**NC Behavioral Health Disparities Learning Collaborative Meeting Minutes**

**August 25, 2017**

**Attendees:**

Sonja Frison UNCG Deanna Hale Holland Coastal Horizons

Jen Meade Alliance Tanya Bass NC Office of Minority Health

Nancy Kneepkens Durham TRY Adrienne Michelle Carolina Partner

Paul Savery DMHDDSAS Sarah Harrison NCCASA

Regina Penna Coastal Horizon

**Meeting:** Adrienne Michelle, the Program Coordinator of the Gender and Sexual Diversity Initiative (GSDI) for Carolina Partners in Durham, NC presented to the group on GSDI program at Carolina Partners. Adrienne spoke about many issues pertaining to LGBTQQIA+ community.

Adrienne uses an intersectional perspective as a therapist, educator, and public speaker. Adrienne is a leading LGBT therapist in the mental health field. She received her Marriage and Family Therapy degree with a specialization in Sex Therapy from Thomas Jefferson University. Her passion comes from a background in sex education, where the community’s representation has been very limited; thus, she strives to continuously advocate for positive representation in all areas of sex education. She has been an educator for the past three years at several major universities, and has worked with organizations such as The Attic Youth Center, The Mazzoni Center, and The William Way Center, during her time in Philadelphia.

Carolina Partners provides affirming, affordable health care resources for LGBTQQIA+ members of their community through the Gender and Sexuality Diversity Initiative (GSDI). It is an absolute priority of Carolina Partners to provide specialized care for a range of communities, especially those that have been traditionally marginalized. The GSDI will provide comprehensive health and wellness services for the LGBTQQIA+ communities throughout North Carolina.

If you are seeking referrals or assessments for hormones, GSDI have trained clinicians who want to be a resource to you. Some hormone providers operate on the informed consent model which does not require documented assessment from a mental health professional. Some hormone providers do require documentation. Our GSDI Resource List can tell you which hormone providers use the informed consent model. Our clinicians can also refer for other trans-affirming medical care and provide assessments for surgery.

Adrienne for training and presentations. Adrienne Michelle, GSDI Program Coordinator, LGBTQ Adolescent, Marriage & Family Therapist adrienne.michelle.mft@gmail.com (919) 401-2933 ext. 207