

## Interview Summary – Trans Activism Oral History

Interviewee name:	Jamison Green
Interviewer:	Evan Taylor
Date of Interview:	March 5, 2020

### Summary:

Jamison recalls that Jude Patton had previously been on the WPATH board, however nonetheless, Jamison was told that they lost members when he joined - which he presumes is because he is not as mild-mannered as Jude. Although, Jamison points out that, during his presidency on the board, membership tripled. After his presidency he felt traumatized and it took time to recover, even though he still feels some resentment and anger. He talks about the importance of WPATH and the standard of care to protecting patients from people like John Brown. After joining the Standards committee, he convinced the board to release a statement about medical necessity which was the first time they'd ever released such a statement - and it changed the game in terms of the legal landscape of insurance claims.

He talks about his experience in the corporate, medical, and legal worlds as a communicator and how that prepared him for the advocacy and activism work he did with WPATH, among others. He worked as a legal writing instructor in the 1970s and reflects on the importance of this work in being able to communicate arguments effectively. Jamison talks about wanting to be a writer since he was young and why it's so important in activism and change work. He reflects on his father and the arguments he used to have with him about how "you can't change city hall" and talks about how his gender nonconformity as a child gave him skills to create change as an activist. He talks about the need to overcome shame in change work and particularly for trans men who have been often invisibilized in the perception and understanding of trans people and communities. Jamison recalls education campaigns that he ran with Dallas Denny, including pamphlets, posters, and education presentations. Particular changes he has seen over time are a) the ability of trans people to be out in their workplaces and, b) the inclusion of gender identity issues in the larger gay rights movement, which had been so resisted initially.

Jamison is particularly proud of the work he has done with the Corporate Equality Index and talks about the impact of the commitment to trans rights that was part of the index. He talks about the role of individual human psychology in activism work and understanding anger and fear, as well as the functions of privilege and power within an organization such as WPATH. He expresses concern for the future of his country and the rise in nationalism and ways that gender is still so uncritically constructed in society. He talks feeling motivated to create a better world and the importance of kind interactions with other human beings. He has some sense that he could've accomplished more in life if it wasn't for his gender, but he does feel he has been able to do a lot.