

FD ID: FD1995**Requestor Name:** Phillip W. Schnarrs, PhD and John Oeffinger**Requestor Institution:** The University of Texas at Austin**Project Title:****Background/Rationale:**

Sexual and gender minority (SGM) individuals face persistent health disparities, yet there remains a dearth of health research focused on these populations outside of liberal-leaning coastal regions of the U.S., geographic regions like U.S. Public Health Region 6 (TX, NM, OK, AR, LA). This region includes roughly 12% of U.S. SGM populations, but only 2.8% of NIH-funded SGM research projects. Whereas 11% of SGM adults live in California, the state received 17% of NIH SGM funding. Similarly, to date, only 1 of PCORI's 23 comparative effectiveness projects focused on or including SGM populations was funded in U.S. Public Health Region 6 (US-6). However, PCORI has funded a handful of engagement projects across this region – an acknowledgment of the need for infrastructure and capacity building to increase SGM research in US-6. This region of the county also has incredible diversity in terms of race/ethnicity, low SES, and those living in rural spaces.

Our solution is to build on this investment by PCORI through collaboration across these current and previously funded engagement projects, By engaging with other patient and stakeholder groups, academic institutions, and PCORnet sites in US-6. This expanded collaboration will be led by The Texas Institute for SGM Health Research (The Institute that grew out of the Texas PRIDE Health Collaborative (PRIDE Health) (EA-41812) – which includes US-6 researchers) in collaboration with TransFORWARD—another PCORI-funded engagement project (EADI-31761, EASC – COVID - 00284, EA #10671) –at the Texas Health Institute and other collaboratives/groups that developed out of PRIDE Health. The long-term goal of this project is to improve SGM health outcomes in US-6 through increased capacity for multisite, patient-centered comparative effectiveness projects. TONAL- a US-6 SGM health collaborative will increase patient engagement in research and lead to improved health and healthcare for SGM individuals.

Specific Aims:

To achieve our long-term goal, the aim of this project is to build the needed research capacity to support future patient-centered comparative effectiveness research focused on improving SGM health outcomes through patient, stakeholder, and researcher engagement across the region to:

1. Expand the collaborative to offer training and seminars on SGM health, community-engaged research (CEnR/CER), and patient-centered comparative effectiveness research delivered by US-6 partners.
2. Prioritize and expand research questions/ideas that surfaced from PRIDE Health.
3. Develop plans to create Practice/Community-Based Research Networks (PCBRNs) across US-6 that would allow for multisite studies across the region.
4. Engage with PCORnet and other sites in US-6 regarding how they collect sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data and implement best practices across sites regarding SOGI-data collection.
5. Further evaluate the “BE HEARD” model developed to guide engagement in PRIDE Health.

Intervention (if applicable):**Collaborators:**

John Oeffinger – Texas Health Institute

Ron Stall – Texas Pride Impact Funds

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We are also in the process of identifying additional patients and other partners across the region, as well as research partners in Louisiana. In addition, the current Texas PRIDE Health Collaborative has over 40 research and 100 patient and other partners and an additional 15+ research partners with the Texas Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health Research.