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Subject: Resolution on Reparative Therapy/Conversion Therapy/Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) as a Significant and Serious Violation of the ACA Code of Ethics

It is Moved:

Whereas the American Counseling Association has expressly affirmed that sexual orientation and gender nonconformity are not mental disorders;

Whereas the American Counseling Association has expressly opposed the portrayal of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth and adults as mentally ill due to their sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas the American Counseling Association has expressly supported the dissemination of accurate information about sexual orientation, affectional orientation, gender identity, mental health, and appropriate interventions, in order to counteract bias that is based in ignorance or unfounded beliefs about same-sex sexual orientation and gender nonconformity;

Whereas the American Counseling Association has expressly opposed the promotion of reparative therapy/conversion therapy/sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) as a cure for LGBTQ+ individuals;

Whereas reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE has been shown to be ineffectual;

Whereas reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE has been shown to cause harm;

Whereas reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE has been found to violate consumer fraud-protection law;

Be it resolved that promoting, conducting, engaging in, or referring for reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE is a significant and serious violation of the ACA Code of Ethics including, but not necessarily limited to, a breach of the mandates to:

- Do no harm.
- Avoid the imposition of the counselor's personal values, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors.
- Practice within the boundaries of professional competencies.
- Avoid discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Moved by: Michael Kocet

Seconded by: Simone Lambert

Endorsements: This motion has been endorsed by

- The ACA Ethics Committee
- The ACA Human Rights Committee
- The ACA Professional Standards Committee

Rationale/Need: This motion codified ACA's current position.

Impact on the Profession and Relationship to the Strategic Priority:

This motion makes it clear to members, the profession, and the public that promoting, conducting, engaging in, or referring for reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE is a significant and serious violation of the ACA Code of Ethics. While this has been ACA's position for some time, it has not yet been codified in writing.

ACA Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority 2 – Improving member services and benefits to address 21st century needs

Strategic Priority 3 – Balancing practice with academia

Strategic Priority 4 – Advocating for the profession

Strategic Priority 5 – Strengthening the organization

Motion Passed: Governing Council Meeting – Dec. 19, 2017