

On Nov 19, 2019, at 8:39 PM, Jessica Anderson <jessica@jessicamenn.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Eggebrecht,

It was nice meeting you in the elevator on November 13 on the way up to the Board of Health meeting. At the meeting, Mayor Hanna mentioned passing questions on to staff. I don't know if that was only open to members of the committee or to the public as well. I have multiple follow-up questions regarding the proposed resolution and how it would be implemented, how area therapists and doctors would be affected, and how treatment options for cisgender children would be impacted, and I would very much appreciate receiving answers to them. I have already emailed Mayor Hanna and Alderpersons Spears and Fenton. I cannot find contact information on the Appleton website for Doug Nelson, Sally Mielke, or Lee Marie Vogel. I would appreciate it if you would pass this email on to them as well as to whatever staff members would be able to answer these questions.

(1) What are the metrics that would be used to determine if any given procedure, therapy, or intervention is "conversion therapy"?

(2) Who would be determining if something is "conversion therapy", and are there any professional or educational requirements that this person needs to meet in order to be qualified to make such determinations?

(3) How will this law affect the treatment options for cisgender children who go through a period of thinking they are transgender?

(4) Will this law apply to the treatment of children who do not explicitly state they are transgender? Who perhaps only wonder if they might be in the wrong body? Or who wish they were a different sex/gender? If it does apply to those situations, could you please explain what the process would look like for determining if a given therapy is illegal?

(5) This resolution would, obviously, allow a practitioner to be affirming of a child's belief that they are transgender. It would also allow them to remain neutral. Would it allow them to be disaffirming? If so to what extent?

(6) Is the Appleton Board of Health, or anybody in city government, aware of anyone within the city of Appleton practicing "conversion therapy"?

(7) Have the practices of conversion therapists in the greater Fox Cities area been researched? And can you describe what those practices are?

(8) Alderperson Metzler has stated that this resolution is narrowly tailored and does not apply to churches or pastors. Would it apply to stand-alone practices that offer Christian-based therapy for a fee?

(9) Some churches have licensed therapists who serve on staff or volunteer. Would those therapists be affected by this resolution? If they receive a salary from the church? If they receive donations? If the church is paid but not the therapist?

Overall, I'm dissatisfied by how unclear and open-ended this resolution reads. It seems like, were it to be

passed, the actual interpreting and implementing of it would be left up to some unelected city worker who could be very rigid in how they interpret it or very expansive, and the actual text of the resolution offers no checks or balances to a city official who chooses to be overly-broad in their execution of it. I would expect that sort of sloppy legislating from places like California and New Jersey, which are dysfunctional, over-regulated places, but I expect better from Appleton. I do hope that the Board of Health will not move forward with this resolution until it has been thoroughly researched and the board, the Common Council, and the public have a clear understanding of how it will be implemented and enforced and the impact that it will have on therapists and medical practitioners in the area and on the therapy options available to struggling cisgender children.

Thank you very much for your help,

Jessica Anderson