



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~

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Research

A Longitudinal Study of Bullying of Sexual-Minority Youth

Using three waves of data from the Healthy Passages longitudinal study of public-school students in and around Birmingham, Alabama; Houston; and Los Angeles County, researchers found that sexual minority youth experienced higher levels across grades than other children did. The researchers note that “our findings underscore the importance of clinicians routinely screening youth for bullying experiences, remaining vigilant about indicators of possible bullying (e.g., unexplained trauma and school avoidance), and creating a safe environment in which youth feel comfortable discussing their sexuality.” Access the full article, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, [online](#).

Workgroup Member News

Workgroup Coordinator to Receive Award

On May 21 workgroup coordinator Jeffrey Poirier will receive the DC Center for the LGBT Community Youth Working Group’s *2015 DC Center Youth Advocate of the Year Award*. DC Councilmember Jim Graham and DC Alliance of Youth Advocates Executive Director Maggie Riden were honored with this award in 2014. You can learn about the event on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1324661347545499>. All are welcome to join the event if you are in the DC area.

Workgroup Member

Workgroup Member Highlight: Jama Shelton from the True Colors Fund

Highlight

Jama Shelton, LMSW, PhD has been a member of the workgroup for the past two years, representing The True Colors Fund. As Deputy Executive Director, Jama oversees all programmatic work of the True Colors Fund, which focuses on ending LGBT youth homelessness. Driven by core principles of innovation and collaboration and the notion that *everyone* has a role to play in ending LGBT youth homelessness, the True Colors Fund focuses on 5 key program areas: public education and engagement, advocacy and public policy, research, youth collaboration, and community building. Key True Colors Fund projects and resources include:



The **True Inclusion Assessment Tool** enables service providers to assess their current level of inclusive and affirming practices in a non-judgmental manner. The assessment process consists of three parts: (1) An organizational representative (or committee) uses the tool to assess the inclusivity of the organization's policies, practices, physical space, and programs. (2) Each employee completes an anonymous survey to assess their own individual practices, including their comfort level and confidence in working with LGBT youth. (3) Young people who access services at the organization fill out an anonymous survey to gauge their perceptions and experiences regarding LGBT inclusivity in the organization.

The **Forty to None Network** is a cross-sector collective of individuals who are working to address LGBT youth homelessness, or whose work has the potential to impact the lives of LGBT youth experiencing homelessness. Forty To None Network membership benefits include first looks at best practices, research and fundraising resources, and legislative and policy updates. Members will also share case studies, innovative models, and top headlines from the field, as well as information about upcoming in person and virtual events.

Incorporating youth voice and experience into our work is imperative! The **40 of the Forty** list and the **True Fellowship Program** provide LGBT youth who have experienced homelessness the opportunity to inform and participate in our work. The 2014 40 of the Forty list highlighted a diverse group of 40 young people from 15 different U.S. states and Washington D.C. The youth nominated are invited to apply for the True Fellowship, a program that trains LGBT youth to work alongside an organization in their home communities towards our shared mission of ending LGBT youth homelessness. Nominate a young person today!

National Coalition for Homeless Youth (NCHY): Launched in the summer of 2014 in partnership with the National Network for Youth, NCHY's primary purpose is to facilitate communication and collaboration among its membership in an effort to push for and ensure a strong federal response and plan to address youth homelessness.

Resource

Protective and Promotive Factors for Families

with Gender Non-conforming Children and Youth

The Center for the Study of Social Policy's "**Policy for Results**" blog has a **post** with information about the benefits of the use of protective and promotive factors for gender non-conforming children and youth and their families. Integrating protective and promotive factors into work with youth and families, communities and programs can create environments that protect against risk factors and poor outcomes and promote strong and optimal development for these children.

Conference

Reminder: Gender Spectrum Conference, July 10 & 11

The registration website for the 2015 Gender Spectrum Conference for youth and families and the Professionals' Symposium has launched. The latter is ideal for professionals that work with gender-expansive youth and/or their families. Participants will take part in programming and activities, and receive resources designed to build their capacity for working with families and young people around issues of gender. Learn more about the conference **here**.

Accessing Updates

Missed a Biweekly Update?

If you missed a workgroup update, you can access them online in our **2015 update archive**.

Want to receive these updates and aren't already? Send an email to **LISTSERV@LISTSERV.AIR.ORG** with a blank subject line. In the body of the email, write **SUBSCRIBE LGBTQ_Youth**.

Have suggestions for future updates? Email **jpoirier@air.org**.

Visit the Workgroup online:

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