



[San Mateo County Pride Center](#) (click for website)

October 2025 Updates

- October 2025 Pride Center newsletter – Still in progress

If you would like to receive the monthly Pride Center newsletters that include events and special programming, please sign up [here](#)!

Pride Center Important Updates:

As of August 1, 2025, our physical location of 1021 S El Camino Real, San Mateo, has been closed. **Our services are still available virtually from 10am-7pm Monday-Friday** until we find our new home.

We're excited to announce that the Pride Center is now a partner project of the [San Francisco Public Health Foundation](#)! Thank you to our new fiscal sponsor for helping us continue providing our invaluable services to the LGBTQ+ community across San Mateo County.

Upcoming Programming

San Mateo County Pride Center Gayme Night at Peninsula Books - a free community event!

Instead of being bored, join the Pride Center at Peninsula Books for a fun night of board games! From party games to trivia, we will have as many varieties of games as we do in our community. Plus, we will even have prizes! You have nothing to lose (except for every game you play). Join us on Thursday, October 16 from 6:00-8:00 PM!

Registration is encouraged but not required. Register in advance to be entered to win a drawing prize. There will also be some prizes for some of our game winners as well.

This event is free and open to the public. Light snacks will be provided.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/SMCPCOctGaymeNight>

Peninsula Books is located at 441 Westlake Center, Daly City, CA 94015. For accessibility and parking information, please use this link: <https://peninsulabooks.org/shopourstore/>
Questions? Please contact info@sanmateopride.org or call 650-591-0133

Halloween Queeraoke at Adolescent Counseling Services

Can you think of a better way to prepare for Halloween than getting together with your besties and singing along to your favorite songs? Whether you're a karaoke regular, someone who is curious about karaoke, or someone who'd like to try singing a new song, this is a space for you!

Costumes are encouraged but not required. Dress like your favorite animal or mythical creature. Join Outlet and the San Mateo County Pride Center for this fun and fabulous space! This is a sober, all ages event. Snacks will be provided.

See you on Wednesday, October 29th from 5-8 PM at the Adolescent Counseling Services (1779 Woodside Rd Suite 200, Redwood City, CA 94061)

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/SMCPCHLWNQueeraoke2025>

Accessibility information about Outlet at Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS):

- Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS) is a “mask friendly” space. While masks are not required, we will provide masks for those who wish to wear them.
- There is a parking lot located behind the building, with entrances on Woodside Road and Santa Clara Ave.
- ACS is located on the second floor of the building, at Suite 200. The suite can be accessed by elevator or stairs inside the entrance to the building by the parking lot.
- There is a wheelchair accessible entrance located at the parking lot entrance.
- ACS is located 0.3 miles west of the Woodside Rd and Massachusetts stop for Samtrans 278.
- This is currently not a scent-free/fragrance-free space. We strive to be scent/fragrance-aware.
- ACS is a weapon and substance-free sober space.

Questions? Please contact info@sanmateopride.org or call 650-591-0133

Holiday Supp-Art Mapping

Monday, November 3 from 5:30-7 PM at CORA in the Carelle Room (2205 Palm Ave, San Mateo 94403)

Are you concerned about preparing for and navigating the stress of the upcoming holidays? Are you hoping to generate a list of personalized coping tools for yourself to utilize during the holiday season and beyond?

Join CORA and the San Mateo County Pride Center for our upcoming holiday coping Supp-Art Mapping workshop to learn more about taking care of our internal and external being! We will take the time to create a list of our own coping tools and comforts. This is a free event and all ages are welcome.

We will provide all the materials needed but you are welcome to bring any special materials you would like to use for the event

Register using this link -<https://tinyurl.com/SuppArtMappingNov25>

Belonging in Nature: Queer & Trans Community Day at Rancho Corral de Tierra

Explore Rancho Corral de Tierra on a guided hike with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the San Mateo County Pride Center, and CoastPride.

Hike a flat 1.8-mile loop and learn about the park, go birdwatching, and explore your native plants!

