

### **Illinois: Jasmine and Ramona**

- Both have been working on manuscript
- Extension and webinar presentations
- Hatch project: Exploring stakeholder perceptions. Currently, the hatch project is focused on Champaign County. We are thinking of it as a pilot study. Once we discover which stakeholders we should be talking to, we would like to branch out into downstate Illinois. Currently, we are using a community capacity framework to understand data.
- Connecting with Extension educators in thinking about CYFAR with Minnesota

### **Manuscript**

- Managing manuscript. The more we can hatch out who we are a group would be better. Why is this worth a few of our days together each year? The more likely we are to push out the people that aren't really dedicated.
- What journals: Rural journals? Mainstream journals? Journal of Rural Research. Rural Sociology- impact factor of 2.317, Journal of Rural Studies, Journal of Homosexuality.
- Journal of Rural Studies may be more fitting...international. Yes, they have published some LGBT stuff.

### **Minnesota: Jen**

- Has been working on manuscript
- Webinar for USDA on queer issues in youth programs
- Webinar to include LGBT issues into your 4H programming or in programming in general (CYFAR contact expert)
- Fact Sheet for CYFAR about how to be inclusive in your youth programs in LGBT issues
- In extension, for this year she a scholar in residence on transgender youth. That involved working predominately in extension to do outreach efforts in training around transgender issues. That will involve five outreach days in two metro and two rural areas in Minnesota this year. Nutrition and Snap education and generalized mental health promotion and wellbeing among youth. CYFC--- scholar coming that runs programming in Ireland around trans stuff. She is coming in February. She will be a keynote speaker and will join Jen on a few of those outreach days. The purpose of this is to embed herself as a scholar here in Minnesota.. Extension funded this...half time grad student and 10% of her time.
- Talking about CYFAR with Illinois. A joint proposal.
- Asked to be expert witness on bathroom bill/issue in Wisconsin. She will be testifying in court. Trans law center is funding the whole thing. She wrote testimony and will go forward.
- School district survey stuff.

### **Virginia Tech: Erika**

- Developing an excel spreadsheet for the group
- Queer Out Here survey. Somewhat a recruitment tool. Focused on identity

- Working with Extension on a LGBT working group. As part of that working group, Erika has been making connections and has been able to do trainings for state administration people. Get them on board for statewide training. This fall, they will be focusing on LGBT issues. Erika put together slides for what the research says and put together a fact sheet that will be going to every extension staff in Virginia.
- Can they share these items? Jen and Erika's fact sheet? Make a portal to share these resources.
- Disclosure stuff has some rural stuff but not really a main project.

#### **Michigan: Courtney**

- Now in Extension. Health and Nutrition Institute
- Evaluation person for Snap ED and EFNEP through the USDA
- Snap Ed is very flexible and can do more things with evaluation but EFNEP is harder to change.
- This switch has mean that she has done less on LGBT front. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BERFSS). Using approval from Extension, didn't get funding (but we could potentially link our research to the food insecurity aspect and then she should---we talked about this in CYFAR meeting) Nutrition, physical activity, chronic disease.
- There are 22 states that had the LGBT module included.
- In May...Certified mental health instructor. What are the signs of crisis? How do we intervene? They have a first aid training for Rural. Courtney wants to see if she can get them to do a LGBT special training.

#### **Arizona: Russ**

- Grant funded projects---looking at suicide risk and prevention for LGBT. Attitudes and Behavior Survey. 45% are rural. 120,000 adolescence. IT is the search institute project. Russ is finding differences between rural vs urban youth, which is showing increases risk for suicide. About 8,000 LGB and 4,000 trans youth. Rural trans in particular have the highest risk
- Pilot test of an intervention. Writing a grant to implement it in rural areas. It includes trans youth and parents/caregivers and want to adapt it to make it feasible in a rural setting. Meditation. Intervention called Cognitively based compassion training.
- Just started evaluation a camp for trans youth in Tuscan. Out of the 28 families that came, over half were from rural parts of Arizona. What kind of info do they have from these families? In the past year, looking at how often they have encountered specific stressors related to trans identity. Earliest age they have is 6 and goes to 18. Asking parents their access to support, to knowledgeable health providers, and physical health providers, interactions with other parents/trans youth. Are they going online or is it in person? Really focused on the parent's self-reports on the support for the child and then also get info from child. Camp just started five years ago, and this last year was 28 families. So it's getting larger. New data collection on siblings.
- Grant NIEH...student survey---didn't get funded so they are thinking about how to resubmit it through a different mechanism. The grant was mainly focused on urban and substance youth.

