

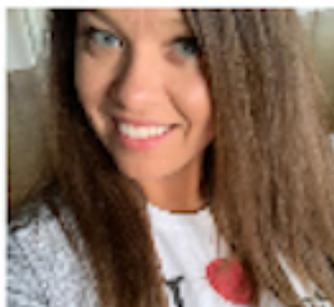


# Contemporary Relationships 2022 Virtual Conference • May 13-15

**Strengthening Relationships In The LGBTQ+ Community**

**HELD ON CANAPII - AN AWARD-WINNING EVENT PLATFORM**

**FOLLOW THE STEPS ON THE NEXT PAGE TO GET SET UP BEFORE THE EVENT!**



# Get Set Up On Canapii Before The Event!

We are very excited about the line-up of speakers, with workshops delivered on the award-winning event platform, Canapii.

**Please note: Prior to the conference you must get set up on Canapii (we recommend Steps 1-2 the week before the event):**

1. Click [HERE](#) and enter your name and email address. You should get an email confirming you are set up and ready to go.
2. Each workshop is represented in a box on the event platform, much the way movies are displayed on Netflix. You can click on the workshop box to see a description, and click the orange "Book Now" button to add this workshop to your agenda if it interests you. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the cool features of the site, including the "Community Forum" where you can go to share thoughts and ideas with others in attendance.
3. During the conference, log in a few minutes before each workshop starts, click on the box for that workshop, and then click the orange "More Details" button. A new page will open with an invitation to join the webinar (you may be asked to choose audio/video devices).

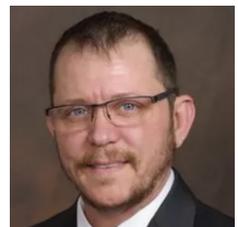
Many thanks to Equality Texas, Southwest Psychotherapy Associates, and National Marriage Seminars of America for making this weekend possible with their generous support. After the conference, you may decide to continue throughout the remainder of the year in order to become a certified Queer & Trans Affirming Professional (QTAP) and be formally recognized as a culturally competent care provider. In this document, you'll find information about the QTAP program and we hope you will consider joining us in this comprehensive and fun professional opportunity.



Jeff Lutes, LPC, QTAP, Executive Director

## Advisory Board

**Christine Hatchard, PsyD, QTAP, Director of Instruction & Assessment; Ty David Lerman, LPC-S, CST, QTAP; Director of Curriculum; Traci Medeiros-Bagan, LMFT, QTAP; Andrea Washington, LCSW-S, CSAT, CDWF; Faith Harper, PhD, LPC-S, ACS, ACN; William Lyons, LCSW; Rahim Thawer, MSW, QTAP; Micki Grimland, LCSW; Chase Gregory Jones, ESQ**





NOTE: The conference will be held on Canapii. **Prior to the event, all attendees must click <https://account.canapii.com/events/contemporary-relationships-2022/register/ticket-d267e4cc-ce78-447e-b950-d49bc19778df> and enter their name and email address.** It just takes a few minutes and you'll be able to book the workshops you want to attend in advance! This event is being recorded and will be made available to all registrants after the conference. Any personal information you share during discussions will become part of these recordings.

## Friday, May 13

**2:00pm** (No CE Credits)

### **QTAP Student Orientation & Virtual Reception**

Jeff Lutes, LPC, QTAP & Ty David Lerman, LPC-S, CST, QTAP

**NOTE: Open to registered QTAP students and faculty. Conference-only attendees should plan to join us at 3:15pm.**

QTAP students and faculty are invited to join us for an introductory meeting as they begin the journey toward certification. We will get to know each other, review the four components (conference + core curriculum + consultation + anti-racism training) of certification, and answer any questions students might have about the certification process.



