



# Centering Community Voices in the Development of Gender Affirming Communication Services

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# SJSU

## PROJECT MOTIVATION

Individuals who identify as transgender and gender diverse (TGD) face increased discrimination, reduced social-emotional health, and limited access to gender affirmative health care. Services that help align communication features with gender identity:

- may reduce the risk of misgendering and discrimination
- may increase confidence, quality of life, and social-emotional well-being outcomes
- currently lack clear guidelines, evidence regarding cultural responsivity, and efficacy data



## PHASE 1: FOCUS GROUPS

### Overview

Use a community-based participatory model to develop a culturally competent, evidence-based model for communication services.

### Methods

Conduct focus group discussions with TGD persons and with providers of gender-affirming health care using group-specific questions developed by researchers with Trans Collaborations board

### Progress

- Small-group interviews completed with 7 TGD persons and 7 providers across several fields and practice environments
- Analysis revealed several common themes across groups as well as some specific to each group
- Dissemination to date includes one manuscript and one conference presentation



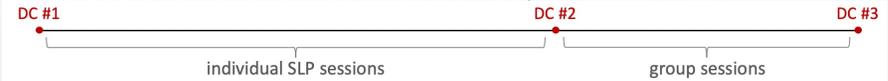
## PHASE 2: INTERVENTION TRIALS

### Overview

Acquire and analyze preliminary data regarding the feasibility, acceptability, and efficacy of the communication services program.

### Methods

- Providers receive specific training in gender-affirming care
- TGD adults interested in gender affirming communication services participate in individual and group sessions through university clinic, as well as three data collection sessions (communication and social-emotional health outcomes)



### Progress

- To date, 7 TGD persons have completed all sessions, 10 others are in various stages of completion
- 17 SLP graduate students and clinical supervisors trained
- Very positive feedback re: individual and group formats, affirmative environment, increased communication confidence, appreciate opportunity to practice in “safe space” and to build social network



## NEXT STEPS

- Long-term goal = scalable model of program suitable for in-person and telehealth services to maximize accessibility for interested transgender and gender diverse persons
- Funding proposal to NIH using preliminary data with expanded network of providers, target June 2023 cycle



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