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## About Us

(Monday, 31 October 2005) - - Last Updated (Thursday, 22 February 2007)

### Our Mission

The Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition is committed to improving health care access and the quality of health care received by trans and gender variant people through education, resources, and advocacy.

Photos on this page by Kristen Jamieson of Kay Michael Photography, <http://www.kaymichael.com/>

### Who Are We?

We are trans and allied community organizers working to improve the health care experiences of transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, and other gender variant people living in Minnesota.

### Board of Directors

#### Josh Breeding, PharmD, BCPS, Co-Chair

A clinical pharmacy leader at the University of Minnesota Medical Center specializing in cardiology and pulmonology pharmacology, Josh leads a highly specialized group of health professionals in the pharmaceutical care of complex heart and lung patients. He is a founding member of the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, and contributes health care expertise, leadership, and education and training skills to the board.

#### Max Gries, Co-Chair

Max has been an activist, organizer and educator in Twin Cities bi and trans communities for over 12 years, and was a founder of genderBLUR in 2002 and of the TransVoices chorus in 2004. Working as an event manager and a private piano teacher, Max brings to the board skills in event planning, leadership, and communications.

#### Matthias Kirch, Secretary

Matthias is a graduate student in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota majoring in Health Services, Research, Policy and Administration. He has been working with the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition for nearly two years, bringing to the board his organizational skills and experience in research, writing, and statistics.

#### Devin Reynolds, Treasurer

Coming from a background in health care management where he was responsible for budget administration, Devin brings to the board the skills of fiscal management, volunteer coordination, and grant writing. He has experience in event planning and outreach through various groups including genderBLUR and TMen.

#### Julian Bowers, PN, Member

As a nursing student at MCTC, Julian has done many trainings on transgender health concerns for a variety of audiences. Julian brings his experience with education and training, fundraising, and his nursing training and medical knowledge to the board.

#### Saber DeMare, Member

Saber has four years of experience as an EMT in greater Minnesota. He has been involved with the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition since 2006, contributing his teambuilding, outreach and training skills as a member of the board.

#### Breonna Mason, Member

Breonna works at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. She also serves on the U of M Transgender Commission focusing on campus health and policy for students, faculty and staff. Involved in the MTHC since August 2006, Breonna brings to the board her experiences in public speaking, presenting, and training.

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Background Meetings began in the summer of 2002, after a series of programs on trans health care co-sponsored by the GLBT Programs Office, the Schochet Center for GLBT Studies, and the medical school at the University of Minnesota. Renowned transgender activist and author Leslie Feinberg participated in lectures and roundtable discussions with various cross-sections of the community during the series, inspiring a desire to actively bring about change in the health care system.

Focus The goal of the coalition is to improve health care access and the quality of health care received by trans individuals. One way we are doing this is by creating a network of trans-friendly, trans-competent health care providers, using a combination of networking, assessment and training. Actions include developing assessment tools for clinics and providers, providing trans-related training to clinics and providers, and encouraging awareness and self-advocacy in transgender health care consumers through outreach and education. Community Outreach Any transgender health care network must have support and input from local transgender and allied communities. In order to answer the question, "What does good transgender health care look like?" the coalition conducted surveys to gather opinions, insights, ideas, and experiences on health care. In 2003, surveys were sent to several local trans groups and listservs, and surveys were also completed at both Twin Cities and Duluth GLBT pride celebrations. In addition to these surveys two community forums on transgender health care were held, the first in October 2003 with a follow up forum in December 2003. Both forums were organized by the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition and were co-sponsored by the Women's Student Activist Coalition at the U of M, genderBLUR, and the Rainbow Health Initiative. More community forums are being planned for the future. How You Can Get Involved The Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition is in the process of compiling a resource directory of trans-friendly and trans-competent health care providers such as physicians and therapists who are interested in or actively working with the trans community. Additions to this list from individuals in the trans community would be welcomed.

The coalition is also looking for other trans people and allies who are invested in improving the health care experience of transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, and other gender variant people living in Minnesota. Time commitments can vary. If you're interested in finding out more, or would like the date and location of the next meeting, click on the "Contact Us" link at the bottom of the Main Menu, upper left. You can also find our meeting information on our website Calendar.