



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, March 20, 2015

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New Spanish Resource

Una guía para entender, apoyar y alentar a los niños, jóvenes y familias LGBTQI2-S

We are pleased to share that *A Guide for Understanding, Supporting, and Affirming LGBTQI2-S Children, Youth, and Families*, which National Workgroup members wrote, has been translated into Spanish. This guide provides information for service providers, educators, allies, and community members who seek to support the health and well-being of children and youth who are LGBTQI2-S and their families. It can support efforts to promote full, affirming inclusion of LGBTQI2-S youth and families in communities and provider settings (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, schools). Access the **English** and **Spanish** versions of the guide online; both are Section 508 compliant.

New Resource

Summary of LGBT Youth Key Terms and Concepts

The Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP), which is composed of representatives from 18 federal agencies that support programs and services focusing on youth, has released a one-page summary of sexual orientation and gender definitions. This one-pager (attached and Section 508 compliant) summarizes information from its **LGBT youth topic section on IWGYP's website**.

Monthly Workgroup Member Highlight

Ellen Kahn and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation



Ellen Kahn, M.S.S., has been a member of the workgroup since 2013, representing the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRCF). As Director of the Children, Youth and Families Program, Ellen has a leadership role in developing educational programs and training initiatives, and forging strategic partnerships focused on improving the everyday lives of LGBT youth and families.

Through innovative training and direct consultation with schools, child welfare agencies and other service providers, HRCF's Children, Youth and Families Program creates welcoming, affirming and supportive environments for LGBT prospective parents, LGBT-led families, and LGBT youth.

The program's projects and key resources include:

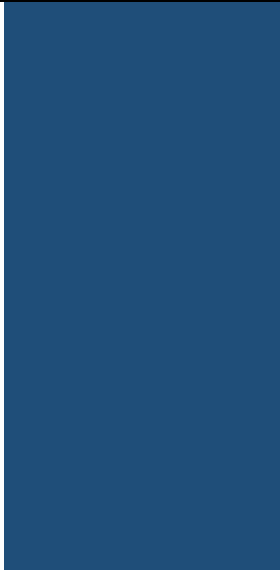
- **All Children – All Families Project**, which trains child welfare professionals to improve agency policies and practices around LGBT foster and adoptive families, as well as LGBT children and youth. Resources include the **Promising Practices Guide** for successfully engaging LGBT prospective parents, the **Guide to Supporting & Serving LGBTQ Youth**, and the project's **expert training** and the **Agency Self-Assessment**.
- **Welcoming Schools Project**, which offers professional development and curriculum for schools to create learning environments that embrace family diversity, avoid gender stereotyping and end bullying. Resources for K-5 educators, administrators and community members include the **Welcoming Schools Starter Kit**, **professional development videos**, and **lesson plans**.
- **Youth Well-Being Project**, which is anchored by the annual **Time to Thrive conference**, and promotes safety, inclusion and well-being for LGBT youth. Resources include the project's groundbreaking research reports on LGBT youth ages 13 to 17: **Growing Up LGBT in America**. Includes specific reports on **coming out**, **Latin@ LGBT youth**, **bisexual youth**, and **gender-expansive youth**.

SAMHSA Webinar

Two-Spirit Tuesdays: Learning Community - Part I

The SAMHSA Tribal Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Center invites you to join a webinar for the Two-Spirit Learning Community. The topic is "Mending the Broken Sacred Circle: A Historical Overview of the Dislocation of Two-Spirit People-Part I."

This webinar, the first in a three-part series, will introduce the history of



Two-Spirit people in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The webinar will cover an overview of this population's displacement, historical and current trauma, and past and present dissemination, and will discuss the impact of these issues on Two-Spirit roles in tribal communities.

Register [here](#).

DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 1:00 Eastern

Presenter: Harlan Pruden (First Nations Cree), Co-Founder, Northeast Two-Spirit Society

Facilitators:

Gary Neumann, (Confederated Kootenai & Salish Tribe), TTA Coordinator, SAMHSA Tribal TTA Center

Isabelle Walker (Nez Perce Tribe), TTA Coordinator, SAMHSA Tribal TTA Center



Event

Reminder: Day of Silence 2015

Every year hundreds of thousands of students across the world take a vow of silence on a Friday in April. Register now and encourage others to participate in the GLSEN Day of Silence on April 17. [Learn more and get involved.](#)



Research

Family Acceptance Project Research Findings

New research on the school experiences of LGBT youth from the **Family Acceptance Project** and published in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* has found that:

- LGBT students experienced school victimization regardless of whether they attempted to conceal their identity or openly disclosed their LGBT identity. Thus hiding was not successful, on average, in protecting LGBT students from school victimization and bullying.
- LGBT young adults who tried to hide their sexual orientation and gender identity at school reported more victimization and ultimately, higher levels of depression than LGBT students who came out or were open about their LGBT identity at school. Feeling that they had to hide their sexual orientation and gender identity was associated with depression among LGBT young adults.
- Being out about one's LGBT identity at school has strong associations with self-esteem and life satisfaction and with low levels of depression in young adulthood.

The attached press release has more information about this research.



News

Oregon House Passes Legislation Banning

Conversion Therapy

Legislators in Oregon are progressing on a bill that would ban “conversion therapy” for LGBT youth younger than 18. This harmful practice attempts to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity. California, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., have passed bills banning this practice, with lawmakers in a dozen other states considering similar legislation. Read more about this [here](#).

Accessing Updates

Missed a Biweekly Update?

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

Want to receive these updates and aren’t already? Address 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.

Visit the Workgroup online:

[National Workgroup to Address the Needs of Children and Youth Who are LGBTQI2-S and Their Families](#)