



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, February 20, 2015

Workgroup Chair, Captain Andrew Hunt, M.S.W., Public Health Advisor, **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**, Center for Mental Health Services, Child, Adolescent and Family Branch, andrew.hunt@samhsa.hhs.gov

Workgroup Coordinator, Jeffrey Poirier, Ph.D., Principal Researcher, **American Institutes for Research**, jpoirier@air.org

Mary Beth Klotz and the National Association of School Psychologists

Monthly Workgroup Member Highlight

Mary Beth Klotz, Ph.D., has been a member of the workgroup since 2012, representing the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) as the Director of Educational Practice. As the staff liaison assigned to several of NASP's Advocacy Committees, Dr. Klotz works closely with a team of leaders and staff members who collaborate to create important association policies, publications, resources, and professional development opportunities, including those that address the needs of LGBTQ youth. An additional area of interest and focus for Dr. Klotz is supporting NASP's diversity initiatives that promote cultural awareness and culturally competent practice within the field of school psychology.

The following items developed within the last year, offer examples of NASP resources and advocacy activities that address the needs of LGBTQ youth and families:

- **Position Statement: Safe Schools for Transgender and Gender Diverse Students**

- **American Psychological Association (APA) and NASP Joint Resolution on Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity in Children and Adolescents in Schools**
- A series of articles in NASP's professional newspaper, **Communiqué**, about gender and differences of sex development (also known as intersex conditions).
- Support of key pieces of federal state legislation such as the 2015 Student Nondiscrimination Act; and state bans on use of reparative therapy with minors.

One of NASP's specific goals is to enhance alliances with key national groups such as the National Workgroup. NASP appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the SAMHSA staff and other partners on the workgroup on efforts to enhance the educational opportunities and mental health supports for children and youth



who are LGBTQI2-S and their families.

News Article

It Really Might 'Get Better' for LGBT Teens

This The Atlantic [article](#) explores recent research on the experiences and behavioral health outcomes of a racially diverse group of 231 LGBT Chicago-area residents between the ages of 16 and 20. Among its findings, the study notes that as these young people grew from adolescence into adulthood, their average levels of reported psychological distress and victimization tended to drop steadily.

New Report

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: Beyond 4 Walls and a Roof: Addressing Homelessness Among Transgender Youth

The Center for American Process has just released this report

compiling existing research to provide an overview of the demographics of transgender youth experiencing homelessness, their experiences while homeless, and the factors that contribute to homelessness and housing instability among this community. It also outlines recommendations for federal, state, and local policymakers to meet the housing needs of transgender young people and to improve outcomes for those experiencing homelessness. Access it [here](#).

Conference **2015 Gender Spectrum Conference and Professionals' Symposium**

This year's **Gender Spectrum** Conference and Professionals' Symposium will be held on July 10 and 11 at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, California. This year's theme: Sharing Our Stories.

Research **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: Typologies of Social Support and Associations with Mental Health Outcomes Among LGBT Youth (*Temporary LGBT Health Open Access Article*)**

Excerpt from Article Abstract:

LGBT youth show increased risk for a number of negative mental health outcomes, which research has linked to minority stressors such as victimization. Further, social support promotes positive mental health outcomes for LGBT youth, and different sources of social support show differential relationships with mental health outcomes. However, little is known about how combinations of different sources of support impact mental health. Research findings suggest the combinations of sources of support LGBT youth receive are related to their mental health. Access the article [here](#).

Archive of Updates **Missed a Biweekly Update? They Are Archived!**

If you missed recent workgroup updates (or a future one), you can access them online in our [2015 update archive](#).

NOTE: If you are not a member of the National Workgroup, you can receive these biweekly updates by sending an email to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.AIR.ORG with a blank subject line. In the body of the email, write **SUBSCRIBE LGBTQ_Youth** and send the email.

