RETEACHING GENDER & SEXUALITY

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PREFACE / WHERE WE’RE COMING FROM

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AGENDA

IDENTITY & NORMATIVITY
DISPARITIES & ROOT ISSUES
INCREASING ACCESS TO SERVICES
“I’M GAY AND I LOVE IT!”

MIKE, 18
“THE TERM QUEER TO ME IS A BIG UMBRELLA OF TERMS THAT CAN MEAN ASEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, GAY, LESBIAN, ANYTHING OTHER THAN HETEROSEXUALITY.”

BRANDON, 16
“Some people will say that since I am dating a guy, that I don’t count as queer anymore, but it’s not true, that’s just how it happened, I mean my boyfriend’s a little queer, too.”

MONICA, 18
“I DON’T REALLY IDENTIFY AS STRAIGHT, GAY, BI, ANYTHING.”

CALLUM, 18
“MY FRIENDS SAY ‘OH YOU HAVEN’T HAD SEX WITH A GIRL, SO HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A LESBIAN?’ IT’S LIKE WELL, IT’S NOT JUST CAUSE OF SEX. I KEEP TELLING THEM, I HAVE THE SAME EMOTION, SEXUAL FEELINGS TOWARDS A FEMALE AND IF I HAVEN’T HAD SEX WITH A GIRL IT’S NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS, IT’S MY BUSINESS.”

EVETTE, 18
“For me, being trans just means that I was born one way, but I feel like I am a really different gender than how I was born.” Zane, 18
“Well, I’m not really trans because I more identify with genderqueer which is identifying as both male and female or neither kind of at the same time.”

QUINN, 15
“If you see gender as a football field. And on one end you have the most masculine male, like Arnold Schwarzenegger, and on the other end you have the most feminine female, like Paris Hilton. Someone who maybe has a different gender identity is anywhere on that spectrum or like not even on the spectrum.... I run around the football field I guess or I’m on the bleachers, something crazy like that.”

JORDAWN, 15
“I kind of feel like I had two ‘coming outs’. One when I came out and I’m like, so I know I was born one way, but I feel this way, I want to be a guy. And then, the second part was and I’m a guy who likes guys. It’s been a journey kinda to find myself on where I am trans wise and figure out who I am in this gay world and I feel like I’m right where I need to be.”

ZANE, 18
RESPONSES & QUESTIONS

Do you have any questions or responses?

Did anything resonate with experiences you have had in your work?

In what ways do you think naming identities is important?
IT’S A BOY!

IT’S A GIRL!
PILLARS OF HETERONORMATIVITY

IT’S A BOY!

MAN

MASCULINE

w/ WOMEN

MARRIED & 1.8 KIDS

sex assignment

gender

expression

sexuality

family

IT’S A GIRL!

WOMAN

FEMININE

w/ MEN

MARRIED & 1.8 KIDS

IT's A BOY!

IT's A GIRL!

sex assignment

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Do you have any questions or responses?

What are some of the ways that the pillars of heteronormativity is reinforced socially, culturally, through our laws, and in our organizations?
HETEROSEXISM

Attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, cultural norms, and institutional practices that assume and privilege heterosexuality, heterosexual relationships, traditional gender roles, and marriage as “natural” and preferred. Heterosexism reinforces the idea that people fall in only one of two distinct sexes, male and female.
DISPARITIES

- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and exploitation
- Depression, isolation, suicidal ideation
- Substance and alcohol use and abuse
- Dropping out of school or academic underachievement
- Homelessness, underemployment, poverty
- Failing to access healthcare & mental health support
- Juvenile justice system involvement and placement in state care

Consider the root issues....
BARRIERS

- **INDIVIDUAL:** Attitudes and beliefs of individuals that create barriers for clients or program participants

- **ORGANIZATIONS:** Policies and practices that create systemic inequities for queer youth and queer families

- **SOCIETAL/STRUCTURAL:** Social norms, laws, regulations, and cultural practices that perpetuate and reinforce heterosexism

BUILDING ACCESS....
Do you have any final questions or responses about disparities, barriers to service or LGBTQ access?