**3:15 - 3:45pm** (No CE Credits)

## **The State of Equality: A summation of the last year and what is coming in 2023**

Ricardo Martinez, CEO, Equality Texas (Austin, Texas)

The anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric has been loud lately. Recently, some politicians have taken every opportunity to paint the LGBTQ+ community as a threat, committing publicly to policies they will champion through the next legislative session. Anti-equality Texas politicians pledged to extend the harmful anti-transgender sports ban to the collegiate level and bring Florida's notorious "Don't say gay/trans" bill to Texas. The next Texas legislative session will feature a slew of bills that impact the lives of LGBTQ+ Texans, and Equality Texas is hard at work to protect the rights of all in our state. Equality Texas envisions a Texas where LGBTQ+ Texans and their families have full equality in the hearts and minds of our fellow Texans and in all areas of the law. We will activate this through political action, education, community organizing, and collaboration. Participants will learn:

- Anticipated 2023 legislative efforts that seek to strengthen and protect the rights of LGBTQ+ persons
- Anticipated 2023 legislative efforts that seek to discriminate and promote inequality for LGBTQ+ persons
- Options for how LGBTQ+ persons and their allies can assist the vital work of Equality Texas

**4:00 - 6:00pm** (2 CE Credits)

## **Trailblazers In Love: Live "Flash" Lessons From Couples Together 20+ Years**

Jeff Lutes, LPC, QTAP (Austin, Texas)

In this workshop, attendees will learn about love and resilience directly from queer couples who have been together at least twenty years. Each couple will hold a conversation between the two of them, talking about how they met, the highs and lows over the years, and the keys to sustaining a relationship that grows and endures. Attendees will be "spectators" as we listen to these remarkable stories and learn, this time not from a clinician, but rather from the enlightenment that comes from lived experiences and the hard work these couples put in to thrive, not just survive. Many of these couples will be featured in a soon-to-be-published book that chronicles their stories through interviews and images. Attendees will gather valuable insights that may help them in their work with queer relationships, by learning how these couples:

- overcame challenges, threats, and obstacles
- maintain healthy connection through intentionality and mindfulness
- build trust and resilience through their day-to-day choices

Ricardo Martinez, CEO  
Equality Texas



Jeff Lutes, LPC, QTAP  
Austin, Texas



# Saturday, May 14

9:00am

## Welcome and Announcements

Jeff Lutes, LPC, QTAP (Austin, Texas)

9:15-10:45am (1.5 CE Credits)

## Saturday Opening Keynote

### Screening of "Angels and Saints - Eros and Awe"

Edie Weinstein, MSW, LSW (Perkasie, Pennsylvania) and Rodney Whittenberg (Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania)

The screening of this award-winning documentary will be preceded by and followed by a panel discussion with the producers, and some of the speakers involved in it. This presentation will address the historic schism between "the spirit" and "the flesh" which has been perpetuated by traditional religions through the promotion of body-shame, fear and guilt and excessive cultural controls. We will discuss key scenes from this new documentary, which has been selected by 14 national and international film festivals. Our modern "Angels and Saints", who represent a spectrum of gender and sexual identities, speak not only to the harm perpetuated through this cultural splitting but also of ways they have reconnected spirituality and sexuality and developed a sense of personal and communal wholeness and meaning. There will be a 10-minute introduction, followed by the screening of the 57-minute film and then a 20-minute Q & A period. Participants will witness and carry with them:

- A candid visualization and acknowledgement of the historic confusion and harm of traditionally controlling religious institutions
- The reintegration of eros and spirit amongst the highly developed sexual and spiritual leaders of the documentary
- The use of the arts, including animation, poetry, original music, and modern dance to illustrate the ineffable and beautiful mysteries of healing and hope

11:00am - 12:00pm (1 CE Credit)

## Taking Responsibility: Accountability After Causing Harm and Using Shame as a Guide for Growth

Lydia Hamel, MSW (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada)

Borrowing from Intimate Justice Theory as well as Theresa McDowell's Socioculturally attuned therapy and Jenkin's Invitation to Responsibility, this presentation aims to explain the steps to effective accountability in a therapeutic context. It also hopes to address how societal systems of power can act as contributors to harmful behavior as well as barriers to

Edie Weinstein, MSW, LSW  
Perkasie, Pennsylvania



Rodney Whittenberg  
Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania



Lydia Hamel, MSW  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



Naomi Brown, MSW, LCSW  
San Antonio, Texas



appropriate responsibility-taking. This presentation also moves beyond helping clients to take responsibility and into using shame as a guide to become more in line with our ethical selves (as defined by the client), in order to do less harm and access more harmonious relationships. Participants will be able to:

- Name and elaborate on the necessary steps to guide clients through an effective process of accountability working towards repair and transformed behavior
- Identify the ways in which we can help clients reposition their feelings of shame and guide their behaviors to become more aligned with their ideal self and optimal values
- Formulate the ways in which power and social location can guide harmful behavior and lead to resistance in taking responsibility and describe ways to raise client consciousness around the impact of power dynamics

**12:00 - 12:30pm** - Lunch Break

**12:30 - 1:30pm** (1 CE Credit)

### **Missing Colors of the Rainbow: Working with Queer Black Folx**

Naomi Brown, MSW, LCSW - San Antonio, TX

About 40% of LGBTQ+ adults in the United States are people of color, including 12% who identify as Black (Williams Institute ). Black LGBTQ folx are more likely to experience oppression and discrimination. The intersection of being black and being queer can be a unique challenge for therapists who have a culturally correct education which limits the reality of the black experience. How do we look at the culture and race belonging to two marginalized groups, How do your work with a black trans woman who is constantly reminded of the fragility of safety in her world? ""Existing as black, queer and transgender people can be isolating and sometimes traumatizing experiences," said Dr. Danielle Simmons, a clinical psychologist in Chicago. Intergenerational trauma, religious detachment and isolation from the black church, poverty and the lack of many viable options can often lead to the lack of role models and behavioral paradigms growing up black and queer. By the end of this session, participants will learn:

- How systemic racism can interrupt or prevent the development of a strong personal identity as a thriving queer and black person
- The possible challenges and disruption of the various coming out processes effected while embracing your queer black identity
- Tools and talents to help develop the magic within your queer black folx who trust you to help them develop into the amazing warriors and shamans they were born to be

Hannah Wilson, LCPC, CST  
Bozeman, Montana



David Fawcett, PhD  
Wilton Manors, Florida



**1:45-2:45pm** (1 CE Credit)

## **Treating the Community You Are Part Of: Ethical Considerations of Unavoidable Dual Relationships**

Hannah Wilson, LCPC, CST ( Bozeman, Montana) & Ty Lerman, LPC, CST (Houston, Texas)

There are many intersectional components of our work as therapists and often we can get tangled in the complexities of these relationships. From advocate to therapist, from colleague to patient, and even from play partner to professional acquaintance, dual relationships are sometimes unavoidable. In this presentation we are starting the important and often uncomfortable conversation of how to navigate boundaries when you are part of the community you treat. This is applicable to those who are in supervisory relationships, the LGBTQ+ community, military settings, prison and jail settings, rural and small communities, rehabilitation and drug recovery programs, spiritual and faith communities, and anyone on social media. This presentation will analyze dual relationships, how and when to utilize proper disclosure, and what boundaries can look like that empower both the clinician and the patient. Participants will learn how to:

- Navigate small communities
- Discern unethical and harmful dual relationships from unavoidable and potentially healthy dual relationships
- Establish healthy dual relationships through proper disclosure and boundary setting

**3:00-4:00pm** (1 CE Credit)

## **Many Roads to Secure Bonding: A Second Look at Attachment Theory in Light of Gender, Sex and Relationship Diversity**

David Fawcett PhD ( Wilton Manors, Florida)

Attachment theory is grounded in heteronormative experience and values. Individuals who fall out of “normal” gender identities and relationship constructs may be challenged to achieve secure relationships due to the intersection of the individual with culture, norms, emotions and personal experiences such as trauma. New works such as Ferns’ “Polysecure: Attachment, Trauma and Consensual Nonmonogamy” explore how diversity in gender identity and relationships may present opportunities for individuals to move toward more satisfying attachment. This interactive presentation will provide an overview of how such diversity can support opportunities for more secure and satisfying attachments. Participants will:

- Understand the ways in which traditional attachment theory is culturally grounded in heteronormative values
- Understand how gender and sexual orientation intersect with attachment style
- Be able to name opportunities provided by diverse relationship styles in creating secure and satisfying attachment



