



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, May 29, 2015

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Workgroup News

Workgroup Convenes 8th Annual Meeting

On May 27 and 28, workgroup members convened at SAMHSA's offices for the workgroup's 8th annual meeting. The workgroup reviewed its progress over the past year, discussed emerging issues and needs in the field, and identified priorities for the coming two years as the workgroup approaches its 10-year anniversary. Look for more information about the workgroup's priorities and how to get involved in future biweekly updates.

SAMHSA Brown Bag

Bisexuality and Behavioral Health Brown Bag

Thursday, June 11, 2015
12:00 – 1:00 PM Eastern
888-469-6544, passcode 344-7909

Did you know that there are as many self-identified bisexual people as there are gays and lesbians combined? In addition, research shows that bisexual people have poorer behavioral health than monosexual (lesbian, gay, and heterosexual) people. Amy Andre, a public health advisor at SAMHSA and co-author of *Bisexual Health: An Introduction*, will cover the latest findings on the unique behavioral health profile of this population. Non-federal employees can join this brown bag by phone. For more info or for the PowerPoint presentation, email amy.andre@samhsa.hhs.gov.

Webinar

#BornPerfect

Wednesday, June 10, 2015
2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern

Samantha Ames, National Center for Lesbian Rights staff attorney and coordinator of the #BornPerfect Campaign to end conversion therapy, will give an overview of so-called “conversion therapy” and provide tools for attendees to become advocates to end these dangerous and discredited practices. She will discuss what conversion therapy is, the latest research on why it is so damaging to LGBTQ people, and the stories of survivors. She will discuss what is happening at the state and federal levels, what to expect in the coming year, and the constitutional litigation that results from these activities. This discussion will include various developments in these campaigns, including suits brought to block implementation, the role of gender identity, coordination with diverse partners, religious vs. mental health providers, and some of the ways our opponents push back.

Register for this get R.E.A.L. webinar [here](#).

Webinar

beFIERCE

Tuesday, June 16, 2015
2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern

Our Space, located in Hayward, California, is an LGBTQ youth community center that works in partnership with LGBTQ youth, adults and allies to create safe and affirming space where LGBTQ youth can socialize, build community, develop leadership skills and access culturally relevant mental health services. This webinar will provide participants with information about beFIERCE, a new publication that invites you to actively engage in supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) foster youth. A consistent theme voiced by LGBTQ foster youth is that they often feel invisible to their service providers—that service providers talk only about their symptoms and their behaviors instead of seeing their full humanity. beFIERCE! was intentionally created to support providers in learning how to take a holistic view of LGBTQ foster youth. beFIERCE! is here to help you shift your frame so you see LGBTQ foster youth as whole and complex, and honor and appreciate the intersections of their identities and experiences.

Register for this get R.E.A.L. webinar [here](#).

Webinar

getR.E.A.L Allegheny

Tuesday, June 23, 2015
2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern

The Allegheny Department of Human Services (DHS) is partnering with the Center for the Study of Social Policy to implement the Guidelines for

Managing Information Related to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression of Children in Child Welfare Systems. These guidelines were published in partnership with Family Builders By Adoption, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Legal Services for Children and the Center for the Study of Social Policy and can be accessed at www.cssp.org.

getR.E.A.L Allegheny was launched in July of 2013 and this webinar will provide participants with information about the work completed during the first two years of the project. Presenters will talk about the progress, challenges, successes and opportunities that this work affords the children and families served by the Allegheny DHS.

Register for this get R.E.A.L. webinar [here](#).

Web Article

10 Reasons Why This 7-Year-Old Transgender Activist Will Melt Your Heart

This Huffington Post article shares about Avery Jackson, a **7-year-old transgender girl, who** “is blowing the Internet away with her amazing story of transition.” Read the full article and access Avery’s video [here](#).

News

Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia, Adds Gender Identity to Nondiscrimination Policy

With approximately 182,000 students, the nation’s 11th largest school district has added “gender identity” to its nondiscrimination policy. Read more about this [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](#)