



National Workgroup to Address the Needs of Children and Youth Who Are LGBTQI2-S and Their Families

~Affirming LGBTQI2-S youth and families through full inclusion~

Biweekly Update, December 12, 2014



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SAMHSA
Resource

Affordable Care Act Enrollment Assistance for LGBT Communities: A Resource for Behavioral Health Providers

This **briefing document** is part of a toolkit designed to help behavioral health providers assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in enrolling in health insurance plans. Many LGBT people in the U.S. lack insurance coverage for behavioral health services and could benefit from enrollment support. SAMHSA also has a **PowerPoint presentation available** and a consumer-oriented **Frequently Asked Questions brochure** to supplement this toolkit.

News

District of Columbia Council Passes Groundbreaking

Bill to Protect LGBT Youth from Conversion Therapy

On December 2, the District of Columbia Council unanimously approved a bill that will protect LGBT youth from the dangerous and discredited practice of conversion therapy. When signed into law, Washington, D.C. will become the third jurisdiction—behind California and New Jersey—to pass legislation protecting LGBT youth from practices that are known to cause severe depression and even suicide. Read more about this on the [National Center for Lesbian Rights website](#).

Resource

Communicating Effectively and Professionally with LGBTI Offenders

This **course** from the National Institute of Corrections provides strategies for communicating respectfully with all adult offenders, with a specific focus on LGBTI offenders.

Web Article

The Unintended Consequences Of Cultural Blindspots In Health Care

This **article** addresses doctors' unconscious biases about sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, and how it can adversely affect their treatment of LGBT patients. New national guidelines from the Association of American Medical Colleges are referenced.

Journal Article


Gender Dysphoria and Co-Occurring Autism Spectrum Disorders: Review, Case Examples, and Treatment Considerations

The challenges in providing psychotherapy to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who also are struggling with their gender identity are explored in two case studies of high-functioning persons with diagnoses of ASD and gender dysphoria (GD). The authors describe the unique complexities presented by these two diagnoses and offer suggested techniques for helping these individuals explore their gender identities in an article in *LGBT Health*, a peer-reviewed journal from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers. **The article is available free on the [LGBT Health website](#) until January 2, 2015.**

February 2015 Conference

Reminder: Second Annual Time to Thrive Conference in Portland, Oregon

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation in partnership with the National Education Association and the American Counseling Association present Time To THRIVE, the 2nd annual national conference to promote safety, inclusion and well-being for LGBTQ youth...everywhere! Time to THRIVE



will take place over Presidents' Day Weekend, February 13-15, 2015 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, in Portland, Oregon. Other conference partners include organizations such as the American Institutes for Research and the Child Welfare League of America. Read more information about the conference and register for it **online**.

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Who are LGBTQI2-S and Their Families