## Sunday, May 15

**9:00am**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Jeff Lutes, LPC, QTAP (Austin, Texas)

**9:15-10:45am** (1.5 CE Credits)

**Sunday Opening Keynote**

### **Bringing Financial Sense into Individual and Couples Therapy**

William Lyons, LCSW (Houston, Texas)

Money is a common stressor for adults and research shows that financial conflict is a leading cause of divorce and relationship dissatisfaction. As mental health providers, we are trained to help clients with a variety of stressors, but infrequently is money and finances are covered in one's foundational training. Understanding how money impacts mental health and vice versa improves clinicians' competence to work with individuals and couples. In addition, this workshop will improve clinicians' ability to identify risk factors for financial distress. Finally, clinicians will learn tips to create a safe space(brave space) to explore money in the therapeutic setting can strengthen the therapeutic relationship their clients.



**William Lyons, LCSW**  
Houston, Texas



Clinicians and community members alike will learn about resources to improve their financial literacy and how to make a plan to achieve their financial goals. Participants will be able to:

- Describe at least 4 mental health risk factors directly related to money
- Describe at least 4 difference between a financial coach and therapist
- Describe at least 3 benefits of including finances in therapeutic work as mental health clinician
- Apply at least 3 interventions related to money

**11:00am - 12:00pm** (1 CE Credit)

### **The Matrix Of Envy In Our Social And Sexual Lives**

Rahim Thawer, MSW, RSW, QTAP  
(Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa)

While most people can express their own experience of jealousy, distinguishing it from, and understanding our responses to, envy is more complex. Envy is a feeling that's directed at a person who possesses something desirable that we want. Envy triggers a sense of personal inferiority and can spark ill-will towards others. We engage with this experience by activating a web of affective orientations such as shame, counter-identification, grief, motivation, greed, grandiosity, and/or gratitude. In this presentation, we will:

- Explore how early experiences of envy might shape our self-concept
- Examine the ways envy surfaces in our relationship landscape, including its cultural manifestation in body ideals
- Speculate about how a subculture of sexualized drug use might mitigate envy
- Consider how aware we are when we're the object of someone else's envy and how we respond

**12:00 - 12:30 - Lunch Break**

**12:30pm - 1:30pm** (1 CE Credit)

### **SOS: Sexuality On the Spectrum**

Nicholas Maio-Aether, MAMFT, MSPSY, BCBA, LBA (St. Louis, Missouri)

In these days of increased Autism diagnoses and better understanding of Autism, itself, there have been many efforts made by therapeutic fields to assist in early interventions, often focused particularly upon ADLs/Activities of Daily Living. What is often ignored is the need for assistance in learning human intimacy skills (i.e., sociosexual behaviors), and indeed most Autism interventionists don't have any demonstrable competency in human sexuality. In this presentation, attendees will explore the growing subfield of Sexual Behavior Analysis (SBA), which draws upon behavior-analytic conventions for effective teaching while also keeping humanistic teachings of

Rahim Thawer, MSW, RSW  
Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa



Nicholas Maio-Aether, MAMFT,  
MSPSY, BCBA, LBA  
St. Louis, Missouri



autonomy and consent at its heart, alongside the rigid science that makes this so powerful a modality. The use of RPGs and LARPing (e.g., SEX eD&D) will be highlighted as main teaching tools, along with how these can be utilized to explore values, relational ethics, gender & sexual orientations, coercion VS consent, and flirting VS harassment. Participants will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the abusive history of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and how it differs in premise from the empowering processes of Sexual Behavior Analysis (SBA), while drawing upon the same set of scientific principles
- Review best practices for experiential learning, including: avoiding microaggressions; remaining ethically-sound when roleplaying flirting; generalizing skills to the world outside of sessions
- Explore how values and relational ethics can become steady guides for Autistic adults, reducing the need for prediction and avoiding unknowns, allowing relationships to develop naturally

**1:45-2:45pm** (1 CE Credit)

### **Safe, Sane, and Consensual: Introduction to Working with Clients with Alternative Sexualities**

Eli Lawrence, LCSW (Round Rock, Texas)

