FOR INTERNAL STAFF ONLY

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What does Pride Month mean to you?
To me Pride is a celebration! It is a reminder to live our lives in our truest and most authentic selves. It provides us with the ability support the/our LGBTQ+ community, to find common ground in our shared experiences, and, simply, find joy. Pride also provides us with the opportunity to reflect on past injustices and those who fought for equality- from the Stonewall Riots, Aids Pandemic, Matthew Shepard, gay marriage, etc. It also serves as a call to action to fight attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, such as the "Don't Say Gay" bill in Florida, through self expression, positive visibility, and advocacy.

What has your experience been like as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community at PPMM?
My experience with PPMM has been positive. Even working remotely, I've never had so many LGBTQ+ colleagues. I am also pleased to see that PPMM's support for LGBTQ+ issues is an annual endeavor- not just during Pride.
What is something you think our colleagues can do to support the LGBTQIA+ community?
I think that sometimes the simplest solutions are the best. Being able to provide a safe and nonjudgmental space is all that I can ask from my colleagues. Simple measures like putting in the effort to use proper pronouns, condemning offensive rhetoric, and being open to learning goes a long way.

What is one misconception about the LGBTQIA+ community you would like to dispel?
There's no particular one misconception I would like to dispel, but I think that it's important to recognize that members of the LGBTQ+ community are humans first.

What is something you are excited to do in celebrating this year's Pride?
I'm excited that new life is being breathed back into Pride celebrations. I just want to wish everyone a happy and safe Pride.
What does Pride Month mean to you?
Pride Month is a celebration of the progress of the LGBTQIA+ community, a tribute to those we have lost, and a reminder of the work that still needs to be accomplished.

What has your experience been like as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community at PPMM?
I have never found a more inclusive space than working at PPMM. I have the freedom to not hide my identity and tell my coworker about my marriage to my husband. This freedom helps me more safe to advocate for our patients.

What is something you think our colleagues can do to support the LGBTQIA+ community?
Calling in family members who make homophobic/transphobic comments
What is one misconception about the LGBTQIA+ community you would like to dispel? We need more than tolerance; mere tolerance will not protect us from ignorance.

What is something you are excited to do in celebrating this year's Pride? I get to call my husband my husband (I got married!)
What does Pride Month mean to you?
Pride month is time to feel happy loved and supported! It's a time to gather with others from the community to feel special, loved, and celebrated!

What has your experience been like as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community at PPMM?
It’s great! I love working for an organization that strives to be inclusive to everyone! It feels great knowing that I am supported by the organization, and other staff!

What is something you think our colleagues can do to support the LGBTQIA+ community?
I think we could show support by wearing pride colors and pronoun buttons, and being respectful to LGBTQ staff and patients!
What is one misconception about the LGBTQIA+ community you would like to dispel?
I think we tend to view the world as heterocentric which tends to minimize the LGBTQ community or be viewed as other! I think the LGBTQ being viewed as a small community is a big misconception!

What is something you are excited to do in celebrating this year’s Pride?
Going to SF Pride parade with my girlfriend! :)

Bridget Walcott (she/her)
Health Services Specialist I, Westside
What does Pride Month mean to you?
My thoughts on Pride Month have changed a lot. Within my own community, it’s a time to be together and celebrate what unity in this one sector of our lives feels like. I see it as a time where my friends and I can joke, share, celebrate, and talk about what it means to be queer and living in the current day. However, in the public realm, it feels like a month where businesses have taken over a meaningful time of the year to celebrate rainbow capitalism and has been incredibly commercialized, something that I think it’s important to be critical of.

What has your experience been like as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community at PPMM?
I'm able to be present in this part of my identity at work without having to worry about what I say or to whom constantly and I'm able to integrate my identity into the work that we do in education. I like being able to think about who I was at a younger age, who I am now, and who I will grow into and think about what each of these people want out of their health care at different stages and put that into my work.
What is something you think our colleagues can do to support the LGBTQIA+ community?
Later in his life, Malcolm X had the notion that white people better served the Black community by educating people in their own community rather than taking up activist space in communities of color, I think this can expand to many different marginalized communities. If you’re not trans or queer I think it’s important to not speak on behalf of what’s right for us in our own spaces but rather to educated people in your own communities in whatever way you can think of and to educate yourself. Supporting legislation, queer/trans owned businesses and organizations, volunteering, reading, watching documentaries, are all important as well.

What is one misconception about the LGBTQIA+ community you would like to dispel?
There are quite a few but one that is on my mind a lot during pride month is rainbow capitalism. I would love if people recognized that purchasing pride gear from multi million and billion dollar corporations does not help or support queer communities. Commercializing pride isn’t what Pride is about and many of the companies that are exploiting pride for profit were businesses that didn’t support the queer community for a long time and many still have homophobic business practices while selling pride merchandise. If you’re wanting to purchase merchandise, seek out queer and trans creators/artists/businesses.
What is something you are excited to do in celebrating this year’s Pride?

In New York, there’s a beach called Riis Beach that has an entire area for queer people. I opened up my pride month going to the beach and want to go on the last day of June. Papijuice is also having their anniversary event this month and I’m excited to attend and take pictures.
What does Pride Month mean to you?

