

A Message from the Conference Manager for New Planners, Team Members, Conference Staff, or Organizational Supporters:

We ask any person or organization working on behalf of the NEPA Trans Health conference carefully to review the mission information presented in this document before undertaking actions on the conference's behalf. If questions arise, please consult with the Conference Manager, Community Co-Chair, GCSOM Student Co-Chair, GCSOM Faculty Representative, or their designees for clarification.

WHAT IS THE NEPA TRANS HEALTH CONFERENCE?

Our Mission and Goal

The NEPA Trans Health Conference was conceived in 2012 as an educational forum for Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) area health care professionals, their staffs, educators, and the general public to learn from the transgender community and from those who treat and support them about the necessary care, respect, and understanding of people who are transgender.

The primary goal of the conference is to overcome provider knowledge gaps and to reduce the psychological harm and medical neglect that is done to transgender people when their lived experience and the professional consensus that directs their care and treatment is not well understood by care providers and others.

Unpacking Our Mission

Presentations focus on topics seeking to increase the ability of health care professionals to provide specifically trans-competent care and feature themes that support the trans and gender nonconforming community, their families, advocates, and allies. Thus, the overall expectation is for the conference to create and sustain a safe space for trans people and those who care about them to interact with those who do or will provide care for them, believing that the best spokespeople for transgender people are transgender people themselves.

It is NOT a feature of the conference's mission to engage with the part of the public that will endanger the conference as a safe space for the transgender community.

For this reason, the conference committee limits advertising of these events to a select few targeted social media sites, invitations via specific workplace or organizational communications, and word of mouth. Any other formal advertising or publicity is neither sought nor desired. We discourage news coverage and advance press releases to public media. Attendees, presenters, and planners may not be *outed* to anyone (out = to reveal the sexual or gender identity of a person) to the public, by word or image, without their express permission.

The conference measures success on our adherence to mission, not on traditional goals of broad exposure. Increasing attendance numbers outside of our specific constituencies (Current and future - Providers and their Staffs, Educators, Students, Transgender people, Parents and Families of trans children/youth/adults, Trans/LGBTQ+ Advocates and Allies) is not, on its own, a goal.