

Resource Guides and Community Building for LGBTQIA+ Graduate Students

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Background and Motivation

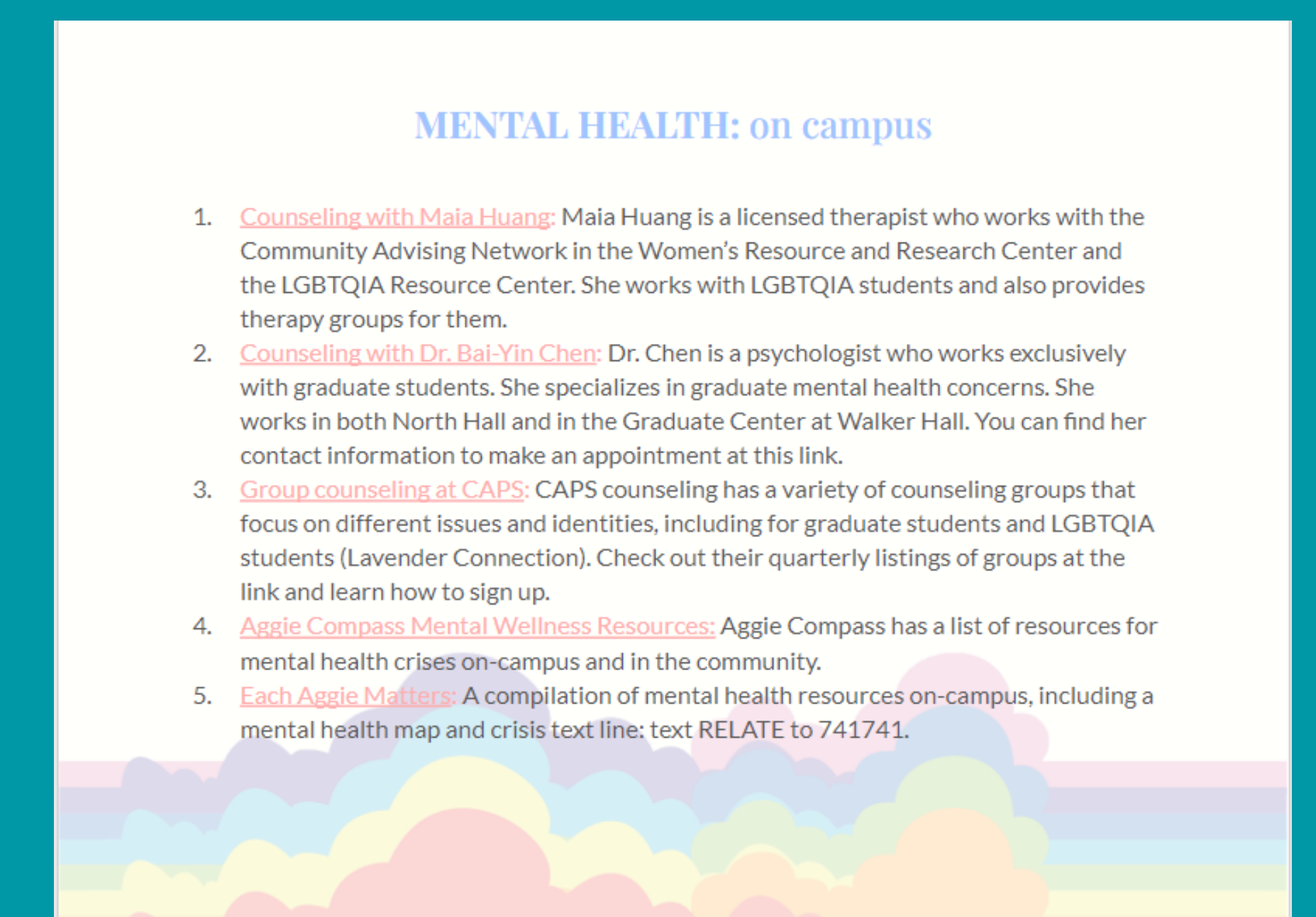
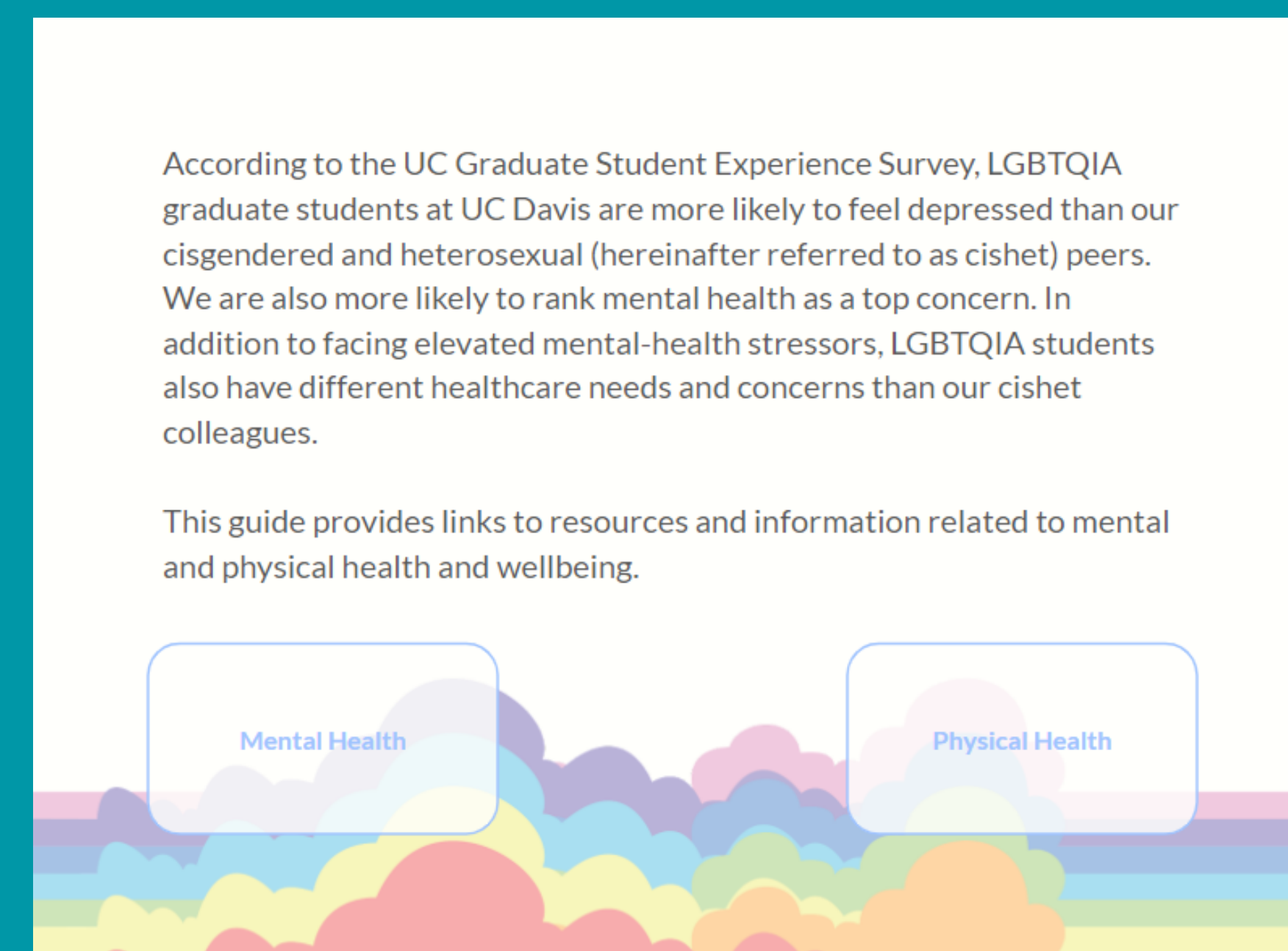
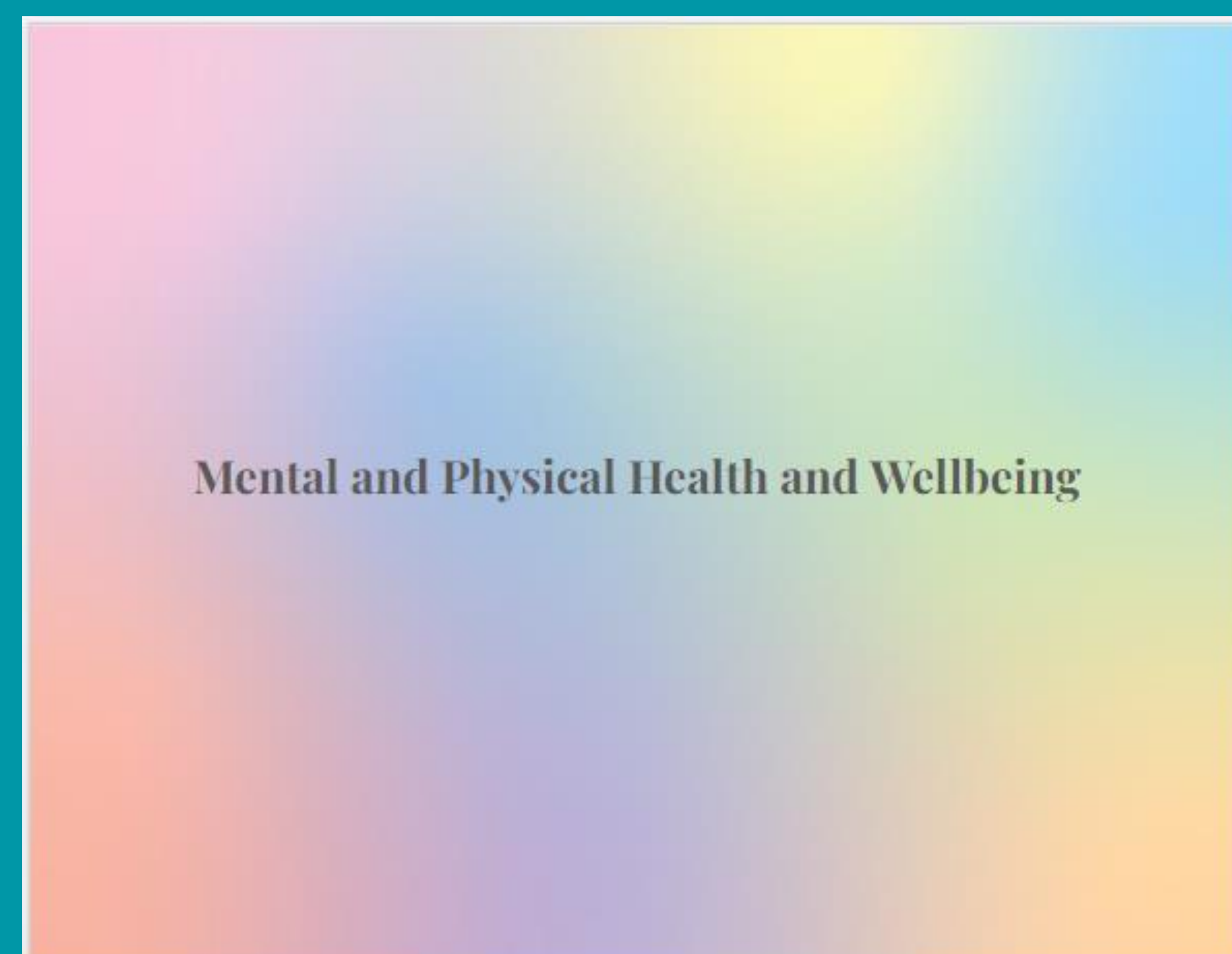
- In a 2020 University of California survey (the "UC Graduate Student Experience Survey"), 14% of UC Davis graduate students who responded identified as LGBTQIA, and LGBTQIA graduate students face unique challenges relative to their cisgender and heterosexual peers. Despite this, there are not many resources on the UC Davis campus available specifically for LGBTQIA graduate students. Although there is an LGBTQIA Center on campus, many of the Center's resources cater to undergraduates. As a result, graduate students may feel uncomfortable accessing these programs.
- LGBTQIA graduate students may have a more difficult time than their peers in accessing and affording basic needs, accessing safe and affirming mental and physical healthcare, navigating academic relationships, and building community.

