Affirmed female: someone who identifies as female but was labeled male at birth.

Affirmed male: someone who identifies as male but was labeled female at birth.

FTM/Transman/Transguy: female-to-male transgender person.

Gender dysphoria: the feeling that one’s gender does not match the sex that was assigned at birth, and an unhappiness with his or her body because of this. This is a new diagnosis in the upcoming DSM-5 (Diagnostic Manual of the American Psychiatric Association). Not all transgender people feel dysphoric, and many find that pathologizing transpeople with a psychiatric diagnosis is unhelpful.

Gender expression: the external representation of one’s gender, usually expressed through feminine or masculine behaviors and signals such as clothing, hair, etc.

Gender identity: one’s internal sense of who one is; being a woman or man, girl or boy, or between or beyond these genders.

Gender identity disorder: the (controversial) diagnosis often used for transpeople by the American Psychiatric Association. This diagnosis will change to gender dysphoria (see above) in May 2013.

GLBT or LGBT: Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender. There may be additional letters such as Q (queer or questioning) or A (allies).

MTF/Transwoman: male-to-female transgender person.

Queer: a catchall word for those who are GLBT, questioning gender or sexuality, or who do not fit into the heterosexual or male-female binary world. Many people are still sensitive about the word, and it is most often used by younger generations because it has such a negative history.

Stealth: a term for a transperson who lives as the gender that he or she transitioned to and does not reveal his or her transgender status.

Transgender: today, an umbrella term for many different identities. People who are transgender have a gender identity, sex, and/or gender expression that does not line up with the sex they were labeled with at birth.

Transsexual: a person who identifies as the opposite sex or that which he or she was assigned at birth. Most people use this synonymously with the term transgender.

Transvestite: a term that has fallen out of favor and has been replaced by cross-dresser, to describe one who dress in clothes typical of the opposite sex but does not necessarily live as that sex.