Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Individuals With Disabilities: An Issue of Access, Participation and Occupational Justice

Karrie Kingsley¹, Bryant Edwards², Joseph Ungco¹
¹University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA, ²CHLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Objective 1: Identify 3 ways a client’s LGBTQ+ and disability identities intersect to create barriers to participation in occupations.

Objective 2: Articulate rational for advocacy for LGBTQ+ populations contextualized in an occupational justice framework

Objective 3: Apply knowledge regarding the complexity of the intersection of LGBTQ+ and disability identities to design a plan of care.

1.5 hours, oral presentation, case application.

No maximum attendance

Individuals with disabilities and those who identify as LGBTQ+ have both been marginalized by society. Physical, social, virtual, and political contexts influence the activities in which anyone engages; but these contexts create specific barriers for LGBTQ+ people with disabilities. These barriers contribute to an increased risk of occupational deprivation for these communities. The intersection of these identities warrants further exploration, as it is well established in LGBTQ+ communities that the intersection with a racial minority drastically and negatively impacts healthcare disparities and outcomes.

In order for occupational therapists to effectively address sexuality in practice they must respect the diverse human expression of sexuality (Mc Grath & Sakellariou, 2016). As first line interventionists for individuals with disabilities, occupational therapists are ethically and professionally responsible to advocate for their clients. This workshop will focus on the skills required to identify and dismantle barriers encountered by LGBTQ+ individuals with disabilities.