The Problem
There is a lack of equitable, safe, patient-centered care for women in the transgender community. Numerous communication needs of the transgender female patient cannot be covered within a typical course of care. Additionally, these women have expressed a desire to meet in a group format in which they can address their communication needs while receiving professional and peer feedback. It was decided that a co-lead format with a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and a Social Worker (SW) would be optimal.

Aim/Goal
To develop and implement a group that provides a safe and supportive environment for patients to receive education, practice and feedback regarding voice / communication feminization.

The Team
Barbara F. Worth, MS, CCC-SLP, Senior Voice Therapist/Speech Language Pathologist
Amy Jo Goldman, LICSW, Senior Social Worker

The Interventions
- Voice Therapist identified BIDMC social worker with interest in this area
- Researched group therapy process with a social worker in the field
- Determined the ideal group size & format
- Surveyed current patients for needs / interest / availability
- Advertised within BIDMC / Fenway network
- Lead an initial pilot group

The Results/Progress to Date
- Completed pilot group November 4, 2015
- 10 transgender women initially RSVP’d
- 8 / 10 attended the first group

Lessons Learned
There is a great need and desire for this type of group!
- Co-facilitators requested written feedback
- 5/8 provided written feedback
- Feedback highly favorable and encouraging to schedule additional sessions

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next
- Scheduled a monthly group meeting February – June, 2016
- Determined topics and format
- Advertised within the BIDMC and Fenway networks
- Research potential funding sources

Flyer for the group
Finding Your Authentic Voice
A Group Experience for Trans Women

Wednesday November 4, 2015
5:00-6:30 pm

Come and explore your voice in a safe and confidential setting as you receive professional and peer support.

Co-facilitated by:
Amy Jo Goldman, LICSW Senior Social Worker
Barbara F. Worth, MS CCC-SLP Senior Voice Therapist

RSVP required: Amy 617-632-0778
Space is limited to insure a small and comfortable group setting.

For more information, contact:
Barbara Worth, MS, CCC-SLP
bfworth@bidmc.harvard.edu