Kink, Leather, fetish, and BDSM are stepping out of their closets into mainstream media but there is little training on what everyday people engaged in these lifestyles are doing behind closed doors. As a clinician you can expect to find yourself working with clients who do not hold to heteronormative views of sex and relationships. Working with this marginalized population requires learning cultural competence to parse the difference between controlling abusive narcissistic behaviors and healthy consensual BDSM when a client describes kink-inspired protocols and rituals they engage in with their partner(s). This presentation will provide an opportunity to better understand how to work with alternative sexualities. Participants learn:

- Understand definitions of terms and interpersonal norms found in these communities
- Have the opportunity to ask frank questions
- Obtain resources for further learning

**3:00pm- - 4:00pm** (1 CE Credit)

### **No White Saviors in Anti-Racist Practice: Learning When to Stand and When to Sit**

Jacqueline Plante, LMFT, QTAP - Whittier, CA

What does it mean to be an anti-racist white mental health provider? How can you be an accessible provider in a space outside of community mental health? What is the responsibility of being a white leader nurturing the growth and development of a diverse staff?

Eli Lawrence, LCSW  
Round Rock, Texas



Jacqueline Plante, LMFT, QTAP  
Whittier, California



## **AUDIO**

**In order to help us have the best audio experience possible, everyone except the presenter and the host will be kept on mute. When the presenter is ready to take questions and comments, you may take yourself off mute so that you can engage the presenter and attendees directly. We value what you have to say and appreciate your questions.**

## **CE Attendance Verification**

**A code will be displayed on screen during each workshop and attendees who want CE credit must write down those codes. After the event, attendees must fill out the following online forms and enter the correct code for each workshop in which they are seeking credit.**

## **CE Certificates**

**CE Certificates may be purchased from our sponsor, National Marriage Seminars of America for \$39.99. Only those attendees who have filled out the CE Verification form(s) with the correct codes are eligible to purchase CE certificates.**

## **PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM**

**At the end of the conference, or whenever you are done attending workshops, please complete the short Participant Feedback form. This feedback will help us plan for next year. Thank you!**

Currently in the United States, 77% of therapists are white. However, the diversity amongst those who experience mental illness is varied and diverse (NAMI, 2021). As white mental health providers it is imperative to use our privilege to work towards anti-racism in our practice, our places of work, and in our communities. This means learning when to use our voices and our bodies to stand up and advocate. And, even more importantly, when to sit back, make space, listen, and de-center ourselves. The intention of this workshop is to mobilize an internal shift in our individual practices to dismantle systemic inequity in

our industry and support the healing of our professional communities and communities of color seeking care. At the end of this presentation, attendees will:

- Acquire a basic understanding of what it means to be anti-racist
- Learn to evaluate their internal process around implicit racial bias
- Learn to implement these practices in a leadership role
- Expand toolkit of approaches to address structural inequity in the workplace

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**CE Verification Form for Friday, May 13:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK87VW6>

**CE Verification Form for Saturday, May 14 & Sunday, May 15:** <https://contemporaryrelationships.wufoo.com/forms/w13ubnrc0imv9ub/>

**Purchase your CE Certificate**

<https://nationalmarriageseminars.com/product/ces-crc-may-13-15-2022>

**Participant Feedback Form**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/>

## **SPEAKER BIOS**

### **Ricardo Martinez, CEO, Equality Texas**

Ricardo (he/him) is a first generation immigrant from Mexico who grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He was honored by the Obama Administration as an emerging LGBTQ Leader in 2012 and recently awarded the Stony Brook University's 40 Under 40 award for the impact he has had in Civil Service and Activism. Ricardo has also received an award from One N Ten, a Phoenix-based organization that helps LGBTQ youth with self-expression, self-acceptance, leadership development, and healthy life choices, after dancing in the 2019 Dancing with One N Ten event. Ricardo amassed seventeen years of experience with organizations like PENCIL, Summer Search, GLSEN, and Stand for Children. [www.equalitytexas.org](http://www.equalitytexas.org)

