

# Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity (CARHE)

## Event Summary

### Working Toward Health Equity for the LGBTQ+ Community | Sep 18, 2023

#### Event Overview

**Location:** Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, 1 Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, NH (in person only)

#### **Agenda**

3:30-4:00pm    Tabling  
4:00-4:50pm    Panel discussion  
4:50-5:00pm    Q&A

#### **Speakers**

- Moderator: Murphy Barney, Author of Our Medicine; Doula & Founder of Muungas Doula Services; and Account Manager for StoryCorps
- Panelists:
  - Salissa Wahlers: LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator, White River Junction VA
  - Jessica Smith: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
  - Jessica Goff: Community Outreach and Education Coordinator, Seacoast Outright
  - John Chagnon: Infectious Disease Care Coordinator, NH Department of Health and Human Services

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is your connection to this work? What do you/your organization do to support LGBTQ people and communities? How did you become involved in this work?
2. What barriers in the public health infrastructure impact LGBTQ+ folks accessing care? How is the experience of LGBTQ different than that of other populations in accessing care and services?
3. What can public health systems do differently to build an atmosphere of inclusion? What needs to change from a structural/systemic level?
4. What can individual practitioners do in their day-to-day work to create safe spaces for their LGBTQ+ people? What can we take away and do differently today in our own lives/practice?

#### **Tabling Groups**

- WISE
- Health Market Connect New Hampshire
- Safe Spaces
- Turning Points
- Seacoast Outright
- Gender and Sexuality Alliance (Dartmouth Health Employee Resource Group)
- Pediatric and Adolescent Transition Program, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
- NH Department of Health and Human Services

## Event Evaluation

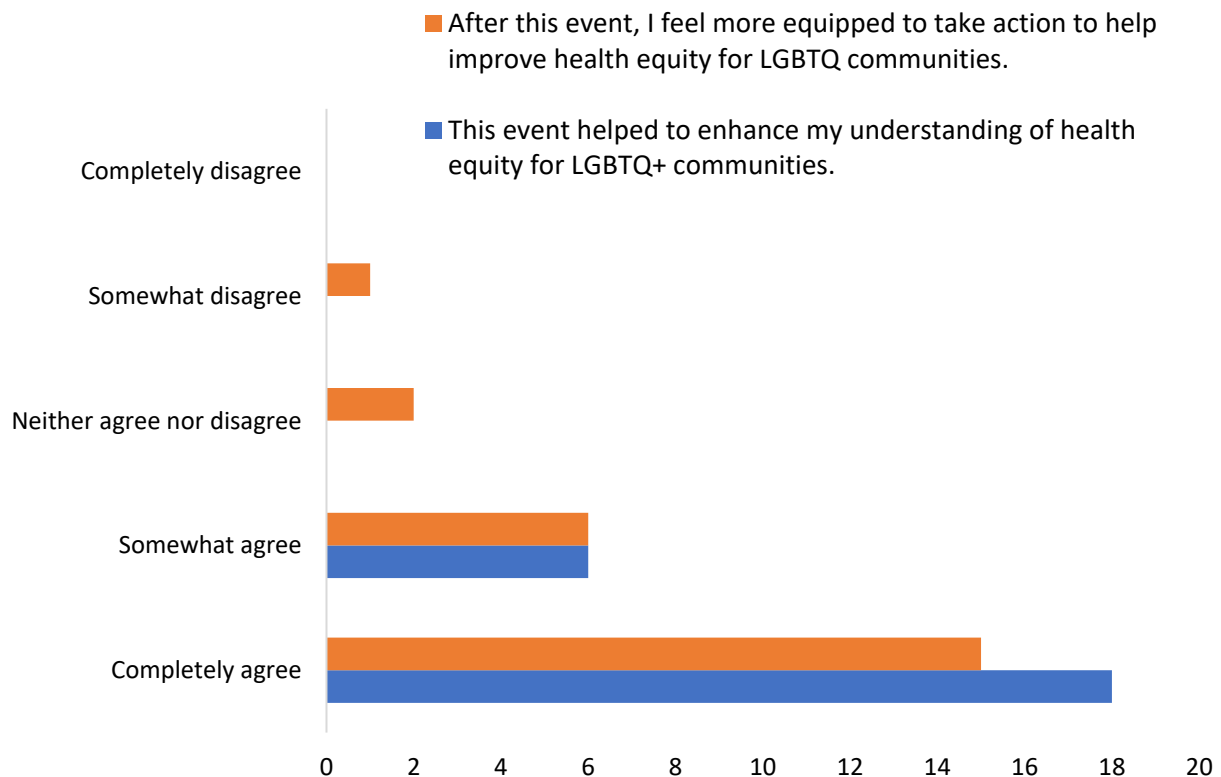
### Participation

- 86 Registered
- 43 Attended

### Evaluation Questions

1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (1-5 scale)  
After this event, I feel more equipped to take action to help improve health equity for LGBTQ+ communities
2. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (1-5 scale)  
This event helped to enhance my understanding of health equity for LGBTQ+ communities
3. What did you think was particularly effective about this event? (open text)
4. What could have been improved? (open text)
5. Please share any other thoughts with the Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity. What other topics would you like to see highlighted through similar events in the future? (open text)

### Results (n=24)



Question	Key themes	Exemplary quotes
What did you think was particularly effective about this event?	1. Background of panelists  2. Stories/ Experiences shared	“Having people in the LGBTQ+IA community and who work with the community share their experiences and what they see.”  “Hearing voices from people in healthcare and in the LGBTQ+ community speak of their challenges.”
What could have been improved?	1. More time for Q & A  2. Diversity of the panel	“Increased racial and socioeconomic diversity amongst panelists”  “Longer time for questions. More people on the panel. Maybe a representative from the educational setting; middle/high school, college/university”
Please share any other thoughts with the Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity. What other topics would you like to see highlighted through similar events in the future?	1. More conversation about specific LGBTQ sub- populations	“More about rural health for people with special health needs, especially youth, youth LGBTQ+ with special needs”  “Experience of people of color seeking care in our service area.”

**Contact**  
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