

Chaiya Mohanty, Member-At-Large (She, Her)

While always an LGBTQ ally, Chaiya Mohanty Ortiz never imagined she would be involved in advocacy until the day her eldest child came out to her as transgender. Advocating for the LGBTQ community has become a passion for Chaiya. Chaiya is on the board of TGEA and previously was the Clerk. She is also the facilitator for the Second Fridays parent and guardians group and the TGEA Play Group. Outside of TGEA, Chaiya is on the FCPS Pride board, is a

member of Ally Parents, and co-facilitates a group of queer-identifying youth. She is also on FCPS' FLECAC (Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Council) committee, representing the Springfield district. Chaiya taught Spanish (primarily in higher education) for 22 years, most recently with Northern Virginia Community College. She is currently employed as a Community Health Worker for the Fairfax County Health Department and plans to enter graduate school to study counseling. She hopes to become a therapist and specialize in children and adolescents, the LGBTQ community, and immigrant communities. She has lived in Northern Virginia since 2009.

As she is bilingual, Chaiya is available to give presentations in Spanish. Cómo es bilingüe, Chaiya está disponible para dar presentaciones en español.

She enjoys traveling, photography, and learning new languages. She says she would like to be a polyglot when she grows up..