### **Nicholas Maio-Aether, MAMFT, MSPSY, BCBA, LBA**

Nicholas (he/him) owns Empowered: A Center for Sexuality in St Louis, where he and his occasional teams of partnered Universities' students work to assist humans with and without disabilities achieve sexual access, sexual freedom, gender affirmation, and self-control of compulsive behaviors. Nicholas and his team have worked throughout the US training BCBA's/ Behavior Analysts so persons in Individualized Supportive Living (ISL) programs gain access to applicable and generalizable comprehensive sex ed and sexual opportunities. Nicholas provides Sexual Behavior Analysis, and has assisted polycoles, kinksters, gay couples, trans and nonbinary humans, among others, on their journeys. Trained by GLSEN in 2003, Nicholas started Gay-Straight Alliances across Alaska while in high school, and provided them sex ed materials and trainings. Nicholas spent five years managing Hustler Hollywood in St Louis before moving into Behavior Analysis, and joined AASECT, where he currently sits on two committees. He then completed a Sex Therapy practicum under Linda Weiner, LMSW, CSTS, in 2019 before getting a second Masters in Marriage & Family Therapy, and meeting those hour requirements under Angela Skurtu, LMFT, CST, along with his LGBTQIA+ Family Systems Specialist certificate in 2021. He is now a PhD candidate in Clinical Sexology at Modern Sex Therapy Institute. [www.empoweredcenter.com](http://www.empoweredcenter.com)

### **Eli Lawrence, LCSW**

Eli (they/them), is a non-binary Queer Leather switch. Professionally they are a licensed therapist specializing in LGBTQIA+ counseling and sexual health and wellness. Currently they are the Clinical Supervisor for Behavioral Health for Waterloo Counseling Center. For the last decade they have volunteered as an educator, public speaker, emcee, and passionate advocate for wholehearted living in alternative sexuality communities across the country.

<https://www.waterloocounseling.org/eli-lawrence>

### **David Fawcett, PhD**

David (he/him) is a therapist and sex therapist in Ft. Lauderdale. He is VP for Clinical Programming at Seeking Integrity which develops and operates treatment programs for sex, porn and chemsex addiction. He is the author of the award-winning book "Lust, Men, and Meth: A Gay Man's Guide to Sex and Recovery." He is also the host of a weekly webinar called "Addiction Q&A" and a podcast series called "Sex, Love and Addiction: Healing Conversations for Men who have Sex with Men" at [www.sexandrelationshiphealing.com](http://www.sexandrelationshiphealing.com). He is the recipient of numerous awards and is Executive Producer of "Crystal City," an award-winning documentary that follows the struggles and successes of eight gay men in recovery from crystal meth in New York. David is on the faculty of the IITAP's Rainbow Advocate and Educator certificate program and the International Institute of Clinical Sexology. [www.seekingintegrity.com](http://www.seekingintegrity.com)

### **Hannah Wilson, LCPC, CST**

Hannah (she/her) began her career working with underserved vulnerable clients in the heart of Seattle. Advocating for harm reduction approaches to addressing addiction, mental health and homelessness through housing first programming and assisted in research around the VAT (vulnerability assessment tool). After returning home to big sky country (Montana), she worked as a sex educator from the local Title V clinic. In 2016 began pursuing her clinical work at a Community Health Clinic with an integrative behavioral health model. For the last few years focusing on her private practice, Prickly Peach Sex Therapy, she is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Supervisor and AASECT Certified Sex Therapist and trained as a gender and trans affirming therapist with WPATH. Also a partner of Oh Hi Collective that is motivated to offer continuing education for organizations, community and individuals around sexual health. In conjunction, a teaching professor at Montana State University for the Psychology Department. Currently working on her PhD in Clinical Sexology, with a specialty in Kink Conscious Counseling at the International Institute of Clinical Sexology. In her down time you will find her enjoying cake, spending time with her other half, and laughing at her adorable rescue bulldog, Dax. [www.ohhcollective.com](http://www.ohhcollective.com)

### **Jacqueline Plante, LMFT, QTAP**

Jacqueline (she/her) has a BA in Psychology and MS in Counseling from California State University, Fullerton. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of California, and has been in private practice for 9 years, specializing in relationship work, attachment patterns, and work with the LGBTQ+ community. She is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of Gather and Grow OC, a group practice specializing in affirming and integrative wellness, where she supervises and trains new Associates in carrying the mission of Gather and Grow OC to the surrounding community. [www.gatherandgrowoc.com](http://www.gatherandgrowoc.com)

