

## **Importance of Providing Culturally Relevant and Affirming Care to Members of the LGBTQ+ Community**

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### Overview

LGBTQ+ affirming care training is essential for staff working in behavioral health settings, hospitals, and social service organizations. LGBTQ+ individuals experience higher rates of behavioral health concerns, and often experience troubling encounters with mental health providers who do not fully understand or appreciate the challenges that stem from being a part of a marginalized community (or more than one marginalized identity).

This is why Envision:You developed their LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Provider Training Program. The dynamic course provides evidence-based interventions rooted in trauma-informed principles to help providers create safe, welcoming spaces for queer individuals to start their recovery process. This training is unique as it focuses on using an intersectional lens to understand the experiences and identities of LGBTQ+ folks, giving providers the tools to provide tailored and culturally affirming care to the LGBTQ+ community.

With content informed by the Envision:You LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Provider Training Program, this presentation will provide you an understanding of:

- Structural and administrative barriers that prevent LGBTQ+ individuals from receiving culturally responsive care;
- Unique experiences and traumas of LGBTQ+ individuals;
- The cultural role of substance use among LGBTQ+ folks;
- Best practices and considerations for behavioral health providers working with LGBTQ+ clients;
- The importance of using an intersectional lens in understanding LGBTQ+ clients' experiences and identities.

To learn more about the Envision:You Behavioral Health Provider Training Program contact Marie Hafner, at [marie.hafner@envision-you.org](mailto:marie.hafner@envision-you.org).