

# WPATH's Influence in the US

## 1. Major Medical Associations

### ***American Medical Association (AMA)***

2019 - in support of coverage for hormonal and surgical treatment of gender dysphoria cites WPATH's SOC7:

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-03/transgender-coverage-issue-brief.pdf>

In a 2018 letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs, calling for coverage of gender-affirming care, the AMA cites WPATH's SOC7 and refers to WPATH as “the leading international, interdisciplinary professional organization devoted to the understanding and treatment of gender dysphoria.”

<https://searchltf.ama-assn.org/letter/documentDownload?uri=%2Funstructured%2Fbinary%2Fletter%2FLETTERS%2F2018-9-6-Letter-to-Wilkie-re-Exclusion-of-Gender-Alterations-from-Medical-Benefits-Package.pdf>

Nov 2016 AMA Journal of Ethics, Volume 18: Transgender Health and Medicine - Cites WPATH throughout the entire document - argues for body modification on demand:

[https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/sites/joedb/files/2018-11/joe-1611\\_1.pdf](https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/sites/joedb/files/2018-11/joe-1611_1.pdf)

### **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**

AAP 2018 policy statement endorsing hormonal and surgical interventions for minors suffering from gender dysphoria cites WPATH's SOC7 and its 2010 “de-psychopathologisation” statement. In the section on how to make clinical spaces more inclusive, the policy cites WPATH's paper on electronic medical records, which calls for recording gender identity rather than biological sex (need to check this)

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/142/4/e20182162/37381/Ensuring-Comprehensive-Care-and-Support-for?autologincheck=redirected>

This policy statement was reaffirmed in August 2023.

### **American Psychiatric Association (APA)**

In 2010, a WPATH work group conducted a consensus process in order to make recommendations for the revision of the DSM diagnoses of Gender Identity Disorders. The group proposed “changing the name of the diagnosis from Gender Identity Disorder to the more accurate and less pathologizing Gender Dysphoria.” The APA replaced gender identity disorder with gender dysphoria in the DSM-5 in 2013.

This work group included Dr. Dan Karasic, the lead author of WPATH’s SOC8 mental health chapter and a prominent WPATH member named in the WPATH Files report.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233078756 Recommendations for Revision of the DSM Diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder in Adults](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233078756_Recommendations_for_Revision_of_the_DSM_Diagnosis_of_Gender_Identity_Disorder_in_Adults)

The “Medical Treatments and Surgical Interventions” section of the APA’s 2017 *Guide for Working With Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Patients* is based largely on WPATH’s SOC7.

<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/diversity/education/transgender-and-gender-nonconforming-patients/medical-treatment-and-surgical-interventions>

In January 2024, the APA published the first edition of *Gender-Affirming Psychiatric Care*, a textbook “to provide an affirming, intersectional, and evidence-informed approach to caring for transgender, non-binary, and/or gender-expansive (TNG) people.” Of the 56 authors, 50 identify as transgender. One of the two lead editors is a member of WPATH, as are many of the 56 authors. The textbook has already drawn intense criticism for being heavily ideologically slanted and lacking grounding in science.

<https://www.amazon.com/Gender-affirming-Psychiatric-Care-Teddy-Goetz/dp/1615374728>

Op-ed by two psychiatrists highlighting the textbook’s many flaws

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2024/02/03/apas-gender-affirming-care-book-abandons-science/>

## **American Psychological Association (APA)**

2008 - APA RESOLUTION on Transgender, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression Non-Discrimination, states “Psychologists are in a position to influence policies

and practices in institutional settings, particularly regarding the implementation of the Standards of Care published by the World Professional Association of Transgender Health.”

<https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-gender-identity.pdf>

2014 brochure answering questions about transgender people, gender identity, and gender expression recommends WPATH’s SOC.

<https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/transgender.pdf>

2015 Guidelines for Psychological Practice With Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People cites WPATH throughout and advises against “gatekeeping” and for an affirming approach to decision-making regarding medical transition.

<https://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/transgender.pdf>

2021 APA RESOLUTION on Gender Identity Change Efforts (GICE) - cites WPATH as having “established empirically-supported practice guidelines that encourage clinicians to use gender-affirming practices when addressing gender identity issues.”

<https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-gender-identity-change-efforts.pdf>

## **The Endocrine Society**

The 2009 *Endocrine Treatment of Transsexual Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline* and the 2017 updated *Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline* - both authored by numerous prominent WPATH members

<https://academic.oup.com/jcem/article/94/9/3132/2596324>

<https://academic.oup.com/jcem/article/102/11/3869/4157558>

WPATH is listed as a co-sponsor of the 2009 guidelines and is cited heavily throughout the 2017 guidelines. Both sets of guidelines recommend medical intervention based on low-quality evidence.

