ABOUT NCUIH

The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) is the national non-profit organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally-competent health and public health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) living in urban areas.

NCUIH is the only national representative of the 41 Title V Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) under the Indian Health Service (IHS) in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). NCUIH strives to improve the health of the over 70% of the AI/AN population that lives in urban areas, supported by quality, accessible health care centers.

Beyond Tolerance: Overcoming Barriers to Care for LGBTQ2S+ Youth During COVID Lockdown
The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) is the national non-profit organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally-competent health and public health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) living in urban areas.

NCUIH is the only national representative of the 41 Title V Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) under the Indian Health Service (IHS) in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). NCUIH strives to improve the health of the over 70% of the AI/AN population that lives in urban areas, supported by quality, accessible health care centers.
Beyond Tolerance
Overcoming Barriers to Care for LGBTQ2S+ Youth During COVID Lockdown

Part of the Supporting Urban Native Youth project through a SAMSHA Native Connections grant

TAVI HAWN
LCSW-C, EBCI descendant
Tavi Hawn Consulting

LENNY HAYES
MA, citizen of Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the northeast corner of South Dakota Owner/Operator of Tavi Tudev Consulting, LLC

SHANE ORTEGA
Consultant & Speaker for Native/Black Equity Sovereignty, Disabled Vets, LGBTQ+ Equity, Healing Generational Trauma Education

SOMAH HAALAND
Interdisciplinary Artist from the Pueblos of Laguna and Jemez
Supporting Two Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ Youth During the Pandemic

With Tavi Hawn, Lenny Hayes, Shane Ortega, Somáh Haaland
Two Spirits Have Always Been Here
Lozen, Chiricahua Apache
After Removal From Tribal Homelands Came Boarding Schools—“Kill the Indian, Save the Man”
Two Spirits Today

- Natives have twice the suicide rate of any group on Turtle Island and
- Over half of Two Spirits have attempted suicide at least once (decreased if appreciated in their tribe/culture)
- High rates of HIV infection (50% have had a negative experience with a healthcare provider-refusal to treat, verbal harassment, etc) The highest rates of HIV infection are among mixed race 2S (Jolivette, 2016).
- High rates of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault (68%), and Alcoholism/Substance Dependence
- High rates of poverty (41%) and homelessness (57%), nearly twice the rate in the US Transgender sample overall (30%).
- Of those who came out to family, 38% of family stopped speaking to and seeing the person (compared to 26% of those in the overall transgender study).
Challenges

• Disconnection from Culture (Cultural dissolution/Posttraumatic Invasion Syndrome (Jolivette))
• Pain, Shame, Stigma, Isolation
• Invisibility/Erasure in Non-Native Spaces and Communities (Queer spaces, Activist spaces)
• Not Being Able to Learn/Hold Traditional Sacred Roles/Colonized Views of Gender within Tribal Communities
• Generational and Ancestral Trauma
• Threats of Violence/Murder
• Lack of access to Affirming and Knowledgeable Providers
Extra Challenges During Pandemic

• Isolation: May be unable to attend queer youth support groups or be together with affirming friends (even online groups require privacy and internet access)

• May be at home with unsupportive family, unable to express gender authentically, hearing negative remarks

• May not have access to affirming mental healthcare or cultural gatherings

• Family may be grieving loss of loved ones, increasing sense of sadness or depression
Ideas for Ways to Support

- Text, Call, Send mail or gifts just to check in and keep a connection
- Look at your website- how would a 2SLGBTQ+ youth know that your center is affirming?
- Consider ways to match 2S elders and youth for mentoring and supportive relationships
- Host online Two Spirit events or share other Two Spirit events on your page and social media
- Hire Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ providers, Include Two Spirits and LGBTQ+ Native youth on your Board or Advisory committee
- Mention Two Spirits in all the center activities as a way to affirm, include, and normalize to all relatives and community members, Share Two Spirit histories
- Make sure you have a list of affirming resources locally and online to offer
References

• 2015 US Transgender Study, AIAN Section
• GLSEN Erasure Resilience Study, 2020
PANELIST

DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS?