# **OUTLINE**

#### **Current Trends in LGBTO Clinical Work**

Increased family and community acceptance: What this means for our work

Sexuality and gender: separate but connected
Polyamory and open relationships
Conversion therapy debunked
Online dating and hook-up culture

#### **Establish Safety with LGBTQ Clients**

Terminology to include in website, business profiles, and client registration forms

Avoid the most common mistakes by therapists that break safety and trust

Build rapport quickly and effectively

Talk about sex with openness and comfort Incorporate gender talk and knowledge into your vocabulary

# The Factors That Impact LGBTQ Mental Health Treatment

How being LGBTQ is connected to depression, anxiety, and addiction...and how it is not How developmental trauma affects identity development

Particular traumas:

Bullying

Bashing

Institutional Oppression
Conversion Treatment History

Family mirroring and acceptance

Religious and cultural barriers

Sexual health and wellness

Alcohol and substance use

# Help Clients at Each Phase Of LGBTQ Identity Development

Phase 1: Pre-Coming Out

Denial about sexual orientation or gender When sexual behavior doesn't match sexual identity

Differentiate between feelings, behavior, and identity

The importance of continued sexual health assessment and education.

#### Phase 2: Comparison and Consideration

When clients start to think they might be LGBTQ (or at least different)

Client cues that are openings to explore further Questions to elicit more open discussion

How to inquire without pushing beyond client readiness

#### Phase 3: Tolerance and Exploration

When clients are exploring sexuality and gender but have not claimed an identity
Use different models of sexuality and gender with clients

Track for integration: Is this helpful for the client?

Address shame and internalized homophobia/transphobia

Identify educational resources

#### Phase 4: Acceptance

When clients start to integrate their sexual and gender identity into the world

Connect clients with community support Facilitate grief for lost time and lost dreams

Develop a coming-out plan and process

Start talking about gender transition

Tools to navigate the conflicting worlds of family, identity, and cultures

#### Phase 5: Pride

Address client rage about oppression and past injuries (even when it's directed toward you)

Support clients in celebrating their "adolescence": validation and safety

Attend to the particular challenges of bisexuals

#### Phase 6: Synthesis and Integration

When being LGBTQ is hardly an issue for the client

Effectively integrate LGBTQ history and knowledge into the clinical session

#### Live Seminar Schedule

**7:30** Registration/Morning Coffee & Tea

**8:00** Program begins

**11:50-1:00** Lunch (on your own)

4:00 Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon). Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speaker. A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

# **OBJECTIVES**

- Describe current trends and perspectives in the LGBTQ community, and the implications for clinical work.
- 2. Explain how to effectively build safety and trust with LGBTQ clients in clinical practice.
- Identify the main factors impacting treatment and the identity development process of LGBTQ clients.
- Analyze the phases of identity development for LGBTQ clients to better inform treatment planning.
- 5. Determine how to integrate LGBTQ history and knowledge into the clinical session.
- Choose treatment strategies to help clients in each phase of LGBTQ identity development.

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# LGBTQ Clients in Today's World

Treatment Strategies for Gender & Sexual Identity Issues

# Tarrytown, NY Monday

Monday September 9, 2019

# Plainview, NY Tuesday September 10, 2019

Manhattan, NY Wednesday

September 11, 2019

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# LGBTQ Clients in Today's World

Treatment Strategies for Gender & Sexual Identity Issues

- Develop rapport quickly with clients... and maintain it
- And maintain it
   Know when to inquire, when to push,
   and when to back off
- Target the most effective treatment strategies by tuning into the client's phase of development
- Navigate cultural barriers with clients who are between different worlds
- Help clients find healthy responses to bullying, bashing, institutional oppression, shame, family conflict, sexual health crises, addictions, and other key issues

## \*\*\*\*

"Aaron has a brilliant mind, huge heart, superhuman patience, and an exceptional ability to brighten the lives of his clients, supervisees, coworkers, and training participants. I am consistently impressed with Aaron's expertise in LGBTQ issues and his ability to articulate complex concepts and issues to a wide variety of people. Aaron is the best of the best."

