

SUBJECT: Use of Gender Affirming Names and Pronouns for Patients Who Are Transgender

SUBMITTED BY: ACOFP Mountain West Regional Society
ACOFP of California
ACOFP Resident Council
Florida Society of ACOFP
Maine Chapter of ACOFP
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Missouri Society of ACOFP
Texas Society of ACOFP
on behalf of ACOFP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resolution Subcommittee

REFERRED TO: 2022 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 13

- 1 WHEREAS, individuals who are transgender are at increased risk of suicidal ideation and suicide
2 attempts, housing insecurity, and being victims of violence as compared to individuals who are
3 cisgender(1); and
- 4 WHEREAS, access to healthcare in a safe and accepting environment is of paramount importance; and
- 5 WHEREAS, being called by a name prior to transition, or “being dead-named” in a healthcare setting is
6 a substantial reason that transgender patients avoid seeking health services, and may increase
7 suicidal ideation among youth who are transgender (2)(3)(4); and
- 8 WHEREAS, the logistical barriers to legal name and/or pronoun change may be many and varied from
9 state to state, and a person’s identity may be clear before any legal documentation has taken
10 place (5)(6); now, therefore be it
- 11 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) provide continuing
12 medical educational opportunities on the use of chosen name pronouns on the health and
13 wellbeing of patients, as resources allow; and, be it further
14
- 15 RESOLVED, that ACOFP recommend members address transgender patients according to chosen name
16 and pronouns during medical encounters.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 16, 2022

References:

1. Herman, J., Brown, T. and Haas, A., 2019. *Suicide Thoughts and Attempts Among Transgender Adults in the US*. [ebook] Los Angeles: UCLA School of Law, pp.2-4. Available at: <<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Suicidality-Transgender-Sep-2019.pdf>> [Accessed 3 February 2022].

2. Russell, S., Pollitt, A., Li, G. and Grossman, A., 2018. Chosen Name Use Is Linked to Reduced Depressive Symptoms, Suicidal Ideation, and Suicidal Behavior Among Transgender Youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 63(4), pp.503-505.
3. Restar, A., Jin, H., Breslow, A., Reisner, S., Mimiaga, M., Cahill, S. and Hughto, J., 2020. Legal gender marker and name change is associated with lower negative emotional response to gender-based mistreatment and improve mental health outcomes among trans populations. *SSM - Population Health*, 11, p.100595.
4. Hill, B., Crosby, R., Bouris, A., Brown, R., Bak, T., Rosentel, K., VandeVusse, A., Silverman, M. and Salazar, L., 2017. Exploring Transgender Legal Name Change as a Potential Structural Intervention for Mitigating Social Determinants of Health Among Transgender Women of Color. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 15(1), pp.25-33.
5. Cray, A. and Harrison, J., 2022. ID Accurately Reflecting One's Gender Identity Is a Human Right. [online] American Progress. Available at: <<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/id-accurately-reflecting-ones-gender-identity-is-a-human-right/>> [Accessed 3 February 2022].
6. Ryan, J., 2019. Expressing identity: toward an understanding of how trans individuals navigate the barriers and opportunities of official identity. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 29(3), pp.349-360.

Supporting Information:

1. [Folkhealth.com](https://www.folkhealth.com)
2. [WPATH.org](https://www.wpath.org)
3. [Mypronouns.org](https://www.mypronouns.org)