November 8th, 10:00AM - 2:00PM at Rancho Corral de Tierra

Register at: [Register | Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy](#)

Trainings:

FREE Community Trans 101

Join us next month on **Wednesday November 19th from 6-8pm** for a FREE VIRTUAL training. We will be presenting our Trans 101, and offering in-depth conversations on topics such as transphobia, transitioning, being an ally to people of all gender identities and expressions, and more. We conclude this training with tips and tricks on how to be an advocate for the trans community and resources for continued learning.

PLEASE NOTE: This training requires a pre-existing understanding of the differences and relationships between Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression. Attending this training without that knowledge will be confusing and ineffective for your learning.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/Nov25Trans101>

Hire Us to Train Your Organization

Does your organization or group want to better support LGBTQ+ individuals?
The San Mateo County Pride Center is excited to offer a variety of trainings and educational opportunities!

Trainings that the Pride Center provides include

- Pronouns 101
- Becoming Aware of Our Assumptions
- SOGIE 101
- SOGIE 201
- Trans* 101

Please note: we do charge a fee for our trainings! To learn more, visit our [training page](#). If you are interested in receiving a training, please use [this link](#).

If you have questions about trainings, reach out to Ishani Dugar (they/xe) at ishani.dugar@sanmateopride.org or 650-554-1234 (text ok)

Community Events:

TDOR:

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Thursday, November 20th 5:30-7:30PM

South San Francisco Parks & Recreation Center- Banquet Hall

901 Civic Center Way, South San Francisco

Ongoing Pride Center Programs and Services:

Peer Support Groups:

All Peer Support Groups are currently only meeting over Zoom

Peer Support Groups- Upcoming meeting dates

- o LGBTQ Parent Group- Monthly on the 3rd Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 PM PST
 - Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smpcparentgroup>
 - Upcoming dates: October 15, November 19, December 17
- o LGBTQ Book Club (18+) - Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 4:30- 6pm PST
 - This group is now only meeting over Zoom!

- Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smpcbookclub>
- To access a list of books we're reading click [this link](#).
- Upcoming books:
 - November 5 - *Refusing Compulsory Sexuality: A Black Asexual Lens on Our Sex-Obsessed Culture* by Sherronda J. Brown, Grace B Freedom, et al.
 - December 3: *The Golden Gate* by Amy Chua
 - January 7: *Run Away With Me* by Brian Selnick
 - February 4: *Dead, Dead Girls* by Nekesa Afia
 - March 4: *The Deviant's War* by Eric Cervini
- Polyamory Peer Power (18+)- Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 7- 8:30pm PST
 - Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smpcpolypeerpower>
 - Upcoming dates: November 5, December 3
- Trans* Group (18+)- Monthly on the 1st Thursday from 6-7:30pm PST
 - This group is now only meeting over Zoom!
 - Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/smpctransgroup>
 - Upcoming meeting dates: November 6, December 4
- Gay Men's Group (18+)- Monthly on the 4th Tuesday from 6-7:30pm PST
 - Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/smpcgaymengroup>
 - Upcoming dates: October 28, *November/December Dates TBD
- Queer Women's Social Group (18+)- Monthly on the 4th Friday from 6-7:30pm PST
 - Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/smpcqueerwomengroup>
 - Upcoming dates: October 24, *November/December Dates TBD

Clinical Services:

Currently, therapy services are on a temporary pause at the Pride Center as we restructure our clinical program.

Please contact clinical@sanmateopride.org to receive our Pride Center LGBTQ+ Provider Referral Directory.

However, case management are still available and free of charge! Those services include support and service linkage for housing, healthcare, employment, legal aid, community events, and more. Please check out [our case management page](#) for more information on what can be provided.

We can also provide referral services for:

- LGBTQ+ affirming providers vetted by the Pride Center who have therapy openings
- Providers who can write a letter of support/WPATH letter
- Organizations that provide workshops or 1-1 support with name and gender marker change

You can book an appointment for case management through [our Calendly page](#) or email clinical@sanmateopride.org and we can share more resource options with you as needed.