—Jesse Whittle-Utter, LMFT—

# Tarrytown, NY

Monday September 9, 2019

# Plainview, NY

Tuesday September 10, 2019 Manhattan, NY Wednesday September 11, 2019

6.25



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A Non-Profit Organization Connecting Knowledge with Need Since 1979

# LGBTQ Clients in Today's World

### Treatment Strategies for Gender & Sexual Identity Issues

From the deeply personal and intricate journeys clients take to find themselves to the variety of terms and ideas in today's LGBTQ culture, it's easy to feel lost in the complexity of sexual and gender identity. But with the proper tools and knowledge, you can have confidence to walk solidly side by side with your LGBTQ clients.

This seminar provides clear strategies to comfortably engage clients around cultural norms, gender, sex, relationships, and terminology. In addition to building trust and credibility with your LGBTQ clients, you will learn the navigation map that will help you appropriately tailor your treatment approaches each step of the way in the client's self-discovery process. Aaron Testard combines time-tested research with the latest findings and up-to-date movements in the field for a comprehensive approach for working with any LGBTQ client in any phase and on any part of the sexuality-gender spectrums.

"With humility that is unusual in a person so gifted, Aaron has an innate curiosity about people which he encourages in his trainees. A consummate professional, Aaron is as dependable as salt! With commitment, compassion, and empathy those who learn from Aaron are lucky indeed!"

-Elizabeth Cleves, PsyD

# **SPEAKER**

**AARON TESTARD, LMFT, LPCC,** is a psychotherapist in private practice in Berkeley, California with nearly 20 years of experience. For 7 years, he served as Director of Clinical Programs at the Pacific Center for Human Growth, an LGBTQ counseling and support center where he designed and implemented psychotherapy services for individuals, couples, and families, 24 adult peer support groups, and an after-school youth program. He also has trained and supervised numerous interns over the years, and has been an LGBTQ community mental health consultant for local clinics and organizations. Aaron has spent the majority of his career as an LGBTQ specialist, including time as an addiction counselor, a high school counselor, and a consultant for a felon re-entry program. In his current practice, he focuses on sexual and gender identity, working with adults, adolescents, and couples.

Aaron received his MA in Counseling Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies. He is a trained drama therapist, sensorimotor therapist, and practitioner of the Gottman couples method, EMDR, and DBT-informed client work.

To learn more about Aaron, visit https://www.aarontestard.net/

Speaker Disclosure:

Financial: Aaron Testard maintains a private practice. He receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: Aaron Testard is a member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; Gaylesta; World Professional Association of Transgender Health (WPATH); and Bay Area Open Minds.

"As a presenter, Aaron is attuned and responsive; he is able to engage an audience and address questions as they arise. Aaron's calm and reassuring demeanor encourages trainees to dig into material presented and test their own understanding of new material."

—Chay Doherty, LMFT

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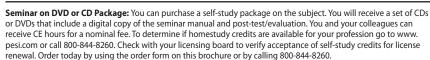
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If your profession is not listed, please contact your licensing board to determine your continuing education requirements and check for reciprocal approval. For other credit inquiries not specified below, or questions on home study credit availability, please contact cepesi@pesi.com or 800-844-8260 before the event.

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**NEW JERSEY COUNSELORS:** This intermediate activity consists of 6.25 clock hours of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. Please contact your licensing board to determine if they accept programs or providers approved by other national or state licensing boards. A certificate of attendance will be awarded at the end of the program to participants who are in full attendance and who complete the program evaluation.

**NEW YORK COUNSELORS:** PESI, Inc. is recognized by the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for Licensed Mental Health Counselors. #MHC-0033. This activity will qualify for 7.5 contact hours. Full attendance is required; no partial credits will be offered for partial attendance.

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MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS: This activity consists of 380 minutes of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. You should save this course outline, the certificate of completion you receive from the activity and contact your state board or organization to determine specific filing requirements.

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OTHER PROFESSIONS: This activity qualifies for 380 minutes of instructional content as required by many national, state and local licensing boards and professional organizations Save your course outline and certificate of completion, and contact your own board or organization for specific requirements.

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