

Standing with Trans Communities: Amida Care's Gender Identity Support Team Provides Gender-Affirming Care to Trans Communities in Need

March 31, 2024 (New York, NY) – On this Trans Day of Visibility, Amida Care proudly announces its continued commitment to support transgender individuals in accessing vital health care through its Gender Identity and Support Team (GIST). GIST provides informed expertise for gender-affirming services, including individualized health navigation for members of trans experience. GIST provides pre/post-operative gender-affirming care and critical support to Amida Care's trans members and strives to promote inclusive and equitable care for transgender and gender-expansive communities.

Despite advances in health care, transgender individuals continue to face significant barriers when seeking inclusive and affirming care. Recognizing this disparity, Amida Care remains dedicated to fostering an environment where all individuals, regardless of gender identity, can access life-saving healthcare services without fear of discrimination or stigma. The Amida Care GIST team helps combat the discrimination and harassment that trans people face in health care settings by helping them navigate the healthcare system, facilitating access to necessary services, and advocating for their unique healthcare needs.

"As we commemorate Transgender Day of Visibility, Amida Care reaffirms our unwavering commitment to transgender and gender-expansive communities and improving their access to health care," said Doug Wirth, Amida Care President and CEO. "Our Gender Identity Support Team fosters gender-affirming healthcare environments, and we are working towards a future where all individuals can thrive."

"Access to gender-affirming health care has been limited for many transgender individuals due to systemic barriers, including lack of awareness, affordability issues, and discrimination within healthcare settings, said Jona Tanguay, Associate Medical Director of Transgender Health at Amida Care. "In response to these challenges, Amida Care has implemented targeted initiatives aimed at breaking down barriers to health care access for trans individuals. Amida Care's clinical standards align with the prestigious World Professional Association for Transgender Health standards of care, cover gender-affirming surgeries, and work with an expansive network of providers with experience caring for trans patients."

Amida Care's initiatives include:

Comprehensive Education and Outreach:

Amida Care is actively engaging with trans communities through culturally competent outreach and education programs. By providing comprehensive sexual health care, including access to HIV-prevention tools like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which is highly effective at preventing HIV, Amida Care is empowering transgender individuals to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

Gender-Affirming Healthcare Services:

Amida Care is committed to providing gender-affirming healthcare services that prioritize the unique needs and experiences of transgender and gender-expansive individuals. From culturally competent providers to trans-specific support services, Amida Care ensures that trans individuals receive the respectful and inclusive care they deserve. Amida Care's Medicaid Live Life Plus Plan is open to all trans individuals who qualify, regardless of HIV status, and GIST works with members to support their individual health goals.

Amida Care's efforts to provide resources and support for trans individuals aligns with the organization's broader mission of advancing health equity for all. Through continued collaboration with community partners and advocacy organizations, Amida Care remains dedicated to creating a world where health care is truly inclusive and accessible to everyone.

Stay tuned on April 18th when Amida Care, in collaboration with trans-led organizations and community partners, will unveil a new PrEP educational campaign that will further demonstrate its commitment to improving health care access and outcomes for transgender communities.

For more information about Amida Care and its initiatives to support transgender communities, including how to enroll in its Live Life Plus Plan, please visit the Amida Care website at www.amidacareny.org or call 646-757-7982 (TTY 711)

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About Amida Care:

Amida Care is a private, nonprofit community health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to [Medicaid](#) members with chronic conditions, including HIV/AIDS and [behavioral health disorders](#). It currently serves 9,360 members throughout the five boroughs of New York City, including people living with HIV/AIDS; people who are experiencing homelessness, regardless of HIV status; and people of transgender experience, regardless of HIV status.

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