General Pride Center information:

Resources: <https://sanmateopride.org/resources/>

Events: <https://sanmateopride.org/events/>

Peer Support groups: <https://sanmateopride.org/programs/peer-groups/>

Youth Resources: <https://www.acs-teens.org/what-we-do/outlet/>

Communications Report

October 2025

1. Social Media, Website, and Outreach

- Please update the Transgender Day of Remembrance webpage (<https://www.smcgov.org/lgbtqia/transgender-day-remembrance>) to include information about the 2025 plans and relevant links

2. Email & Internal Communications

- The October Newsletter draft can be found online and attached to the materials for this meeting. As usual, edits and suggestions are welcome
 - Date: The newsletter will be sent the week of Oct 20th - 26th
- Question for the commission: Do we want to send out an email inviting or reminding people about TDOR 2025? If so, we can quickly draft an invitation to the public that goes out during the first week of November.

3. Next Steps

- Should we update the current materials that are used when communicating with the public (Decks, elevator pitches, [FAQ's](#))
 - Please send over any ICC materials to revise or update if you believe clarity, tone, engagement, and efficacy of messaging can be improved or modified.

October Newsletter (DRAFT)

Subject line:

- **October Newsletter | San Mateo County LGBTQIA+ Commission**



October is LGBTQ History Month!

During LGBTQ History Month, we honor the courage of those who came before us and reflect on how far we still have to go. October was chosen for this observance in part because it aligns with National Coming Out Day on October 11, and because it commemorates the first and second Marches on Washington for LGBTQ rights (in 1979 and 1987, respectively)

We encourage you to spotlight the trailblazers, share narratives of resilience, and deepen your understanding of how LGBTQ lives and histories enrich the fabric of society.

[Learn about how LGBTQ History Month started](#)

Welcoming our new Commissioners



The San Mateo County LGBTQIA+ Commission is excited to welcome Camille "Cam" Kennedy, one of our newest members! As Cam steps into their role, we'd love for you to get to know them better. We asked Cam a few questions about their motivations, passions, and hopes for the future. Let's hear what they have to say:

What inspired you to join the San Mateo LGBTQIA+ Commission?

My decision to join the San Mateo LGBTQIA+ Commission was rooted in a lifelong commitment to community, equity and inclusion. As someone who has worked across housing, gender justice, and environmental advocacy, I've seen how systemic barriers affect marginalized communities—and how powerful it is when those communities are represented in decision-making spaces. I wanted to bring my strategic planning experience and deep care for community well-being to a space where policy meets lived experience. The Commission offered a chance to help shape a more just and affirming future for LGBTQIA+ residents in our county, especially those at the intersection of multiple identities.

When you're not advocating for the community, how do you like to spend your free time?

I'm a parent to three incredible children, and much of my joy comes from being present with them—whether we're exploring nature, sharing music, or simply navigating the everyday together. I also find grounding in my Jewish spiritual practice, especially prayer and reflection. When I have a quiet moment to myself, I'm often reading, doing the NYT Crossword puzzle, or cooking.

How would a more inclusive and welcoming San Mateo County community look like to you?

A truly inclusive San Mateo County would be one where every resident—regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, income, or ability—feels seen, safe, and celebrated. That means policies that center equity, services that meet people where they are, and public spaces that reflect the diversity of our stories. It also means investing in youth, elders, and families through initiatives such as housing, education, and climate resilience. Inclusion isn't just about representation—it's about belonging. I envision a county where belonging is not conditional, but foundational.

Legislative Updates

We are sharing key updates on [new laws and decisions](#) that impact our community. Several important bills have been signed into law, expanding LGBTQIA+ protections, increasing access to gender-affirming care, and strengthening anti-discrimination policies in education and health care. The following breakdown includes LGBTQIA+ related bills that passed or were vetoed, and what they mean for our communities moving forward.



<u>Bill</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Summary</u>
AB 727	Passed	Requires student ID cards (grades 7–12, and in higher ed institutions) to include the LGBTQ youth suicide prevention hotline

(Trevor Project) contact info.

