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SO Health-E, local agencies collaborate to sponsor Southern Oregon's first LGBTQ+ Health and Wellness Summit, an educational event for local health care professionals

Medford, Oregon - Inaugural conference addresses the unique health care needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) Southern Oregonians. While LGBT individuals have many of the same health concerns as the general population, they experience certain health challenges at higher rates, and also face several unique health challenges.¹ The 2019 Southern Oregon LGBTQ+ Health and Wellness Summit offers healthcare professionals of all kinds the tools and training needed to provide exceptional care to LGBTQ+ community members.

What: The 2019 Southern Oregon LGBTQ Health and Wellness Summit

Where: Jackson County Health and Human Services Conference Center, located at 140 S Holly St., Medford Oregon

When: Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10

Who: An Educational Conference for Healthcare Professionals. CME and CEU credits will be offered at no additional cost.

Learn more and REGISTER at: SOLGBTQHealthSummit.org

The conference aims to reach as many regional medical and behavioral healthcare providers as possible to improve access to quality services for our LGBTQ+ population. This year the Summit will have a focus on transgender health services, with an emphasis on education regarding what care can be provided locally.

Too often for LGBTQ+ patients in Southern Oregon and across the country, the problem begins not in the exam room but in the classroom. Physicians lack sufficient training in how to provide competent, affirming care for patients who identify as members of sexual and gender minority (SGM) groups, especially for transgender people. "AllCare Health 2018 listening sessions showed many LGBTQ+ struggle to access inclusive and culturally competent healthcare in Southern Oregon," Dr. Kelley Burnett, Lead Medical Director AllCare Health and Summit Co-chair said. "Some travel for hours to receive basic preventative care from a provider they trust, while others report feeling so unsafe that they don't access medical care at all. We can and must do better."

The Summit will include two days of educational sessions on topics including:

LGBTQ+ cultural competency, using pronouns and inclusive language, sexual orientation and gender identity data collection, LGBTQ+ and aging, transgender and gender non-conforming healthcare, gender affirming hormone and surgical care, and more.

Sponsors include: AllCare Health, Jackson Care Connect, SO Health-E, AARP Oregon, Oregon AETC, Siskiyou Community Health Center, RVCOG, Jackson County HHS, Primary Health, Southern Oregon University, Rogue Action Center, End HIV, Advanced Health, Primary Health, Women's Health Center of Southern Oregon.

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¹ [Kaiser Family Foundation Health and Access to Care and Coverage for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender \(LGBT\) Individuals in the U.S. May 3, 2018](#)