



PFLAG Colorado Springs

February, 2015

One-Colorado Shifts Focus to LGBT Healthcare, Insurance and Transgender Issues



One Colorado, the LGBT rights organization that led the campaign for same-sex marriage equality in Colorado, is now turning its energy to LGBT healthcare. At the February PFLAG meeting, One Colorado staff members Don DeAngelis and Leo Kattari will present the



Leo Kattari and Don DeAngelis

results of One Colorado's recent survey: "Transparent: The State of Transgender Health in Colorado" and will discuss health insurance options for LGBT individuals.

Don is the Southern Colorado Field Organizer for One Colorado, coordinating the organization's efforts and alliances in Colorado Springs, Pueblo and the surrounding areas.

Originally from Colorado Springs, Don returned to Colorado after serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the rainforest of Panama where he organized rural community groups to improve educational and economic opportunities. He has a bachelor's degree from The University of Northern Colorado in English and Spanish and a master's degree from The University of Denver in Philanthropic Leadership.

Based in Denver, Leo is the Health Policy Manager at One Colorado, working to ensure LGBT Coloradans have access to safe, affordable and adequate healthcare.

Before joining the team at One Colorado, Leo was the Training and Education Manager at Colorado Youth Matter. In this role, he worked to build communities of "askable" adults to ensure young people had access to comprehensive, inclusive and non-judgmental information and services about their health and well-being.

One Colorado Releases 2015 Transgender Health Insurance Buyer's Guide

It's important to know that from now until February 15th, 2015, Coloradans can shop for health insurance on our state's own marketplace, <http://connectforhealthco.com/>.

Still, if you're a transgender Coloradan, finding coverage that meets all your health care needs can be complicated. That's why One Colorado has provided its Transgender Health Insurance Buyer's Guide—

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FEBRUARY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
February 17, 2015

7:00 p.m.

One Colorado
Focus on LGBT (Especially T)
Health Issues

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Coffee, cookies

Everyone is welcome.
Social time begins at
6:30 p.m.

National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Luncheon—March 10

In observance of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Southern Colorado Aids Project (S-CAP) is hosting its 5th annual awareness day luncheon, at the Pinery at the Hill, 775 West Bijou Street.

Tickets are \$25 per person, with the net proceeds benefiting S-CAP's Women & Girls HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs. Check-in at 11:30; Lunch and speaker 12:00—1:00 p.m.. There is free parking.

The guest speaker is Robin Rene' Perkins. Rene' was diagnosed HIV+ when she was five months pregnant. Instead of becoming scared, de-

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This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

PFLAG Mission Statement:

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) persons, their families and friends through:

- √ **support**, to cope with an adverse society,
- √ **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and
- √ **advocacy**, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG IS FOR EVERYONE

If you've never been to one of our meetings, we feel you will find it rewarding and may find it leads to a new sense of family.

Membership is not required.
All are welcome.

To join the chapter and receive the newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please contact us.

E-mail address: info@cspflag.org

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Health Insurance Buyer's Guide (cont.)

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so that transgender people across the state can see which insurance companies have removed language from their 2015 policies that discriminates against the transgender community. Read Buyer's Guide at: <http://www.one-colorado.org/>

One Colorado developed this helpful guide for transgender Coloradans so that their shopping experience for health coverage is less confusing and burdensome. The insurance companies with smiles next to them in the guide have removed language that discriminates against transgender people; the companies without one have not.

The buyer's guide is meant to be a useful step in making sure transgender Coloradans can access the care they need, but it is not a promise that everything will be covered by your insurance plan.

If you are denied care, you may still have to appeal that decision with any insurance company on this list — but the One Colorado team can assist you there, too!

If you think you've been denied coverage because you're transgender, contact Health Policy Manager, Leo Kattari, by emailing leok@one-colorado.org.

Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)

TYES is a satellite program of PFLAG offering education and support to families with gender non-conforming children. TYES information is available at PFLAG meetings.

The TYES program headquarters is in Boulder, Colorado. To contact the Colorado Springs TYES volunteers, call PFLAG at (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org. The national TYES website is www.TYES-Colorado.org

One Colorado Website: Videos on LGBT Health

The One Colorado website provides two videos, filmed in 2013 as part of its work to change the health care system so it better serves the LGBT community. See <http://www.one-colorado.org/issues/lgbt-health/>

The first, "Barriers to Transgender Health", features three transgender Coloradans and their stories about navigating a system that fails to recognize their needs.

