Past Convention Workshop Examples

The PFLAG National Convention is a great place to immerse yourself in a culture of learning. But learning only happens when great advocates and practitioners share what they know.

So if you’re considering submitting a workshop but first looking for examples of what’s been offered in the past, here are just a handful of the kinds of sessions offered at the last PFLAG National Convention.

Advocates Needed: LGBT Issues in Foster Care
Marriage equality brings with it an emphasis on family. All children in foster care face challenges but LGBTQ youth in foster care face even greater issues, not to mention the concerns of LGBTQ foster parents. We have an advocacy opportunity that will not only benefit the LGBTQ community but all youth in foster care. This is an issue that will provide coalition building opportunities. In this multimedia session you will learn about the LGBTQ foster care experience from the youth and parents who live it. You will learn about some basic best practices and advocacy opportunities. At the completion of the workshop, you will have created a personal advocacy plan to begin creating change in your community.

Case Study in Successful Public School Curriculum and Guidance Office Advocacy
What schools do in their health education curricula and guidance offices is vital. The deafening silence of our schools regarding matters of sexual orientation and identity that was once the near-universal approach was never wise, and is certainly no longer viable. Yet, many school systems are afraid to deal with these issues. School officials are often leery of getting into the middle of the culture wars or seeming to promote some suspect gay agenda. Metro DC PFLAG spearheaded a successful campaign to secure such needed changes in the secondary school health education curriculum and in materials available to guidance office personnel in the Montgomery County (MD) Public Schools. This workshop will provide a case study of the Montgomery County experience, including the battle against anti-LGBT groups which sought to derail the process, and will provide a forum to discuss how to effectuate change in your own community.

Continuum of Hate: Micro-Aggressions to Hate Speech to Hate Crimes
Where does hate come from? Members of the LGBT community are routinely exposed to an array of hate at varying levels. Hate crimes exist at the extreme of a continuum of public aggressions from hate speech and micro-aggressions. How do the public expressions of hate in social media and from public figures contribute to a climate of hate resulting in hate crimes? This session explores the emotional impact of these aggressions on the LGBT communities with recommendations for community advocates and professionals.
Creating and Managing a Successful Speakers Bureau
This workshop offers you the education and resources you need (including handouts and a sample PowerPoint) to start or expand a speakers bureau in your chapter. The workshop will present different formats for speakers bureaus. This allows you to decide which one fits your chapter's needs or you can create your own hybrid. This workshop will also present different strategies for finding and training volunteer speakers, how to find venues, what audiences want to know, how to stay relevant with audiences, online speakers bureau management, personal story telling tips, how to handle tough questions, and ideas for successful scheduling of panels, whether you're a chapter with only one presenter or have a large group of panelists. PFLAGers know that sharing our personal stories creates connection.

Creating and Maintaining Safe Spaces for LGBTQ Youth in Schools
The Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. In this workshop, attendees will learn about the challenges facing LGBTQ youth in K-12 schools nationwide, and be introduced to strategies, tools, and resources available to be better allies and help create safer spaces for these students. Attendees will walk away with a basic awareness of how to make it better for this population in educational environments.

Developing and Sustaining Productive Partnerships with LGBT Community Centers
LGBT Community Centers serve more individuals on an annual basis than any other LGBT organization. By working with community centers, you will be able to harness the power of the centers as they serve their communities. But what does LGBT Community Center mean? And what's the best way to work with a center? How can centers and local PFLAG chapters best partner together? Find out in this session.

Diversity from a Latina/Hispanic Perspective (la diversidad desde una perspectiva Hispano-Latina)
To face sexual orientation and gender identity issues in Latin-American countries or within Latin/Hispanic families generates different and particular challenges. These families can face different experiences to those generated in other cultures. This workshop, that will be carried out in Spanish and English will cover this issues. It will provide the families a safe space to share their experiences, seek support and resources for them and their loved ones that are still living in Latin American countries, in order to be able to live a journey as parents of a LGBT child. FDS is present in 24 Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries, including the USA. It was inspired on PFLAG. FDS’ first convention was in 2002 in Mexico and is currently organizing its sixth convention that will take place in 2016 in San José, Costa Rica.

