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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Education Health, and Human Services

Doctoral Dissertation Defense for

Joseph R. Krivos

For the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Major: Counselor Education and Supervision

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Remote via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81226316617?pwd=a3lkUDVpMWJOUjA0dWFHQdTd4aVFYQT09>

1:00 P.M.

TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NONCONFORMING
PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS REGARDING THE PRACTICE
OF GENDER AFFIRMING COUNSELING

Kent State University

The present study utilized Q Methodology to understand what transgender and gender nonconforming people perceive to be the most valuable elements of gender affirming counseling. 21 individuals participated in the present study, sorting 43 statements containing elements of gender affirming counseling practice, and answered post-sort interview questions about their sorts to assist in the interpretation of factors that emerged. Four factors emerged and captured viewpoints of gender affirming counseling as: (a) primarily a person-to-person encounter between client and counselor, (b) primarily a professional and information-driven exchange, (c) a process of the counseling offering validation and nurturance to support an ‘inner transition’, and (d) primarily a safety-focused process. Discussion of these factors and themes which emerged in consensus viewpoints was explored. Implications for the field of Counselor Education and Supervision in counseling, supervision, teaching, leadership, and future scholarship were discussed.

Joseph R. Krivos

B.A., The University of Notre Dame, 2015

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Joseph Krivos is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with Supervisory Designation and a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor in the State of Ohio. Joseph has 6 years of clinical experience in a variety of settings including a dual-diagnosis agency and private practice. Joseph has taught several courses at Kent State University to both undergraduate and graduate students. He is the co-founder and director of operations at Navigate Counseling and Consultation Services. His clinical work focuses on the health and well-being of queer individuals and communities with particular emphasis on working with individuals who are exploring their gender expression and identity.