Pride Month means a multitude of things to me. Pride is not only rainbows and corporate parades and "love is love" signs. Pride commemorates the Stonewall riots, which occurred at the end of June 1969, where members of the LGBTQIA* community were attacked by local law enforcement for simply existing.

This month is a reminder to recognize the hard work and sacrifices that the queer communities of color, specifically Trans Black Women, made for me to currently live the life I do. (Look up and research the work of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera to start) Although society has made progress for the lives of the LGBTQIA* folk since the riots, the queer community is still under attack.

Queer children around the country are currently faced with local governments that proclaim their existence, and anyone supporting them, is a crime punishable by the law. Pride means ensuring these young people's concerns are made visible and addressed with the utmost urgency. That all individuals in power leverage their resources to provide support to the LGBTQIA* community. Queer folk sharing their stories of adversity and triumph serve as reminder to those around us that Pride is just that - a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired.
I had the honor of speaking out in support of my conservative hometown’s proclamation of Pride in Summer of 2018. There was a loud dissent in the room that day, but I knew how much this recognition of the queer community would have meant to me in my youth. I stood up and spoke out with my friend Juan Acosta. The proclamation passed and my advocacy was featured in Lady Gaga’s book Channel Kindness.

This month is an opportunity to highlight not my queer ancestors, but also to amplify voices for individuals who are unable to speak out. Pride month means that I am strong in community, but also reminds me that there are still challenges ahead to face. I am proud to be a gay man and will continue to fight for all underrepresented, underserved, and marginalized folk!

What has your experience been like as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community at PPMM?

It has been a pleasure to be a queer person of color on this team, as I have been afforded the opportunity to advocate for my communities. I am honored to collaborate with my team and know that they will support me in all endeavors.
What is something you think our colleagues can do to support the LGBTQIA+ community?
Understanding the importance of intersectionality of one's experiences and supporting any issue provided to the team.

What is one misconception about the LGBTQIA+ community you would like to dispel?
Every member of the LGBTQIA* is unique and is deserving of the same representation and respect as the others. Labels are NOT everything and there are folk who are unable to be out for whatever specific reason, but they are just as important and in need of support. Advocate for everyone.

What is something you are excited to do in celebrating this year's Pride?
I am so excited to listen to my favorite Queer artists and remind my friends how much I love them.
What does Pride Month mean to you?
Pride month reminds me to feel grateful for the queer and trans people who came before me and fought for our community. I wouldn't be where I am without them and it also encourages me to do what I can for the next generation.

What has your experience been like as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community at PPMM?
The unfortunate reality is that sex education has historically been steeped in cisgender and heterosexual normativity - so it's always an interesting experience to push against that. It often means you're doing that work within PPMM as well as out in the community. My most rewarding experiences have been in the classroom when I've gotten feedback from students that they felt affirmed by something I said or when they feel safe enough to ask for support/guidance related to their identity.

What is something you think our colleagues can do to support the LGBTQIA+ community?
Invest time in educating yourself - don't wait for someone from the community to teach you.
What is one misconception about the LGBTQIA+ community you would like to dispel?
In light of current events: there is nothing inappropriate about talking to young people about gender and orientation.

What is something you are excited to do in celebrating this year's Pride?
Attending the Queer Afro Latin Dance Festival! In the words of the creators of the festival (Angelica Medina and Jahaira Fajardo) "We love Afro-Latin Dance. To us it's sacred and we use it to practice self-care and self-love. We wanted our Queer & Trans community to have access to this beautiful art form in an affirming environment".
What does Pride Month mean to you?
A month to celebrate and amplify the voices of our queer friends and family members. To be a little more cognitive of our prejudices and joyfully supportive of our community members.

What has your experience been like as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community at PPMM?
It’s been great! Love to be one of the out and queer members of our clinic.

What is something you think our colleagues can do to support the LGBTQIA+ community?
I would say we should raise awareness that our clinic 100% supports the queer community by wearing prideful colors throughout the workweek and integrating rainbow colors when you can.
What is one misconception about the LGBTQIA+ community you would like to dispel?
I hope we can dispel the misconceptions around STIs and their connection with the queer community. To dismantle the patriarchy, and heteronormativity at the same time!

What is something you are excited to do in celebrating this year's Pride?
Excited to hopefully go to the SF pride parade with friends!
What does Pride Month mean to you?
Pride month to me means visibility. To me it's about celebrating the LGBTQIA+ Culture and honoring everyone that came before us that pave the way to give us the rights we have today even though we continue to fight to keep those rights. It means being with our chosen family and embracing one another.

What has your experience been like as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community at PPMM?
Inclusive! I have been treated with respect and feel appreciated.

What is something you think our colleagues can do to support the LGBTQIA+ community?
More support to walk with us during pride parade!
What is one misconception about the LGBTQIA+ community you would like to dispel?
That some people think it's a choice to be this way.

What is something you are excited to do in celebrating this year's Pride?
Putting up my Pride Flag on my house for the first time ever!
HAPPY PRIDE

Please continue to work alongside the LGBTQIA+ community to achieve inclusion, equity, and justice.