SUPPORTING THE HEALTH INFORMATION PRACTICES OF QUEER AND TRANS COMMUNITIES FOR HEALTH PROMOTION
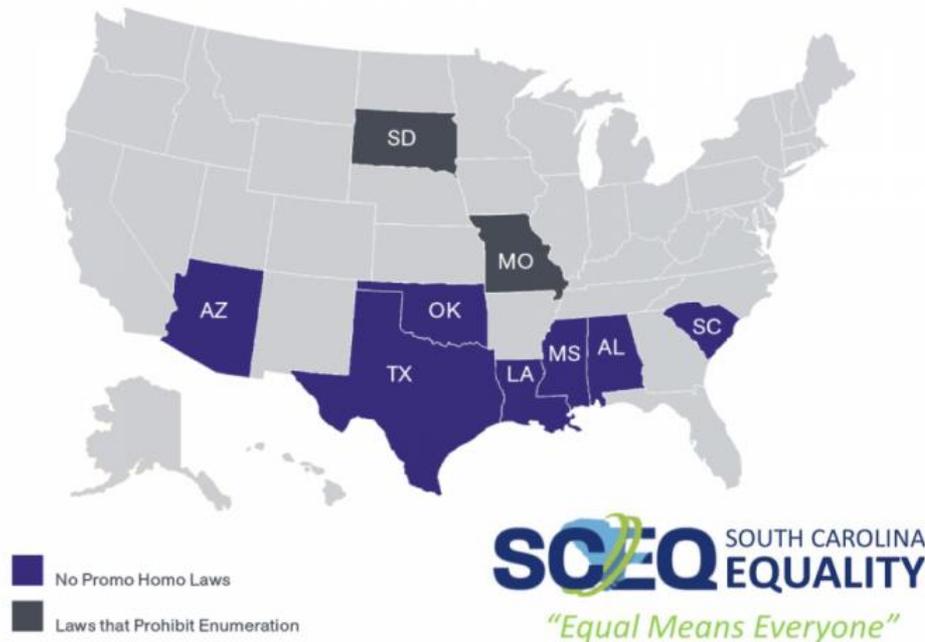
Vanessa Kitzie (she/her)

LGBTQIA+ glossary | Gender unicorn

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NO PROMO HOMO LAWS & LAWS THAT PROHIBIT ENUMERATION

No Promo Homo Laws
Laws that Prohibit Enumeration

SCEQ SOUTH CAROLINA EQUALITY
"Equal Means Everyone"

"And I mean that's why you see in the LGBTQ community, especially amongst the youth, **there's actually a lot of teenage pregnancy … And it's because they have no accurate sex health education.** And they think that **if they have enough sex with somebody of the opposite sex that it can fix their problem** because they're not taught anything else" *(Vada, white, cisgender, lesbian teen)*

Note: All participant names are pseudonyms.

Map: SC Equality

For more info on laws affecting LGBTQIA+ populations see: State Equality Index | Lambda Legal

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RESEARCH FOCUS

1. **Information inequities** experienced by queer and trans communities

2. **Health information practices** like creating, seeking, using, and sharing

3. How public library staff and queer and trans communities can **collaborate for health promotion**

For project information, including resources and open-access presentations and publications, see: HIP LGBTQ+

Level of analysis	Definition
Intrapersonal	**Individual** identities and characteristics
Interpersonal	Formal and informal **social networks**
Organizational	**Groups of people** following shared norms and rules
Community	**Relationships between organizations** within defined boundaries
Public policy	Local, state, and national **laws** and **policies**; includes **healthcare systems** and **media**

INFORMATION INEQUITIES EXPERIENCED

See: McLeroy, K. R., Bibeau, D., Steckler, A., & Glanz, K. (1988). An ecological perspective on health promotion programs. *Health education quarterly, 15*(4), 351-377.

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INFORMATION INEQUITIES EXPERIENCED – *CTD.*

- **Public policy:**
  - "So one of the things that frustrates me to no end is the way that **HIV/AIDS is kind of weaponized against black, queer, and trans people**. And so we are really the face of what HIV is to a lot of people … have you ever heard of the broken windows policing approach, where instead of responding to crime, I'm going to go find the crime? A lot of time that's what it's like with the black queer community in terms of HIV and STI testing." *(Pat, Afro-Caribbean, queer, transgender woman)*

- ***Finding:*** Access does not solve information inequities

INFORMATION INEQUITIES EXPERIENCED – *CTD.*

- **Intrapersonal:**

  - "Just doing research on your own to try to make sure you're getting the correct standard of care … Because maybe **you don't know** and you think the doctor's doing things correctly but maybe they're not addressing something." *(Annalisa, white, lesbian, cisgender, young adult, intimate partner violence survivor)*