Gender 201
Many PFLAG chapters have learned how to support transgender men and women. But what happens when someone shows up who tells you that they’re neither a man nor a woman? Or when you get a call from a parent with a gender-creative child? How do you make your chapter, or your everyday language for that matter, a more safe and welcoming space for people on a variety of gender journeys? For this workshop, attendees will be expected to show up with a familiarity with common usages of words like transgender, transsexual, FTM, MTF, and cisgender. You will leave with a better understanding of vocabulary like pansexual, intersex, agender, third gender, and gender-neutral pronouns.
Igniting Change across Native America
PFLAG Phoenix Native American Chapter, also known as Native PFLAG, is the only chapter in the country that is focused on supporting Native American communities and emphasizes traditional Native American LGBTQ teachings. Come learn how Native PFLAG works in a community that is reclaiming traditional Native American teachings. Hear our challenges and successes as we support, advocate, and educate in Native American Communities.

Leveraging Community Partnerships: Working Together for Equality
With the right planning, persistence, and patience, you can develop relationships that are mutually beneficial to all parties in the partnership. This presentation will be full of Nashville success stories where organizations worked together to facilitate change in the workplace, in the local government, and in churches, schools, and homes in middle Tennessee. Very often, the Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce serves as a connector in the LGBT community. We are proud of our relationships with the local PFLAG Chapters as well as local and national LGBT advocacy organizations, corporations, small businesses, city leaders, and other non-profit organizations. You'll learn how, by example, to leverage those partnerships for equality.

Messaging Training: Crafting our Message to Talk to Electeds and Connecteds
The time we are given with decision makers is truly sacred. Sometimes it is 10 minutes with a senator. Sometimes it's years-long relationships with our state representative. Whatever it looks like, we have to be ready and be able to train others to be able to talk to their legislators. So many times on legislative campaigns, there are real opportunities to move a legislator, but it gets lost on a well-intentioned but unprepared messenger. The training works with you to craft a message so you can have a bigger impact when you talk to your legislator no matter what you are advocating for. The training will also cover how you can teach and train others to do the same.

Parent Outreach in the Catholic Community
Fortunate Families is a Catholic parent organization, similar to PFLAG, but fulfilling different needs in the Catholic community. In this workshop, we'll share the ways that Fortunate Families has become an active national ministry by doing outreach through the Listening Parent Network. For Catholics and others of conservative faiths, sometimes the issues that surround having an LGBT child are as much about navigating church as the family relationship. Fortunate Families will share the strategies we use to change hearts and minds, moving parents from angst to advocacy.

PrEP and the Changing Landscape of HIV Prevention and Treatment
PrEP has transformed LGBTQ sexual health and social justice. It's a highly effective prevention strategy when taken as directed. This interactive workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to fully understand how PrEP works and how it can impact community health and wellness. Additionally it will be an opportunity to better understand the changing landscape of HIV treatment and the modern experience of HIV. This session will allow participants to engage around critical issues impacting HIV treatment and prevention: access, adherence, agency, and sexuality.

Promoting Safety, Inclusion and Well-Being for LGBTQ Youth
The LGBTQ community is making steady progress toward legal equality, yet the deck continues to be stacked against young people growing up LGBTQ in America. The impacts of family rejection, bullying, and daily concern for safety weigh heavily on our youth. This workshop will discuss the current state of LGBTQ young people, resources available, emerging best practices, and other ways you can help make a positive difference. In particular, this workshop will benefit those who wish to build cultural competency, improve confidence to speak out, and how best to create change in K-12 schools.
Set Them Up For Success: Supporting Volunteers
Individuals do not volunteer with the intention to fail. However, sometimes organizations/chapters do not have systems in place to support the volunteer’s success. The workshop will focus on some of the basics of volunteer resources management. The presenter will combine lecture, worksheets, breakout exercises, and discussions in order to explore components of effective volunteer engagement. The areas touched on will include volunteer motivation, making the right match, effective team building, how learning is unique to the individual, generational dynamics, establishing checks and balances, ongoing vs. one-time volunteer recognition, and celebrating successes. At the end of the session participants will be asked to privately identify one personal goal related to PFLAG that the attendee will strive to achieve within three months following the conference.