### **Naomi Brown, MSW, LCSW**

Naomi (she, they) is Vice Chair of the Center-Pride Center San Antonio and Director of Clinical Services and a therapist in private practice. A Licensed Clinical Social worker with years of experience working with marginalized and oppressed queer folx. Rev Naomi is Community Outreach Minister at Metropolitan Community Church (MCCSA). Ms. Brown and a member of the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board and the Covid Response Equity Committee. She has recently presented at NASW on Abbreviated Grief and Covid 19 emphasizing how Covid effected the LGBTQ and Black Community. For the past three years she has paid for Extensive training in Anti Racism, she holds Certification as a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Professional from the University of Miami at South Florida. Naomi is a National Recognized Presenter and Trainer on "Creating Safe Zone's for LGBTQI folx". "Using Cis Privilege to be a Trans Ally' and Trauma Informed Care for BIPOC folx who breathe Trauma. Naomi has taught Safe Zone training to over 3,000 participants including quarterly training with the San Antonio Police Department. Naomi's worked at Nationally Recognized (SAGE) trainer and is a Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group Facilitator specializing in LGBTQ audiences. Naomi has a passion for Spoken Word she Co-facilitates and Co-Founded the Pride Center's Queer Voices. She runs groups on Spoken Word as Therapy and has recently found a passion for "Hip Hop as a Healer" she is a published Poet married to her College sweetheart for over a million years. [www.pridecentersa.org](http://www.pridecentersa.org)

### **Rodney Whittenberg**

Rodney (he/him) is the co-producer, camera, composer and editor of the documentary film: Angels and Saints-Eros and Awe. Rodney is an Emmy Award winning modern "renaissance man." His interests and professional endeavors are broad ranging from full-length film production to music composition. He is fascinated in discovering what makes things tick and how to creatively intersect with them, whether it is the inner vision of his clients or new ways to use the latest technical advances.

[http://www.melodyvision.com/about\\_us.html](http://www.melodyvision.com/about_us.html)

### **William Lyons, LCSW**

William (he/him) is a licensed clinical social worker and clinical supervisor with experience across fields; including case management, clinical mental health services, community organizing, financial coaching, and non-profit management. Specific expertise includes trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, and critical time intervention. In his current role at Legacy Community Health, he primarily supports the professional development of student interns as emerging healthcare professionals across disciplines. In addition, he is a therapist providing services to youth (12 – 17) individually and a therapy group for Queer youth experiencing anxiety, depression, and gender dysphoria. Outside of Legacy, William acts co-founder of The Mahogany Project based in Austin, TX. He also a current board member of Contemporary Relationships (CRC). [www.lyonsalicornconsulting.com](http://www.lyonsalicornconsulting.com)

### **Ty David Lerman, LPC-S, CST, QTAP**

Ty (he/him) is a current PhD candidate in Clinical Sexology, with specialty in non-traditional (open, polyam, kink) relationships at the International Institute of Clinical Sexology. He began his clinical practice in 2009 after completing his master's degree at University of Houston Clear Lake. With experience in both private practice and agency settings, he has an expansive clinical practice in numerous treatment topics, with an emphasis on LGBTQ+ issues and anxiety. Ty is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and is board certified as a Sex Therapist (CST), a Queer and Transgender Affirming Professional (QTAP), and as a clinical hypnotherapist (CHt). He serves on the Advisory Board for the QTAP certification program, the Contemporary Relationships Conference, and for Houston Group Psychotherapy Society (HGPS). His expertise has been sought out by publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Refinery29. Ty has been seen on TV on "Great Day Houston with Deborah Duncan", and various news spots on ABC, NBC, and KHOU stations. He is honored to be recognized as the "Best Male Mental Health Therapist" by OutSmart Magazine, 2018-2021. Outside the clinical world, Ty is married and father to three Australian Shepherds. [www.tdlcounseling.com](http://www.tdlcounseling.com)

