

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Trillium award-winning program addresses LGBTQ health disparities** OUTreach initiative works with local organizations on training and awareness

**GREENVILLE, N.C.**--Trillium Health Resources's OUTreach initiative received the Social Justice Award from i2i Center for Integrative Health during its annual conference in December 2020. The awards ceremony, held virtually this year, recognizes innovative and impactful programs for mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance use around the state.

Trillium developed [OUTreach](#) to share the research and tools available with our stakeholders, providers, faith-based organizations, and other groups who work with youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning (LGBTQ). We work with North Carolina Families United to help educate our communities with the skills needed to address the specific health concerns of and abuse toward LGBTQ youth. Research shows that between 2-7% of all adults are lesbian, gay, or bisexual (according to [Gallup Daily tracking survey](#)), and the average age that youth realized they were gay was a little over age 13 (according to data from the [Pew Research Center](#)).

“LGBTQ youth who are in the foster care system experience frequent moves at a much higher rate,” shared Adrienne Beatty, project manager for OUTreach. “Confirming acceptance and connecting them with a positive LGBTQ role model can help improve their outcomes dramatically, and reduce potential risk of suicide and drug use.”

The first accomplishments for the OUTreach initiative were six “What’s Up” Breakfasts we hosted in three communities, including virtually during the pandemic. More than 300 participants joined to learn about the importance of family acceptance. These events helped introduce the program and data around the health disparities for LGBTQ youth. We are currently in the process of implementing a training schedule for Trillium staff to assist local partners, and will host a launch for agencies offering therapeutic foster care later in February.



### **ABOUT TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES**

Trillium Health Resources is a leading specialty care manager (LME/MCO) for individuals with substance use, mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities in 26 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is transforming lives and building community well-being through partnership and proven solutions. We help every community and individual we serve to reach their fullest potential. By coordinating care across multiple systems, we achieve improved health outcomes, quality of care, and efficient use of resources. Trillium remains focused on delivering the right services, in the right amount, at the right time. For more information, visit [www.TrilliumHealthResources.org](http://www.TrilliumHealthResources.org).

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