  - *Finding:* Communities engage with health information despite inequities at all levels
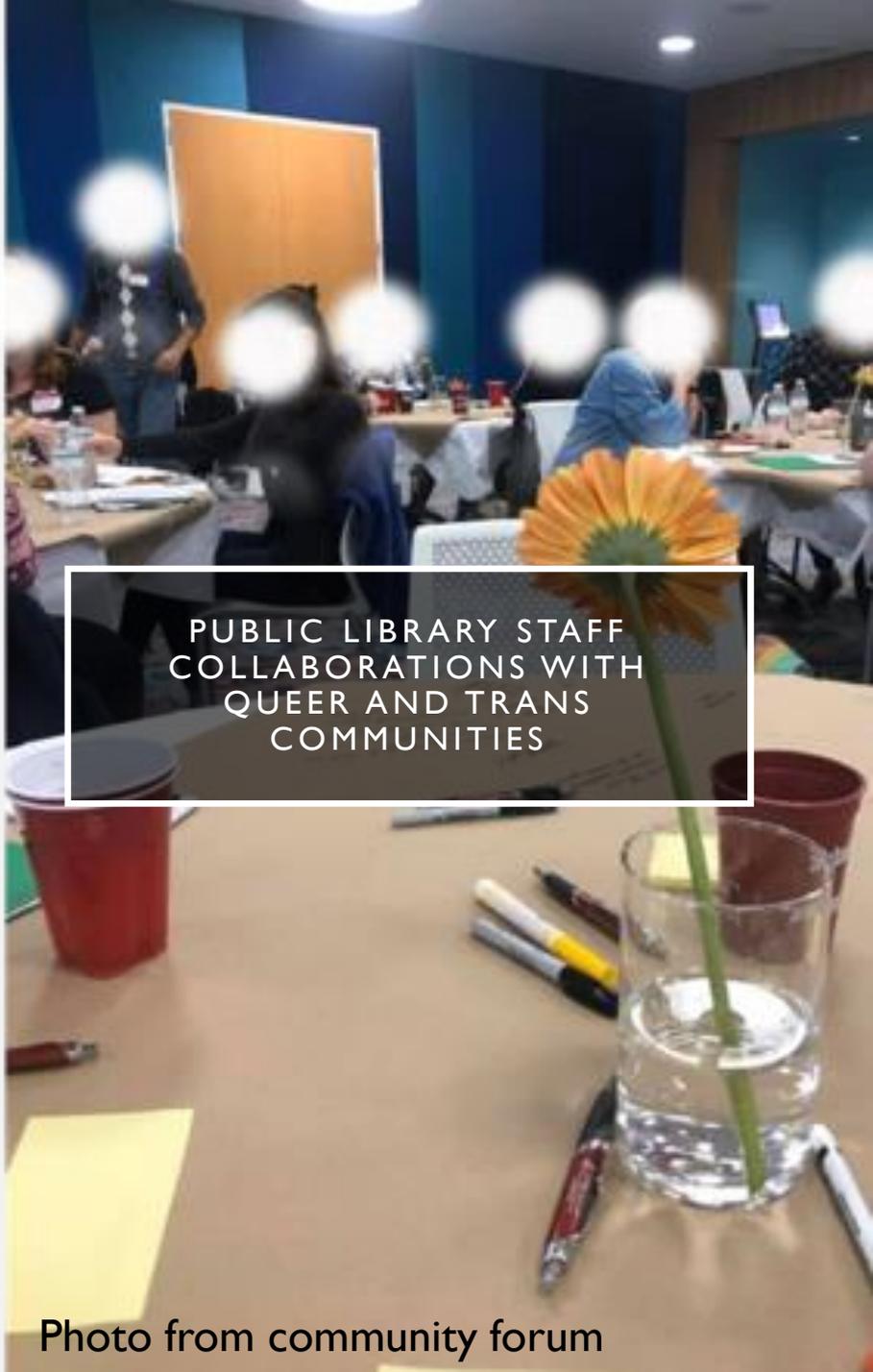
HEALTH INFORMATION PRACTICES

- **Creating health information to educate others:**

  - **"**There's a lot of websites run by our community that have information or values that may **teach or help others learn about our healthcare**." *(Shateria Cox, Black, white, Egyptian gender non-conforming teen, drag performer)*

  - *Finding:* Communities don't necessarily lack understanding of their health needs

HEALTH INFORMATION PRACTICES – *CTD.*

- **Sharing healthcare experiences via word of mouth:**

  - " 'Hey, I went to this doctor, and they actually knew about gay people,' or like, 'Hey, they actually knew about trans people, so maybe we should go to this doctor.' And then everybody flocks there." *(Kyle, white college-aged transmasculine, genderqueer, non-binary, ace person, who also potentially identities as a lesbian)*

  - ***Finding:*** Communities engage in protective and defensive health information practices

HEALTH INFORMATION PRACTICES – *CTD.*

- **Engaging in collective information seeking:**

  - "[we] get all our questions like, 'Who's going to the doctor's appointment?' ...and so we go to the doctor's appointment and ask five questions." *(Ben, Black, cisgender, gay male teen)*

- ***Finding:*** Some practices we might label as "risky" are well-thought out and informed

PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF
COLLABORATIONS WITH
QUEER AND TRANS
COMMUNITIES

Photo from community forum

- Move from outreach to **engagement**

  - *Tip:* This involves building relationships with local queer and trans communities, which take time and trust to develop. One way to get started is to locate the closest Pride to you and visit its website. Check the *Resources* page to get a sense of local queer and trans communities. Do service for these communities without asking for anything in return.

Collaborative brainstorming during community forum

- Leverage what communities are **already doing**, don't assume they are lacking

  - *Tip:* One way to understand health information practices of your local queer and trans communities is to hold a community forum. Ours was guided by the World Café method. See also: Presentation on this method | Paper on this method

PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF COLLABORATIONS WITH QUEER AND TRANS COMMUNITIES – *CTD.*

Collaborative brainstorming during community forum

- Understand health information in **context**

  - *Tip:* One way we've elicited trans and queer health information in context is through a drawing exercise. We ask people to put their community or themselves on a piece of paper and draw around it the people, places, and things that affect how they address health questions and concerns. See p. 3 of attachment – *"Information Worlds Mapping."*

  - *Another tip:* To get a sense of other identity intersections informing queer and trans health, find a state-wide or regional report and notice what identities participants bring up when discussing their health questions and concerns. An example for the South is the Grapevine Report.

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THANK YOU!

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