### **Eddie Weinstein, MSW, LSW**

Eddie (she/her) is a licensed Social Worker, psychotherapist, interfaith minister, journalist, author of The Bliss Mistress Guide To Transforming The Ordinary Into The Extraordinary, and speaker whose work focuses on relationships, sexuality, mental health, addiction, social justice, and spirituality. She is the PR and Outreach Coordinator for the film. [www.opti-mystical.com](http://www.opti-mystical.com)

### **Lydia Hamel**

Lydia (she/her) holds a Masters' in Social Work from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Bachelors in Anthropology and Interdisciplinary from Concordia University in Montreal. She has completed the Advanced Couple and Family Therapy Certificate as well as the Intensive Sex Therapy Program from Guelph University. Her work in community began as a street outreach worker in Montreal, taking part in harm reduction initiatives and supporting youth placed at-risk. She has also been a sexual educator, facilitating workshops on sexual "health" including STI's, HIV, "safer" drug use, "safer" sex and consent. In Vancouver, she worked in low barrier housing and at Canada's first safe injection site, Insite. She was also involved in research through the Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity, exploring barriers to social and health care for Sex Workers in the Downtown Eastside. Lydia is currently in private practice in Winnipeg, Manitoba always aiming to work from trauma responsive, harm-reduction and sex affirming lens. <http://lydiahamel.com>

### **Rahim Thawer MSW, RSW, QTAP**

Rahim (he/him) works as a psychotherapist, clinical supervisor, facilitator and public speaker, sessional lecturer, writer, and community organizer. Rahim loves all things mental health and is particularly interested in examining innovation in queer relationships. Whether in a classroom or therapy consulting room, he strives to operate from a harm reduction, sex-positive, anti-oppressive and trauma-informed approach. This is complemented by his vast public speaking portfolio, which is both thematically and regionally diverse spanning from Toronto to Ottawa, Winnipeg to Vancouver, and from New York to Austin to Atlanta. Rahim also supervises graduate counseling students and has taught as a post-secondary lecturer at two colleges and three universities in Ontario, including the University of Toronto. Rahim has dedicated almost 10 years to community organizing with Salaam Canada, a national volunteer-run LGBTQ Muslim organization. He was also a co-editor and essay contributor in a local history anthology entitled Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer, which was shortlisted for the 2017 Toronto Book Awards. He's currently working on a book called Seeking: Stories from a gay therapist making sense of connection and relationships to be published by Thorntree Press. [www.affectiveconsult.ca](http://www.affectiveconsult.ca)

### **Jeff Lutes, LPC, QTAP**

Jeff (he/him) has been in private practice for 33 years and is the Executive Director of The Conference on Contemporary Relationships, which hosts the annual conference and the Queer and Trans Affirming Professional (QTAP) certification program. He is the co-author of two chapters in Affirmative Counseling with LGBTQI+ People (American Counseling Association, 2017), a chapter in the Handbook of LGBT-Affirmative Couple and Family Therapy (Routledge 2012), and author of Okin the Panda Bear Finds His Family - a children's book about family diversity (Creative House Press, 2011). His articles about LGBTQ relationships and families have appeared on The Bilerico Project and Therapy Matters. He has presented at the conferences of the American Family Therapy Academy, the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy, the American Counseling Association, and the Texas Psychological Association. The former Executive Director of Soulforce; Jeff has spoken at universities, churches, and rallies around the country, and his social justice efforts have been covered by numerous media outlets, including NPR and CNN. His new book, Trailblazers In Love, is set for publication later this year and will feature conversations with queer couples together 20+ years. [jefflutespsychotherapy.com](http://jefflutespsychotherapy.com)

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**Counseling Trans And Gender Nonconforming Persons** (2 credit hours)

April Owen, PsyD, QTAP (she/her)

**Securing Your Future As You Age: Legal and Estate Planning For LGBTQIA+ Adults** (2 credit hours)

Shelly Skeen, JD, FCI Arb, LLM (she/her), and Geron Gadd, JD, MTS, QTAP (she/her)

**What's In A Name? The Legal Requirements And The Practical Considerations Of Changing A Name And Gender Marker For People In Transition** (1 credit hour)

Chase Gregory Jones, Esq (he/him)

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Andrea Washington, LCSW-S, CSAT, CDWF (she/her)

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