

On January 14 – 17, 2020, members and staff of WPATH traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam at the invitation request of Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI).

The Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, established on January 20, 2010 by the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations and the Ministry of Science and Technology. SCDI's philosophy and approach deeply believes that each individual and every community has great potentials that can not only solve their own problems but also contribute to the common development of society. Through an empowering approach combined with advocacy, SCDI aims to create the right motivation and environment for these potentials to be promoted for positive goals.

The invited speakers and faculty were Diane Ehrensaft, PhD; Fred Ettner, MD; Randi Ettner, PhD

Lin Fraser, EdD, MFT; Maurice Garcia, MD, MS; Gail Knudson, MD, FRCP, MEd; Scott Leibowitz, MD; Ren Massey, PhD; Sue O'Sullivan, WPATH Executive Director; Taylor O'Sullivan, WPATH Educational Program Coordinator; Asa Radix, MD, PhD, MPH; Steve Rosenthal, MD; Josh Safer, MD; Loren Schechter, MD; Blaine Vella, WPATH Deputy Executive Director; Joe Wong, Executive Director of Asia Pacific Transgender Network and Cole Young, Coordinator of the Asia Pacific Transgender Network.

With a new law to support transgender health in the hands of the government, there was a real need to educate clinicians. The curriculum was presented in English with simultaneous translation for attendees. Over the 4-day training, topics were presented in didactic format with accompanying slides, case discussions, audience question & answer. The topics over the first two-days and for all attendees included Introduction to Trans Health, Foundations in Mental Health, Primary Care, Hormonal Treatment for Adolescents and Adults, Foundations in Gender Affirming Care, Gender Development, Surgery, Caring for the Transitioning Client and Ethics. The third day, the group was split into medical, mental health and child & adolescent full-day workshops and on day four, the group was split into a Planning and Documenting course or Ethics.

This training was the first-ever of its kind in Vietnam and included input from clinicians and community members. The goal was to inform and to listen to the attendees who were engaged and felt comfortable to ask many questions, this led to a very interactive learning experience which was promising and left all of us feeling that the interest and concern expressed, meant that clinicians are anxious for laws to be passed that will enable them to work with, treat and assist their patients and their families.

The faculty attended a meeting with community members organized by SCDI and a local trans organization to talk through the difficulties of being transgender in Vietnam, we listened to parents' concerns, non-accessibility to hormones, complications from surgeries done in other countries and fears of seeing clinicians and backlash. This meeting helped the faculty further understand why this training was so important and why the passage of a law is essential for the future and health of the transgender community.

WPATH was grateful for this opportunity and we will continue to work with SCDI to help to ensure that the final law that is passed in Vietnam is current, helpful and will lead to good care for the transgender community.