

Memo



Date: June 3, 2024

To: All Employees

From: Janice Adam, Community Relations Coordinator, Health Equity Division

Subject: LGBTQ+ Pride Month Observance

This month, we are honored to join the worldwide recognition of LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) Pride Month. The month of June is dedicated to uplifting LGBTQIA+ voices, celebration of LGBTQIA+ culture and support of LGBTQIA+ rights. The chosen themes for this month reflect the LGBTQIA+ community itself-diverse. One community has chosen “Reflect Empower. Unite” Another community has chosen “Medicine” as its theme to honor the contributions of community members in the healthcare field. Still another community chose “Now” in homage to early activists’ cries for equality.

Pride Month has its origins in one of the most well-known LGBTQIA+ activist events: the Stonewall Riots. In June 1969, police raided The Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, New York City, intent on arresting those who were inside. Days of riots and protests followed. To learn more about this historical event visit this [link](#).

The Health Equity Division is nearly 4 years old. In that time, we have begun to build to develop programs and engage in all the communities that we serve including the LGBTQIA+ community know how to access our services and feel a sense of belonging by those who are providing mental health and substance abuse services.

As always, we stand in solidarity against homophobia, hate and violence and erasure. Pride Month is also an opportunity to focus on the fight for racial justice and equality. We celebrate this diverse community and its members from different backgrounds, including people of all races, ethnicity, ages, status, and nationalities. This year has seen a rise in the efforts to silence or otherwise erase the LGBTQIA+ community. As we work toward a more just and equitable future, the acceptance of all has never been more important than now

We are reminded that while we celebrate Pride month, as mental health professionals we know that for many in the community, Pride month can evoke feelings of isolation, loneliness, and even anger. For some queer and transgender youth, a lack of family support systems can take an especially difficult toll on their mental health.

We invite everyone to enjoy all that is offered this month and beyond within the LGBTQIA+ community. Please see a list of observances that will take place within Alameda County and broader resources where you can learn more.

Alameda County

1. [Fremont Pride Fair, June 15](#)
2. [Oakland Pride Ride, June 15](#)
3. [Oakland Black Pride Festival, June 20-23](#)
4. [UCSF Benioff Pride Events](#)
5. [Out in Science: Creating Spaces for Success June 5, 2024](#)
6. [Pride Storytime and Dance Party, Castro Valley Library, June 1, 2024](#)
7. [Livermore Pride Events](#)

Additional Resources:

1. [The Banned Bookstore](#)
2. [The Trevor Project: LGBTQIA+ Mental Health Resources](#)
3. [2024 LGBTQIA+ Books](#)