

## **2007 Mazzoni Center Trans-Health Conference Tremendous Success**

The sixth annual Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference, held in the Pennsylvania Convention Center April 5-7, 2007 strengthened its place as an outstanding conference for transgender people, their families and allies. Over 650 registered attendees discovered a conference program studded with enough excellent workshops and interesting plenary sessions to have continued for a week rather than a weekend.

Unlike many conferences, the Mazzoni Center Trans-Health conference charges only for the Providers' Day workshops; Friday and Saturday workshops and plenary sessions are free. I suspect many of the 25 or so vendors were disappointed, since the workshops and other programs were so strong that few people were wandering the hall except at lunchtime.

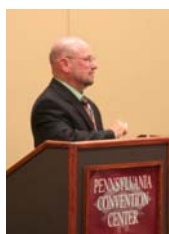
Also unlike many conferences, children of all ages are welcome – and trans kids from 5 to 15 and their parents were well represented. Special programs for young children, youth, and teens were provided all day Friday and Saturday, including art programs, discussions of two-spirits and other heroes, school and public restroom issues, and siblings of transgenders speaking out.



The opening plenary session with Dr. Norman Spack, a leader in pediatric and adolescent medicine at Children's Hospital in Boston, discussed androgen-inhibiting hormone treatment of transgender children. Over half of the total attendees jammed the room.

With 20 workshops in 5 tracks during providers' day, it was impossible to attend each one you wanted to hear. The Youth track dealt with information and strategies for educators, supporting youth in schools, and gender identity and sexual development of trans youth. The HIV/AIDS track included care and therapy of trans people, including people of color – and included a strong session on a successful program for reaching out to sex workers in Washington, DC. Therapeutic approaches and alliances for trans patients and their families were discussed in the Mental Health track, and the final track dealt with cooperative efforts between providers and advocates.

The largest conference room was again required Friday morning to contain all or nearly all of those wanting to hear Dr. Spack and Stephanie Guinan, mother of a pre-teen trans child, as they discussed the tremendous responsibility of making decisions about hormone treatments with and for minors. Other discussions represented by the 24 additional workshops during Friday and Saturday's Community Days included such topics as transitioning at work, trans and addiction, elder trans health, eating disorders, challenges and joys of transgender couples, organizing the community for trans healthcare access, and affirmations of transgender dignity and visibility in the Jewish tradition.



Friday's Keynote Speaker Jamison Green, whose book "Becoming a Visible Man" is a leading story and reference work for transmen, and Saturday's Keynote Speaker Pauline Park, founder of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA) both filled the large conference room, even after long and tiring days for all attendees.

