

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LGBTQ ISSUES

Hunter M. Pattison, MD, Chair

Carl G. Streed Jr. MD, Vice Chair

Charlotte Grill, Staff

The Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues has begun its 2022-2023 planning to:

- facilitate member involvement, mentoring, leadership development, and networking for LGBTQ+ physicians, medical students, and allies;
- improve health equity for LGBTQ+ patients and communities and increase LGBTQ+ representation in the physician workforce; and
- engage internal and external stakeholders in amplifying AMA policy and enhancing education and awareness efforts on LGBTQ+ health and well-being.

In addition to the strategic objectives, the committee has identified the following items as top priorities for 2022-2023:

1. Promote physician safety from threats and violence, especially when providing medically necessary, evidence-based care
2. Monkeypox and equitable vaccine and treatment distribution

Education topic for I-22:

During the Interim 2022 meeting, the Advisory committee will be offering a training and presentation from the Hawaii LGBT Legacy Foundation. This is a non-profit organization based in Honolulu that creates educational programs to inform and empower Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community. They also provide financial and in-kind support to organizations addressing social, health and economic inequalities. They will have a panel of staff and board members from the organization provide a 60-minute training on the services they provide to the LGBTQ community in Honolulu with a focus on the needs of the indigenous population.

Recent activities of interest:

- The AMA Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues hosted a Town Hall Meeting Thursday, August 25th to discuss becoming a section. Over 60 participants registered and 21 attended the town hall meeting. After the presentation and discussion, attendees were asked to vote if they agreed the committee should move forward to apply for section status and there was unanimous support. Given these results, the Advisory Committee will be submitting a delineated Sections application for the House of Delegates to evaluate in the next year.
- In August, the Advisory Committee met with Dr. Sandra Fryhofer, chair for the Board of Trustees and AMA spokesperson on Monkeypox, to discuss the challenges and clinical insights into treatment and distribution of vaccines for monkeypox.
- The Advisory Committee's expertise has been integral to developing up to date resources, such as issue briefs, which provide critical background and clinical information for members on LGBTQ health care. These briefs also assist in influencing policy makers to align with AMA on LGTBQ+ health standards. To date, in 2022, the Advisory Committee has updated the *Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Change Efforts* (so-called "Conversion Therapy") issue brief, with the approval of GLMA, and is drafting *Support of Physicians and Patients Regarding Gender Affirming Care for Transgender and Nonbinary Youth*, which will be released this year.

- In collaboration with external and internal stakeholders, the Advisory Committee also consults with other AMA sections on policy and advocacy efforts on LGBTQ health care matters. Most recently, on August 25, 2022, The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's injunction against the Arkansas law prohibiting gender-affirming care for young people. In the issued opinion, the court relied quite a bit on the medical information in the records and the standards of care.
- The Advisory Committee supported the AMA's official comments submitted to HHS regarding reinstating non-discrimination regulatory rules. The letter stated, "The AMA applauds the Administration's commitment to equity and ensuring that health care services are nondiscriminatory, and strongly supports many of these proposed changes, including interpreting section 1557's ban on sex discrimination to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and pregnancy-related conditions; prohibiting discrimination based on association, marital, family, or parental status; and reapplying section 1557 to many health insurers".
- The Advisory Committee continues its efforts to build effective partnerships aimed at advancing health equity for LGBTQ+ individuals. The Advisory Committee retains many valued partnerships with LGBTQ health care organizations that provide essential physician education opportunities. The Advisory Committee is sponsoring the upcoming Howard Brown Health Midwest LGBTQ Conference September 14 – 15, 2022 and will also have representation at GLMA's 40th annual meeting October 19-22, 2022.