



SAMHSA ★ SMVF TA CENTER
Service Members, Veterans, and their
Families Technical Assistance Center

Join Our Upcoming Panel Discussion

A Discussion about Healthcare Disparities and Strategies for Equitable Engagement with LGBTQ+ Veterans



June 23, 2021
12:00-1:00pm ET

[Register
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Overview

The LGBTQ+ Veteran community is diverse and faces many healthcare disparities due to barriers to care and negative treatment. Current estimates put the LGBTQ+ Veteran community at well over one million people (not including family members), with tens of thousands experiencing structural exclusions from VA benefits and health care due to discharges related to sexual orientation and gender identity under past administrative policies. In this session, we will discuss underlying issues impacting healthcare disparities for LGBTQ+ Veterans and strategies for addressing these issues to improve access to care and reduce harms experienced by this community.

Presenter

Kai River Blevins | Associate Policy Director, Minority Veterans of America

Biography

Kai River Blevins | Associate Policy Director, Minority Veterans of America

Kai River Blevins (they/xe), Principal at Blevins Strategies, serves as the Associate Policy Director for the Minority Veterans of America, where they lead policy efforts on healthcare access and disparities in care, mental health and suicide, systemic injustices, and LGBTQ+ issues. Kai has been advocating for minority veterans in various roles since 2012, and they have delivered trainings to more than 800 service providers and administrators in the past three years, from health clinics and hospitals to universities, government agencies, and nonprofits. Kai is also a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology at George Washington University, researching in the areas of medical anthropology, law and policy, science and technology, bioethics, and gender and sexuality. In addition to their professional history, Kai's advocacy work also draws on degrees in law, sociology, and political science, as well as professional certificates in workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion and trauma-informed systems and care.