## **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)**

2021 committee opinion article (reaffirmed 2024?), *Health Care for Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals*, cites WPATH's SOC7 throughout. Recommends WPATH for "guidance on the medical and surgical care of transgender adolescents," quotes WPATH's 2010 "de-psychopathologisation" statement, and calls WPATH's SOC "an important resource for health care professionals working with transgender patients."  
<https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2021/03/health-care-for-transgender-and-gender-diverse-individuals>

***American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:***

[https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Member\\_Resources/SOGIIC/Clinical\\_Guidelines\\_Training\\_Providers\\_Professionals\\_Trainees.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Member_Resources/SOGIIC/Clinical_Guidelines_Training_Providers_Professionals_Trainees.aspx)

The AACAP website recommends and links to WPATH's SOC8, calling the guidelines "evidence-based" and "standards of care that are the most up to date resources for providers across different disciplines serving youth with gender dysphoria."

2018 policy on "conversion therapy" links to WPATH's SOC7:

[https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Policy\\_Statements/2018/Conversion\\_Therapy.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Policy_Statements/2018/Conversion_Therapy.aspx)

2012 "official action" on treating children and adolescents with gender distress:

[https://www.jaacap.org/article/S0890-8567\(12\)00500-X/fulltext#back-bib110](https://www.jaacap.org/article/S0890-8567(12)00500-X/fulltext#back-bib110) - cites WPATH SOC6

**American Society of Plastic Surgeons**

In 2021, the ASPS penned an open letter to Facebook urging the social media platform to allow surgeons to advertise their gender-affirming surgeries. Spearheaded by WPATH member Dr. Keith Blechman, who was angered when Facebook and Instagram blocked his practice's advertisements. ASPS concluded the letter by urging Facebook's leaders to review the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)'s Standards of Care publication to "better understand the importance and role of gender affirming care in the US healthcare system."

<https://www.plasticsurgery.org/for-medical-professionals/advocacy/advocacy-news/asps-challenges-big-tech-censorship-of-gender-affirming-care>

## 2. US Government

Part of the speech delivered by Admiral Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health, in April 2022 at the Out For Health Conference in Texas:

*“Gender-affirming care is medical care. It is mental health care. It is suicide prevention care. It improves quality of life, and it saves lives. It is based on decades of study. It is a well-established medical practice. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health published evidence-based standards of care more than a decade ago, in 2011, and is planning to release a full update this year. Rather than relying on a few cherry-picked reports to make a political argument, WPATH assesses the full state of the science and provides substantive, rigorously analyzed, peer-reviewed recommendations to the medical community on how best to care for patients who are transgender or gender non-binary. There is nothing one-sided about their approach. It is founded on a vast body of medical literature. It is free of any agenda other than to ensure that medical decisions are informed by science. This is the way medicine is supposed to be practiced, and it is the way doctors are supposed to care for their patients.”*

Levine is a member of WPATH and was the keynote speaker at WPATH’s International Symposium in Montreal in Sept 2022, repeating the maxim that "gender-affirming care is medical care. Gender-affirming care is mental health care. Simply put, gender-affirming care is suicide prevention care.”

<https://thepostmillennial.com/breaking-rachel-levine-declares-trans-kids-to-be-an-inspiration-at-wpath-conference>

In August 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs called “early gender-affirming care” for children and adolescents “crucial to overall health and well-being as it allows the child or adolescent to focus on social transitions and can increase their confidence while navigating the healthcare system.” The statement links to WPATH’s SOC8.

<https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/gender-affirming-care-young-people.pdf>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a branch of the Department of Health and Human Services, produced a report on .....

<https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/pep22-03-12-001.pdf>

### 3. WPATH's Influence in the Legislative Battle Over Gender-Affirming Care for Minors

*There are so many ongoing cases that it would be too time-consuming to list them all. The main point is that WPATH features prominently in the legal battles - its standards of care are presented as evidence-based, and the best available science and its members are frequently called as expert witnesses.*

Interesting rulings:

Judge Hinkle in the *Dekker v Weida* Florida Medicaid ruling called WPATH's SOC8 "well-established standards of care for treatment of gender dysphoria" that are "widely followed by well-trained clinicians."

Hinkle went on to say that WPATH's SOC are used by insurers "and have been endorsed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services."

<https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000188-e093-d144-a5bc-e2ff6d720000>

In *Brandt v Rutledge*, Judge Jay Moody issued a permanent injunction blocking Arkansas's ban on gender-affirming care for minors. In the injunction, Moody refers to WPATH SOC8 as "widely-accepted clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of gender dysphoria." Moody describes WPATH as "a professional association that develops treatment recommendations through a committee of renowned experts in transgender health," and cites the expert testimony of WPATH member Dr. Dan Karasic throughout his decision. Karasic is a named WPATH member in the WPATH Files report.