Project Objectives

- Due to a lack of centralized information and resources for LGBTQIA graduate students, we saw a need to develop a series of resource guides specifically catering to LGBTQIA graduate students at UC Davis. The goal of these resources was to develop easy-to-read guides that LGBTQIA students can use to find support, build community, and navigate graduate student life at UC Davis.
- These resource guides will be shared on the LGBTQIA Resource Center's website and will include links and descriptions of resources, programs, and community groups on-campus and in the local area.
- The guides were designed to be shared and modified in the future as more resources are developed.

Methods and Outputs

- Fall 2021/Winter 2022: we hosted Zoom-based interviews with people across campus about existing resources and programs. Interviewees included Graduate Studies personnel, the LGBTQIA Resource Center (and their QT lab), and UC Davis Health and Counseling services.
- Winter/Spring 2022: we created a series of draft resource guides based on our interviews and online research, and we worked with undergraduate design major Santhoshi Ramanathan to create attractive and accessible designs for the guides. Distribution of the guides is being accomplished in collaboration with Graduate Studies and the LGBTQIA Resource Center. Additionally, we started an LGBTQIA Graduate Student Slack Channel to be used for future community-building.



Future Directions and Impact

- Our hope is that the guides and Slack channel that we created will serve as a resource and tool for LGBTQIA graduate students at UC Davis well beyond this PFTF project.
- In the future we hope this information will be incorporated into UC Davis' Graduate Orientation, Graduate Studies Academic Services, on-campus counseling services, and faculty mentorship training modules.
- We also hope that this project will inspire more specific programs and resources tailored to the LGBTQIA graduate student experience.

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