall health. The norm of identifying as women applies to all who express their gender as female: subsequently, we cannot overlook individual experiences of this space.”

Hailing from North Carolina by way of the Warren-Vance Community Health Centers is Dr. Michelle Collins-Ogle, MD, FAAP, AAHIVS and Krystal Jones Taylor, Director of the STD Screening Program will expound upon the title, “And the Category is, Educate, Prevent and LIVE” as it relates to young black gay and transgenders individuals 13-24. “The HIV Care Continuum for youth, particularly young black gay men and transgender individuals ages 13-24, reveal inadequate linkage into care, a failure in sustained viral suppression (vs) and poor retention in care. Of those who initiate antiretroviral therapy about 54% have vs but less than 10% remain undetectable. In addition, many HIV+ youth are unaware of their status. We implemented a model aimed at effectively serving at risk youth and HIV+ adolescents” lamented Dr. Ogle.

A workshop titled, “Trauma, Drugs & Self-Harm” will be facilitated by Deputy Executive Director of Aniz, Inc., Ralph Harris, Ph.D., LCADC, CAADC, SAP along with co-presenter Mia Wright, MBA, LCSW of Someone Cares. Dr. Harris points out that this workshop is a response to LGBTQ Transgender community to address through holistic harm reduction approach. This presentation will explore in-depth the way trauma impacts the brain, disrupts attachment, and ultimately changes how an individual navigates the world. Case studies, current research and trends, comprehensive HIV and PrEP education and intervention strategies for working with this population will be examined. This session will address traumatic crimes, such as domestic violence or sexual assault/exploitation, treatment and recovery of Anti-Human Trafficking and develop action plans. Focus on the impact of crystal methamphetamine and opioid misuse which often have unresolved trauma. These individuals are defined by Bipolar, Major Depression Disorder and shame of trauma and betrayal.

Dana Williams of the Community Wellness Project will explore the title, “Closing the Gap: Addressing the facilitation skills needed to implement scripted interventions: Transgender Women Involved in Strategies for Transformation (TWIST) as an example. Williams said,” Transgender women are less likely to be the target population for evidence-based, HIV service delivery interventions despite carrying a disproportionate HIV burden in comparison with other groups. Additionally, most interventions designed and implemented at the local level for this population, that require facilitation, involve group facilitation. Evidence-based interventions are typically scripted, in that they provide statements that facilitators say and activities that reflect the theories that guide the intervention. Implementing TWIST includes practicing facilitation skills and teaching strategies to communicate key messages and conduct activities to influence behavior change. As a peer-led intervention, TWIST implementation involves training peers of participants who are typically unfamiliar with scripted interventions and the facilitation skills and teaching strategies required for implementation.”

The conference was created to provide for a meeting of minds, the appreciation for different perspectives and to affirm the commonalities between and for the Transgender community. By convening all the pertinent stakeholders to have provocative dialogue, providers can continually improve, find solutions and further enhance safe places, access to care and most importantly ensure equality without bias is the order of the day within the LGBTQ community.

Opportunities still exist for perspective sponsors, exhibitors and organizations that would like to purchase advert space in the program book. Please email Doug Anthony at dsgardin1221@yahoo.com for more information.