AB 715	Passed	Creates a state Office of Civil Rights to oversee bias/discrimination in education, establishes an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator, and strengthens complaint and accountability processes in K–12 districts.
SB 59	Passed	Ensures records of name/gender/sex identifier change petitions in courts are confidential (sealed) for all ages, reducing risk of exposure for trans/nonbinary individuals.
SB 497	Passed	Strengthens “State of Refuge” protections: restricts law enforcement access to medical prescription data (for gender-affirming care) without a warrant; limits out-of-state legal demands for disclosure.
AB 1084	Passed	Streamlines and modernizes the process of name, gender, and sex identifier changes — reduces procedural burdens (e.g. hearings in uncontested cases) and standardizes practices across agencies.
SB 418	Vetoed	Would have expanded nondiscrimination protections in health care and guaranteed coverage for gender-affirming services; vetoed by the Governor .
AB 82	Passed	Exempts gender-affirming prescriptions (e.g. hormones) from standard prescription drug database reporting / law enforcement access, to protect patient privacy.
AB 1487	Passed	Renames and enhances the “Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex Wellness and Equity Fund” to the <i>2TGI Wellness and Equity Fund</i> , expanding program eligibility (mental health, workforce development, immigrant support, youth outreach).



[Read the full story in the Bay Area Reporter](#)

Save the date: Transgender Day of Remembrance



Join us on Thursday, November 20th, from 5:30–7:30 PM as we honor and remember transgender lives lost to transphobia and draw attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

This is an in-person event, and the program will be livestreamed.

 Thursday, November 20th,
 5:30–7:30 PM

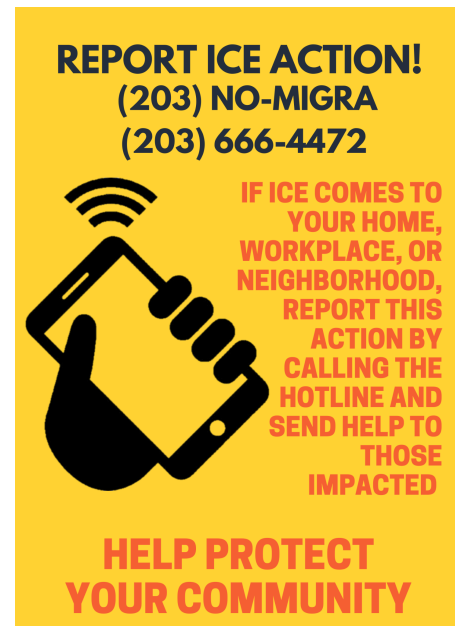
📍 South San Francisco Parks & Recreation Center, Banquet Hall – 901 Civic Campus Way, South San Francisco

Community Alert: ICE activity in the Bay Area

We continue to raise awareness about Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity reported across the Bay Area. We encourage community members, especially those who may be impacted or want to stand in solidarity, to connect with Faith in Action Bay Area, a local organization dedicated to advocating for the most vulnerable, and to uphold immigrant justice during these times.

- If you witness ICE activity or are impacted, call their hotline to report and request support.
- ICE San Mateo County Rapid Response Hotline: (203) 666-4472
- Website: faithinactionba.org

Faith in Action also organizes rapid response efforts and provides guidance on your rights, emergency planning, and community mobilization.



[Learn more about Faith In Action SMC Rapid Response](#)

Get Involved

- [Learn more about the ICC](#)
- [Attend one of our Commission meetings](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

In solidarity,
The LGBTQIA+ Commission of San Mateo County





Inclusion Community Campaign Updates

Volunteer Sub Committee

As part of the Volunteer subgroup Mike Cooper spoke by phone with David Galvez from College of San Mateo and then handed off to Sha Sun who invited them and their network of pride center students to attend trainings from the Educate subgroup. David seemed pretty interested in opportunities to collaborate in the future.

