



**Women, Gender, and Health
Interdisciplinary Concentration
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health**

**Working Group Meeting
8 April 2020**

Introduction

- Check-in about how people are doing during COVID

Conference Stipend Presentations

- Eli Godwin: Canadian Professional Association of Transgender Health Oct 31-Nov 3 2019
 - Strong focus on indigenous groups
 - Strong focus on rural health
 - Poster and oral presentation: Presented part of a longitudinal health of trans youth. Presented on the experience of siblings. Understanding a broader social support network for trans teens.
 - Funding allowed them to stay onsite to better network, fly to Montreal to enable attending APHA.

Events

- Last event was IWD lunch: It was great to have representatives of the unions and showing solidarity and appreciation for everything that unions have done for public health, women's rights and workers' rights. Highly recommend repeating this theme. We can replicate the co-sponsorship: Make sure Unions are also included as co-sponsors. Another thing that worked was the bag lunches. This enabled much better flow of the food space.
- Cris will make sure that March 8, 2021 the Maternal Health Seminar includes the IWD activity so MCH concentrators can attend.
- **Action Item: Student volunteer has no candidates at the moment. Cris, Sherine and Jackie can review the staff applicants to see if there are any candidates. Sabra also has two incoming students who may be good candidates.**
- **Action Item: Book the IWD room for March 2021 (a Monday)**

Take Action Tuesday

- Last month: we focused on the primaries and trying to help students to vote in their states, get themselves registered and help with absentee ballots and local election reminders. Awareness of "for the people" bill to expand voting rights. Tried to reach students to send a reminder to the senators who are representing this act. Created an event on Transgender asylum seekers under ICE detention who are facing physical assault and medical neglect. Students wrote to the acting Secretary of Homeland Security. ICE should comply with the fiscal spending and regulation.
- Now: Actions related to COVID and are online: Housing, incarceration, MASS Schools volunteers, Pledge to protect from HSPH. Posting on facebook and the newsletter.
- Future possible actions: Parole and sentencing practices- Jackie will send some along. Harvard paying all of its workers- make sure that the information is correct, ie. PPE and overtime for

hazard pay. Look into Abortion access issues with Planned Parenthood and other groups. Calls for increased resources for domestic violence and alternative housing.

Curriculum Committee

- No faculty chair yet. Still hoping it will be resolved.
- Course updates:
 - WGH 220: Finished in Spring 1
 - WGH 207: Going well, 2 more students joined 14 + 2 more students joined. Total 16. Double what we had last year. 1 auditor.
 - WGH 210: Elizabeth Boskey is confirmed: Works a lot on Transgender health. Bobby Gottlieb and Elizabeth are connected. Nancy Krieger is working on the paperwork and she can be WGH faculty in the fall before she starts teaching in the spring.
 - WGH 211: Brittany Charlton is not going to be able to teach WGH 211 in Fall 2020, but will be teaching in fall 2021. In the June meeting we can discuss. Brittany Charlton is prepared to do an independent study in Fall 2020. The other option is if Sari is willing to do his independent study as a part 2, and continue the development of the transgender course. Think about the brochure: how do we best present the information.
 - *Question: How will not taking WGH 211 affect the core course requirement for the WGH concentration?*
 - **Action Item: Check in with Sari about Trans health course going from independent study to full class**
 - **Action item: June meeting: paperwork for Elizabeth Boskey needs to begin in July. She needs 2 letters of support, one from Nancy Krieger and one from Sabra Katz-Wise. Discuss options for WGH 211.**
 - Student stipends: These are available for the next semesters. Let Nancy know about applications on April 24, we can come up with a contingency plan. Let students know that there may be virtual conferences to go to that have a registration fee. We can roll the funds over to next year.
 - **Action item: Highlight virtual conference as an option for stipends.**
 - Budget: Almost there. The new system that started in February is working very well. We have all this money budgeted for food for this spring that we are not spending.
 - Graduation: arrange for plants or cookies to be sent to those who graduate. 2 concentration completion forms are in
 - **Action item: make sure people send their addresses so we can send plants to them.**

Wrap Up

- Summer planning meeting: Hopefully it will be in person.
- May 6 is the graduation party, will be online.
 - Ideas: List of topics to talk about
 - Party games, icebreaker games

Meeting adjourned 2:00pm