Sharing Wisdom: Multicultural Leaders of Change
Do you want to find ways to reach your people of color (POC) communities? Through the stories and experiences of individuals working in these communities, you will learn about developing partnerships with other organizations to share resources, reaching out to and supporting communities of color. This workshop will also touch on areas of being culturally-sensitive to your POC families, what are some of the cultural strengths of POC communities, and some stereotypes that need to be dispelled in order for POC families to feel welcome and accepted. It is our hope that workshop participants will walk away with some ideas to help their LGBTQ families of color feel included, supported and no longer alone.

The Real Relationship between Bullying & Suicide attempts Among LGBTQ Youth
LGBTQ young people are 4-8 times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers. These youth are also much more likely to report victimization by bullies. The building blocks of suicidality, however, are very complex. This workshop will address the genuine connections between bullying and suicide attempts among LGBTQ youth, presenting research and dispelling myths along the way. Here we will address questions such as: How do the effects of cyberbullying differ from face-to-face bullying? Are we right to blame the bully if their victim makes a suicide attempt? Who is at greatest risk? What does the research really say on the matter? And most importantly, what can I do to help?

Transitioning with Our Transgender Children
With children expressing gender nonconforming feelings earlier, and more teens identifying as non-binary or transgender, parents, educators, faith leaders, and others are looking to PFLAG for guidance. This session will provide an in-depth look into the emotional transition that families must make in order to accept and embrace their non-binary and transgender children. Research shows that family acceptance is the single most predictive indicator for the long-term health and wellbeing of transgender people. Parents therefore are in the best position possible to prevent the negative outcomes many parents fear. This workshop will give you the tools you need to participate in PFLAG’s life-saving work helping parents and families move toward compassion, understanding, and acceptance so that no child need ever face rejection.

Transgender Inclusion and Community Policing: Policy Development and Implementation
The trans*/gender nonconforming community has built partnerships with multiple law enforcement and justice organizations over the last two decades. These partnerships have been instrumental in officer trainings and policies and directives inclusive of the trans*/gender nonconforming community. Changes in requirements for legal documentation and support for various health care needs raised the urgency for updating long standing transgender policies.
During this workshop, participants will learn the value of ongoing partnerships with law enforcement and the justice system and some ways to establish those partnerships. We'll also discuss the process used to develop an updated Transgender Booking Policy for the Multnomah County Jail in Portland, OR and address specific components that incorporate best practices and recommendations from national transgender organizations, concluding with a discussion of how this policy influences other organizations.

**We the People: Why We Need Comprehensive LGBT Nondiscrimination Protections**

Despite our historic progress on marriage equality, in a majority of states, LGBT people remain at risk of being fired from their job, refused housing, or denied service simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Today, it is still legal to fire, refuse housing, or deny service to Americans because of their sexual orientation and gender identity in 29 states. LGBT people currently lack explicit protections against discrimination in employment, housing, education, credit, and public accommodations. LGBT individuals and families report unacceptable levels of discrimination in the workplace, when seeking goods or services in their community’s places of public accommodation, at school, or when seeking housing. This discrimination leads to disproportionate rates of unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and negative health outcomes for LGBT people and their families. This breakout will highlight the diverse organizations, people, and businesses coming together to shed light on the discrimination facing LGBT people and efforts at the federal, state, and local levels to stop it.

**What You Need to Know About Reparative Therapy**

Reparative (aka, ex-gay or conversion) therapy began in 1973, creating a path of destruction in the lives of LGBT people and their families ever since. This class looks at the foundational principles of the movement, the people behind it and the message that still permeates beliefs and attitudes of many of the parents and families who attend PFLAG. This class will address the movement’s history, core beliefs, and tactics, arming you not only with facts, but tools needed to compassionately address the lives of people impacted by these organizations.

**Your Social Media Footprint in Your Community**

This workshop will explore different ways to expand a chapter’s presence in the community it serves, with a focus on the use of social media. Learn why some things are more effective than others, and why. Learn what to avoid, and what to take advantage of when using social media. Discover how community events can be promoted using unconventional social media (e.g., dating apps) and when this type of promotion is appropriate.