<https://collegeofsanmateo.edu/pridecenter/staff.php>

Status of Outreach Flyers/Social Media: TBD

Educate Sub Committee

The Educate Subcommittee hosted the second Inclusion Community Campaign Training on Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. 35 people were invited, 5 plan to attend (including 1 staff member and 2 commissioners), 2 may attend, and 2 let us know they could not attend.



CoastPride Report

LGBTQIA+ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, October , 21, 2025

From CoastPride Board Member: Dana “TherActivist” Johnson (they/ them/ he), MSW

❖ **Our Vision**

A welcoming and safe Coastsides where all LGBTQ and gender-expansive individuals, their families, and allies thrive.

❖ **Our Mission**

Creating a Coastsides that supports and celebrates people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

- CoastPride Events/ Trainings:
- *For events and to learn about what’s going on at CoastPride see the CoastPride newsletter.*
- **Center Hours:**
 - Drop-in—all are welcome
 - Monday- Friday, 10am–4pm (**Closed on federal holidays)
- **CoastPride Groups**
 - More details regarding the groups please reach out to CoastPride Program Director, Mimi Castro (he/ him) mimir@coastpride.org
- ***Allcove Half Moon Bay has a location! More details regarding the space coming soon.***

❖ **Upcoming Events/ Announcements**

- **CoastPride has an Executive Director! We will be introducing our Executive Director on November 1st- stay tuned in.**
- CoastPride is looking for volunteers for the Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin festival (October 18 & 19)
 - If you are interested or know somebody interested please connect them with Mimi Castro (he/him), Program Director mimir@coastpride.org
- For more details regarding LGBTQIA+ events on the Coast, please reach out to CoastPride board member Dana “TherActivist” Johnson (they/ he) dana@coastpride.org or CoastPride Program Director, Mimi Castro (he/ him) mimir@coastpride.org



San Mateo County PRIDE Initiative Report

***From: Dana Johnson (they/ them/ theirs)- PRIDE Initiative co-chair
LGBTQIA+ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:30pm***

About the PRIDE Initiative: The PRIDE Initiative is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive environments grounded in equality and parity for LGBTQ+ community members living and working in San Mateo County. By adopting an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to collaborating, the PRIDE Initiative looks to partner with individuals, organizations, and providers that work to ensure that services are sensitive and respectful of LGBTQ+ issues.

- **Join us at the next Pride Initiative meetings (via virtually) on**
*****Wednesday, November 12th from 4:30-6pm**
 - PRIDE Initiative and local LGBTQIA+ updates
 - Discussion regarding LGBTQIA+ Health in San Mateo County
 - Overview of County San Mateo Epidemiologist LGBTQ+ Health report and data

➤ Join the PRIDE Initiative Zoom Meeting on 11-12-25 at 4:30pm. Join using the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510844451>

Meeting ID: 815 1084 4451

Passcode: PRIDEBHRS **(PLEASE NOTE: Password is now required to join)**



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION

To: LGBTQIA+ Commission of San Mateo County
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Date: October 21, 2025
Subject: Director's Report

Thank You!

- Christopher Sturken will represent the Commission at the next Civics 101 meeting. He will be on a panel of other commissioners sharing about his Commission journey.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

- **Save the Date Flyer**
 - Please share on your social and/or with your persona network
 - Thursday, November 20 from 5:30-7:30pm.
 - South San Francisco Parks and Recreation | Library
 -
- **Proclamation**
 - Tuesday, November 4, Board of Supervisors Meeting, starting at 9am
 - Altar will be constructed and displayed at 500 County Center from November 4 and then will be moved for the event. It will then return to 500 County Center for the rest of November.
 - Vanessa and Dana will be accepting the Proclamation
- **Flag-raising**
 - Wednesday, November 12, 9:30-10:00am at County Center flag pole (new!)
 - The transgender flag will be raised for the rest of the month.
 - Jade Howard will be the main speaker and I am waiting on a response from the other speaker.
 - You all are welcome to attend both the Proclamation and the flag-raising. Please let me know of your attendance!