- Couch surfing homelessness in Arizona. Rural urban differences in those...rural kids that go to Tucson.
- **Michelle** was recently moved over to an extension position but she does a ton of rural health stuff. She has done work in Arizona doing profiles of different types. She is also doing some of the mapping. (she is also working on mapping with Illinois) She had an interesting finding of the tribal areas...and highest pop of same-sex couples (all female).

### **Hawaii: Andy**

- Went to the rural development conference in Bangkok
- Regarding rural work. Hatch grant that looks at hate crimes/victimization. The areas they mentioned are rural though, but didn't specifically ask. Wants to continue that research with adding rural stuff in. Topic of presentation: Appearance victimization related to clothing and how they view harassment as related to their clothing and how they changed their presentation for clothing after the fact...and their recommendation.
  - would like to collaborate with Courtney to look at appearance/victimization stuff. Erika would also be interested in this for Appalachia piece.
  - Andy is also working with Jen on clothing stuff from survey...but most of it is urban, but a lot of them migrated to urban area.

### **Upcoming Conference:**

**September 6-8 in San Diego...National association for rural mental health.**

### **NOTES ABOUT MANUSCRIPT:**

- **The manuscript, including references, are limited to 10,000 words**
- Currently, there is not a strong tie to the economic piece.
  - Andy suggests finding a statistic like "LGBT represent 10% of gross natural..."
    - Ramona believes this would be Lee Badgett who has done work at the William Institute.
- Russ thinks we need to mention in the manuscript what research is still needed
  - Better "Future Directions" section
    - The last few sentences that Erika added could be the beginning of this section
- Courtney wants us to avoid using the term myth. We switched the wording to assumption.
- Ramona wants us to reference the isolated rural queer culture that does exist (e.g., Radical faeries, lesbian farmers, etc.)
  - Add a few sentences about their existence
  - Russ-Thinking about how historical shifts may have changed queer spaces. For example, there is evidence about urban queer organizations disbanding after marriage equality.
- Language/terms we use
  - Decide on LGBT or SGM and words like "outness"

- Courtney suggests that we use the language depending on what the research we are referencing used. We can add a sentence in the beginning of the manuscript that explains that we are using terms in relation to the research.
- Thesis Statement
  - Move it to the first or second paragraph
  - (I do not believe I marked this specific sentence in the manuscript)
- Importance of Place section
  - Jen will look up the references she cited when using the term “native”
  - We will make sure the meaning is consistent between the two scholars and add a sentence to make sure people do not confuse native with ethnicity/race.
- Ramona
  - Brought up research that has noted the strategies that queer groups use to maintain legitimacy in a community
    - For example, a particular queer group maintained their community involvement and was visibly active in the community through events like providing winter coats for kids.
  - Connecting gayness to broader community for their viability
  - Social networks and community support
    - Private networks vs community organizations and the importance of other sources of support that aren't gay specific, such as churches
    - Ways in which they are active agents in creation of positive community things
- Erika and Russ
  - Technology and online resources- allowing rural LGBT to connect to other rural LGBT, not being used to connect rural LBGT to urban LGBT
  - Wi-Fi- libraries, local shows, other community spaces being used
- Possibly a new paper: Who are the viable providers in communities and how might we work with them?
- Possibly a new paper: What is the infrastructure in a rural community and how do we engage each of those?

**Other:**

- **Courtney is currently working on the manuscript**
- **Russ will review and edit project proposal**

**NOTES FROM EXTENSION PANEL:**

- What are other issues that are part of Extension educator/practice that we could be helpful with?
  - Finding the population. Jennifer went out to do an environmental scanning to see if they could see a visible presence of LGBT community, and they found some in the University-

--with info of a Drag show...but there didn't seem to be a large place or any types of gathering places, support, or celebrations. Regular services are of a great benefit to the population. Jennifer would be interested in knowing. They felt like it was invisible, except for the flyer for the drag show and a few small references on the University website even though they know that there is a queer community there. Finding it is going to be extra work.