The second, "Invisible: The State of LGBT Health" underscores the everyday fears and hurdles that LGBT Coloradans face in getting the care they need, just because of who they are.

Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Luncheon .)



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pressed, or trying to hide this illness, she decided to become an advocate in helping others. Her goal is to educate, support, and share her personal experience through her faith in God. She serves as the Ministry Leader of the HIV/AIDS Ministry at Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church and is working for the organization, It Takes A Village, as the HIV Network Coordinator in Colorado Springs.

Register for the luncheon online at www.s-cap.org. To sit with the PFLAG group, call Doug Kirkpatrick at 598-6509.

PFLAG Thanks —

The Saponas Foundation and First Congregational United Church of Christ for their significant, ongoing support of the Colorado Springs PFLAG Chapter.



BULLETIN BOARD

Feb. 4-8—Creating Change Conference— This powerful national conference is coming to the Sheraton Denver Downtown. Information at www.creatingchange.org.

Feb. 9—National Lobby Day—All day event 8 am—3 pm at State Capitol, Denver. See www.one-colorado.org. Contact Don DeAngelis: dond@one-colorado.org

Feb. 13 — Inside/Out Youth Services Fundraiser: Colorado Mammoth vs. Edmonton — -- Pepsi Center, Denver, 7:00 p.m. For information or to help, call Inside/Out at 328-1056 or see www.insideoutys.org

Feb. 20 — Open House/ Appreciation Night at Inside.Out Youth Services — 5:30—7:30 p.m.. 412 South Tejon Street

Feb 21— GSA Leadership Summit — see p. 3

Feb. 21—TYES Family Meeting — For more information, contact Keria Shaw: keriajshaw@gmail.com

Feb. 21 — Wine and Tapas — 5-7 p.m. at the Tim Gill Center for media, 315 East Costilla Street. Proceeds benefit S-CAP's Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Observance. Register at www.s-cap.org.

Mar. 10 — National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Luncheon — Organized by Southern Colorado Aids Project (S-CAP). See article p. 1.

May 2—Give 'Em Hope! The Story of Harvey Milk— presented by Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, Concert featuring the Colorado Springs premiere of *I Am Harvey Milk* by Broadway's Andrew Lipa, Out Loud will join forces with the Denver Gay Men's Chorus to celebrate the life and legacy of San Francisco politician Harvey Milk. First United Methodist Church, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Save the date. Ushers needed.

Transgender Kids Identify With Their Gender As Completely as Cisgender Kids

A new study finds that transgender children, young people who assert a gender different from what was assigned at birth, identify as consistently and innately with that gender identity as other kids their age who are not trans.



Transgender teen Jazz has identified as a girl since age 2 and has shared her story while growing up through media interviews, a documentary, and now a children's book, "I Am Jazz" for other trans kids.

Kristina Olson, a psychology professor at the University of Washington, conducted an in-depth study of 32 transgender children and compared the way they relate to their

gender with their siblings as well as with other similarly aged cisgender (not transgender) peers. The kids were all living full-time as the gender they identify with and living in supportive home environments, and none of them had yet reached puberty at the time of the study.

In an interview, Olson clarified that this study was about kids who assert their gender at quite an early age. "Sometimes we hear from parents that the parent says, 'Well, you could just be a boy who likes to wear dresses,' and the kid says, 'No, it's not the dress. I am a girl,'" she explained. "That seems to be the crucial difference between a boy who likes a girly things and a boy who is saying, 'I am a girl.'"

Ed Colorado TYES families participated in this study. For links to this ThinkProgress article and related articles, please go to the TYES website: www.TYES-Colorado.org.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

Name: _____

____ New member ____ Renewing member

Address: _____

- ____ Regular Membership \$ 30
- ____ Supporting Member—Silver 40
- ____ Supporting Member—Gold 60
- ____ Supporting Member—Platinum 100

City: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Each year our chapter must contribute \$15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

E-mail: _____

Check here if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail _____

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 49131, Colorado Springs, CO 80949. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.