<https://wp.api.aclu.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/win-in-arkansas.pdf>

Alabama - After WPATH guidelines were repeatedly cited as the gold standard in the attempt to block the state's ban on gender-affirming care for minors, U.S District Court Judge Liles Burke issued a subpoena to WPATH in search of various documents related to WPATH's guidelines for treating gender-dysphoric youth. WPATH tried to quash the subpoena, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/boe-marshall-ruling-usdc-ala.pdf>

<https://1819news.com/news/item/federal-judge-rules-in-favor-of-alabama-in-its-continued-fight-to-ban-transgender-medicine-and-surgeries-on-minors>

Nebraska

Expert WPATH witnesses in the legislative battle

Karasic has been called as an expert witness in numerous legal cases, such as:

Dekker v Marstiller

[https://legacy.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/legal-docs/downloads/dekker v. marstiller - dkt. 11-3 - expert declaration of dr. dan h. karasic.pdf](https://legacy.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/legal-docs/downloads/dekker_v_marstiller_-_dkt._11-3_-_expert_declaration_of_dr._dan_h._karasic.pdf)

Doe v Lapado

<https://trans.so/docket/doe-v-ladapo-4-23-cv-00114/115-5.pdf>

Olson-Kennedy (also named in the files):

Dekker v Marstiller

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.flnd.443916/gov.uscourts.flnd.443916.11.2.pdf>

4. A sample of hospitals citing WPATH - most gender clinics in the US follow WPATH, far too many to list

Boston Children's Hospital has WPATH listed in its patient resources, links to SOC8

<https://www.childrenshospital.org/programs/gender-services/patient-resources>

Seattle Children's Hospital resources for healthcare providers, to ensure "transgender and gender-diverse youth have access to lifesaving, gender-affirming care," links to WPATH's SOC8.

<https://www.seattlechildrens.org/clinics/gender-clinic/education-resources-healthcare-professionals/>

Oregon Health & Science University School gender clinic follows WPATH's SOC8

<https://www.ohsu.edu/transgender-health/transgender-health-program-health-care-professionals>

Dr. Angela Kade Goepferd, Medical Director of the pediatric gender clinic at Children's Minnesota, is a WPATH member.

<https://doctors.childrensmn.org/provider/Angela+Goepferd/2218044>

## 5. Online clinics/Planned Parenthood

Plume, the largest online provider of hormones in the US, cites WPATH's endorsement of the "informed consent model of care" in SOC7 as justification for its approach to prescribing hormones over the internet

<https://support.getplume.co/support/solutions/articles/72000583686-informed-consent>

Planned Parenthood, which prescribes hormones without prior mental health evaluation or psychological support, often on the first appointment, says it follows "criteria for hormone therapy reflect guidelines set by several centers of excellence for transgender and nonbinary care provision, including WPATH's Standards of Care."

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-western-pennsylvania/patients/introducing-hormone-therapy/preparing-your-hormone-therapy-visit>

QueerDoc (this one is a bit random)

Website links to SOC8, and former WPATH president Jamison Green, featured in the WPATH Files report, was interviewed by the online hormone provider in Dec, 2023

<https://queerdoc.com/12-11-interview-with-an-elder-jamison-green/>

## 6. Nonprofits

### **Human Rights Campaign:**

links to WPATH's SOC7

<https://www.thehrcfoundation.org/professional-resources/world-professional-association-for-transgender-health-wpath>



Also SOC8, which is referred to as “[c]lear, well-established, evidence-based”

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/get-the-facts-on-gender-affirming-care>

## **GLAAD**

GLAAD stated as recently as January 2024 in a factsheet on “evidence-based healthcare for transgender people and youth” that WPATH’s SOC8 provides “scientific and medical professional consensus about best practices care.”

<https://glaad.org/factsheet-evidence-based-healthcare-transgender-people-and-youth/>

## **ACLU**

In the ACLU’s 2013 *Protecting the Rights of Transgender Parents and their Children: A Guide for Parents and Lawyers*, WPATH’s SOC7 is cited throughout.

According to the ACLU, the “treatment of gender dysphoria is guided by the Standards of Care set forth by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, now in its 7th revision. These guidelines are internationally accepted and reflect the professional consensus about the treatment of this condition.”

[https://www.aclu.org/wp-content/uploads/legal-documents/aclu-tg\\_parenting\\_guide.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/wp-content/uploads/legal-documents/aclu-tg_parenting_guide.pdf)

“there are already extremely strict standards of gender-affirming care from a non-partisan medical organization called the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. WPATH’s standards of care have been adopted by nearly every single major medical organization in the world, including the American Medical Association”

<https://www.aclu-ky.org/en/news/i-am-living-proof-gender-affirming-care-saves-lives>

### **7. Electronic Medical Records:**

In September 2011, the WPATH Executive Committee convened an Electronic Medical Records Working Group, comprised of both expert clinicians and medical information technology specialists, to make recommendations for developers, vendors, and users of EHR systems with respect to transgender patients. Recommendations included recording a person’s gender identity and taking an inventory of organs.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23631835/>

Due to WPATH's influence, medical records are now confusing and imprecise, which puts people's lives at risk.

<https://www.fairforall.org/electronic-health-record-safety-act/>