- Sometimes it's there but its three layers deep.
- What elements would be applicable or are there things that you've encountered that could be tailored to be more inclusive?
  - Having the correct language to use
    - Financial counseling
      - Working on a budgeting plan and in doing so needed tools to know how to talk to a trans person in relation to budgeting for specific healthcare
  - Want tools/resources for the right language to use
    - Would like to feel more comfortable to have the language to use, to be respectful and to have basic understanding. Also, if there is an existing group that gets together (community ed/support) that are interested in different topic areas, obviously money management, they could develop specifically for the group.
  - Thinking about how extension programs can be useful to queer organizations
    - Reaching out to existing LGBT individuals/groups to participate in existing extension programs
    - Providing awareness/sensitivity programs to wider community
    - TRUST component is critical
      - If we bring an extension program into an LGBT Community and the presenters use the wrong terms, other issues, it would reaffirm Extension as non-affirmative
- Ramona- issues around attachment to place and it's important for places to have people that are attached and invested in the place. How does Extension see that relevant to that work?
  - Sharon- work in rural and urban areas...when she works with rural extension culture, there is a real kind of culture of being kind of a farm person. She thinks that if you are LGBT in rural areas, you have an allegiance to both of those identities.
    - How she sees this issue impacting her work: Now that marriage is legal, they are trying to incorporate experience of same-sex couples in divorce education program. Want to be inclusive and open to diversity of families.
    - PR campaign, Education Campaign to introduce topic to rural area
  - Jennifer\_ what is their legal responsibility. Interested in knowing that they have to make reasonable accommodations, but what are their legal obligations? Places a different perspective on programming. It's not always moral, it also has a legal element.
  - Jen\_ also what is our ethnical responsibility to the people within our state? Land grant and Extension to serve who lives here
- Reasonable sustainable development partnerships- Dave Flugal- they look at local issues: energy, and variety of things with a rural advisory board. And connects with the communities

and knows those communities. May need a quick conference call with some of those folks and their perception on LGBT community, what is needed, etc.

- Community vitality piece---cost of outmigration, economic piece. If we find someone from that discipline, we would hope to have someone like that in this group. (brain drain/brain gain) --- Ben Winchester—rural people are leaving, but are returning to OTHER rural areas.
- Having extension and other people on board gives us legitimacy as this being an important area of research.
  - Erika: idea of legitimacy--- there is a distain for the university in the most rural areas in Virginia. Extension educators are ok but not the ones at the University (VA tech). Is this common?
    - Sarah- Shifted to regional educators, so people miss out on not having their staff in specific communities. Feels extension is respected, but this topic is different from what they typically take on.
    - Sharon- does not get that message either. Feels well received. Look to them for reliable and relatively unbiased information.
    - Jennifer- experiences a lot of mistrust as a representative of the University. And feels the mistrust is well-deserved.
- If you had a day...what would you want in that day?
  - People would benefit from a Gender 101 thing
  - Understanding about Language
  - Knowing how to reach out to people?
    - Plans for fact sheet
    - Russ has developed intervention which may be useful
    - Developed for the University, a video about pronouns and that would be useful.
    - Erika...training county support staff. So training people on all levels, and reaching far and wide.
    - NIFAs spreadsheet in Champions for LGBT Youth thing with extension educators across the states.
      - We are hoping to coordinate things more and streamline it (goals for website with our resources)
- National Military Families
  - Sarah is involved. Gives leadership in family transitions. Transgender things are not open in military and that topic has been brought forward.
  - We could always invite military. There has to be an extension component.
- Other Contacts: Emily Lamer----Snap Ed...in Illinois. Regional SnapEd thing in November.
- **We need to be proactive about Safety**
  - We haven't talked about safety issues at all but this can be a real concern depending on where we go. There are communities where whoever is bringing this stuff up is at risk. That needs to be acknowledged...not in things we submit in USDA but convos together.
  - We also need to discuss the intersection of race. As well as Muslim queer stuff.