

Meet the Panelists



My name is **Jessie Phalen** and I am a lifelong Sauk County resident who has worked as a RN and Certified Diabetes Educator at Reedsburg Area Medical Center for nearly 20 years and then moved on to work with Public Health Sauk County in 2018 as the Nurse Manager, moving into the Deputy Director position in August of this year. I have found my passion working in public health and have a special interest in health equity. I obtained an ADN from Madison College in 1999 and a BSN from Western Governors University in 2015.

I am the parent of a child who is part of the LGBTQIA+ community and is passionate about helping others support people from this community.

In my spare time, I volunteer at Jane's Journey Home for dogs, travel, and spend time with friends and family.

Hello! My name is **Brianna Cotter**. I'm currently a psychotherapist at The Psychology Clinic in Baraboo, WI. I've worked with kids and their families throughout my life in a variety of settings, such as the therapy room, vocational services, and after-school programs. I studied rehabilitation psychology and human development and family studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and then went on to receive my M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy at Edgewood College. When I'm not working, my husband and I are chasing around my two sons, Ole and Ernie, and our rescue dog, Wesley.



Hello! My name is **Xavier Seguin**, I am a trans man with a passion for writing, animation, and art. I am 19 years old and currently in college. Thank you for coming to this panel and hopefully some questions can be answered!

My name is **Emily Kline** and I work as a Child and Family Therapist for Sauk County. I am passionate about rural mental health and LGBTQ+ myth-busting. Outside of work, I enjoy exploring Wisconsin's beautiful driftless region.



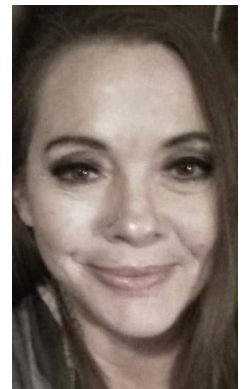


My name is **Kellie Deitrich**. I am from the Sauk County area. I have a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies and a master's degree in Professional Counseling. I was a therapeutic mentor for 3 years in Sauk County in the Comprehensive Community Services Program (CCS). CCS is a wrap-around service for both children and adults. People receive therapy, case management, parent support, mentoring, and more. Now I am a psychotherapist at Sauk County in the Mental Health Outpatient Unit, where people can come solely for mental health therapy (not necessarily wrap around services).

Most people who have struggled mightily at one or more points in life can attest that it is not easy to invite others in and share what they are experiencing. Though perception has become more compassionate and less fearful, it seems that our society is still getting used to nurturing mental health with the same level of concern as physical health. Therefore I do not take it for granted to be invited into a vulnerable space with a perfectly new acquaintance. It is an honor and a privilege to do this work.

I identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. This adds a layer of understanding and ability to compassionately support others on their journey of self-discovery, or discovery of the world around them. I have supported several people in my career with questions about their own sexual orientation, and/or how to be an ally to loved ones who are oriented differently. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this event!

My name is **Lori Sanders**. I grew up in Baraboo, where my entire beautiful family calls home. I moved to Florida in 1992 where I married and began a professional singing career. I moved to Arkansas in 2014 and remarried. I am now a 16 yr survivor of domestic violence, which has left me disabled, but stronger in spirit. I have four beautiful, amazing, and talented children, along with three grandchildren whom I love with all that I am. We moved home a year and a half ago, and were welcomed with open arms by a supportive and loving family and community. Also 3 years sober, God has changed and revived me, making me brand new. I am committed to devoting my time to God, children, family, and my newest passion: standing up for, respecting, supporting, and loving the LGBTQ+ community, as a couple of my children are members of the community. I am devoted to making a difference in this world, one kindness at a time, and now joy pursues us.





My name is **Julie Anne Westegaard** and I have served our most vulnerable populations for over 35 years as a volunteer, educator, foster & adoptive parent, human service professional, and crisis counselor. My work with at-risk, homeless, and queer youth was featured on CBS's Eye to Eye with Connie Chung and in the New York Times. My family and I have made Sauk County their home since 2000. I have served our area with Lutheran Social Services, Hope House of South Central Wisconsin, RCGI, Baraboo Children's Museum, Queers & Allies, & local arts organizations. I currently serve adults with disabilities for the state of Wisconsin by providing case management and in-home care. I am a SIECUS sexuality educator, CD-DONA doula, Red

Cross HIV educator, and FABULOUS wig and wardrobe mistress for our theatre and drag communities.



My name is **Nick Meller, aka Jackie Lynn**, and I am a passionate advocate for LGBTQIA+ youth and mental health. As a dedicated college student and an inspiring drag queen, I use my platform to foster acceptance and provide support within the community. With my dynamic presence and commitment to inclusivity, I bring a unique perspective to the panel, emphasizing the importance of mental well-being and the power of self-expression. With help from my alter ego, Jackie Lynn, I continue to make significant strides in creating safe spaces for all LGBTQ+ people.



Meet Your Hosts



First United Methodist Church of Baraboo, WI welcomes all to share in the life, leadership, fellowship, worship, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow in faith, do all the good we can, and help others say YES! to God. As a Reconciling Congregation we affirm that each person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We embrace the diversity of human nature, and celebrate the inherent uniqueness, potential and contributions of

all persons, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, family structure, economic status, and physical or mental ability. All are welcome, supported, and included here. Many voices, many hands, and shared wisdom from varied perspectives and life experiences make us stronger and richer in thought, creativity, understanding and growth. We recognize that we hold a variety of opinions. We do not seek to erase our differences but to journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.



Rev. Cathy Christman, the pastor, can be reached at pastor@barabooumc.org or by text at 231-342-3728.

The Carnegie-Schadde Memorial Public Library's mission states: "We are a community center for lifelong learning and literacy bringing people, information, and ideas together." As a



collaborative community partner that strives to support an engaged, educated, and connected community of learners and creators, we pledge to: provide a safe and welcoming environment, celebrate diversity and embrace inclusion, be nonjudgmental and uphold integrity, ensure privacy and confidentiality, and respect intellectual freedom. All are welcome within the walls of the library.



Jessica Bergin, Library Director, can be reached at jessica@csmpl.org, or 608-356-6166.