



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, July 25, 2014

SAMHSA WEBISODE

Supporting Families With LGBTQ Youth: August 11, 2014, at 3 p.m. EDT

Be sure to watch the next Webisode of KSOC-TV, "Supporting Families With LGBTQ Youth," on August 11, 2014, at 3 p.m. EDT. The Webisode will explore ways to provide effective resources and supports for families and guardians of LGBTQ youth. Research shows family acceptance significantly reduces the risk of suicide among young people who self-identify as LGBTQ.

Did you miss the most recent installment of KSOC-TV? No problem! Watch the **Webisode** recorded live on Thursday, July 17, at the 2014 Georgetown University Training Institutes, to learn about the unique strategies communities are using to effectively support young adults with behavioral health challenges.

CONFERENCE

Human Right Campaign Foundation Time to Thrive Conference

Time to THRIVE provides a "one-stop-shop" opportunity to build awareness and cultural competency, learn current and emerging best practices, and gather resources from leading experts and national organizations in the field. Exciting keynote speakers and special guests will be announced soon! Access the conference flyer [online](#).

RESOURCE

New NCCWE Curriculum — Reaching Higher: Increasing Competency in Practice with LGBTQ Youth in Child Welfare Systems

The National Center for Child Welfare Excellence (NCCWE) is pleased to announce the release of their new curriculum, Reaching Higher: Increasing Competency in Practice with LGBTQ Youth in Child Welfare Systems, which focuses on improving service delivery to LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) youth and their families. This full day curriculum aims to increase the competence and enhance the skill of child welfare staff working with LGBTQ youth in all types of out-of-home situations. The curriculum consists of eight modules that provide information on the importance of improving child welfare practice with LGBTQ youth, including the impact and scope of LGBTQ youth in the foster care system; help participants to assess their own values and beliefs to identify strategies for balancing personal views with professional responsibilities; and increase competency in using accurate and culturally appropriate terminology. The modules also guide child welfare workers in assessing, supporting, and affirming young people in the process of “coming out”; provide effective engagement strategies for working with LGBTQ foster youth and families; describe strategies for advocating for LGBTQ youth in their homes, schools, foster care settings, and communities; and help participants identify ways that they can increase their knowledge about and competence in working with LGBTQ youth and families. (2014)

Facilitator’s Guide: <http://www.nccwe.org/downloads/LGBTQ-CaseworkerFacilitatorGuide.pdf>

Participant Handouts: <http://www.nccwe.org/downloads/LGBTQ-CaseworkerParticipantHandouts.pdf>

RESOURCE

New NCCWE Curriculum — Reaching Higher: A Curriculum for Foster/Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers Caring for LGBTQ Youth

NCCWE has ALSO announced the release of their new curriculum, Reaching Higher: A Curriculum for Foster/Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers Caring for LGBTQ Youth. This curriculum was

developed to help foster, kinship, adoptive, and guardianship parents enhance their skills in providing direct care for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) youth. Designed for full day facilitation, this curriculum consists of nine modules that will: provide participants with information about the importance of improving child welfare practice with and care for LGBTQ youth, including the impact and scope of LGBTQ youth in the foster care system; help participants to assess their own values and beliefs to identify strategies for balancing personal views with professional/caregiver responsibilities; and, increase competency in using accurate and culturally appropriate terminology. The modules also provide participants with guidance on effective strategies for caring for, supporting, and engaging LGBTQ youth (and their families), as well as assessing, supporting, and affirming young people in the process of “coming out”; describe how to manage day to day issues that arise in the foster/adoptive home when caring for LGBTQ youth; present strategies for advocating for LGBTQ youth in their homes, schools, foster/adoptive care settings, and communities; and help participants identify ways to increase their own learning and competence in engaging with LGBTQ youth.

Facilitator’s Guide: <http://www.nccwe.org/downloads/LGBTQ-FosterParentFacilitatorGuide.pdf>

Participant Handouts: http://www.nccwe.org/downloads/LGBTQ-FosterParents_Participant_Handouts.pdf

New York Announces Multi-Agency State Effort to Address LGBT Disparities: Press Release from Governor Cuomo’s Office

New York becomes first state in the nation with coordinated statewide strategy to improve LGBT data collection

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that New York State is undertaking a coordinated, multi-agency effort to strengthen data collection for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) New Yorkers. Outlined in the first report by the State’s Interagency LGBT Task Force, this statewide effort to include sexual orientation and gender identity information in data collections will allow the state to better tailor services to meet LGBT needs, ultimately improving the health and lives of thousands of New Yorkers. This effort makes New

NEWS

York the first state in the nation to employ a coordinated strategy to develop its data collection procedures for the LGBT community.

“New York State has a long history of advancing progressive ideals, and today we are continuing to lead the nation by identifying new ways to improve services and better meet the needs of the LGBT community,” Governor Cuomo said. “By being more inclusive with how state agencies monitor the demographics of those they serve, we can address health and financial disparities, safety concerns, and a myriad of other issues that impact LGBT New Yorkers. This is another step forward for an important community in New York, and our administration will continue standing up for all New Yorkers, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The Institute of Medicine in its March 2011 report, *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*, emphasized the need for collection of gender identity and sexual orientation data. Due to current limited data collection, it can be difficult to identify the specific nature of health and other disparities in the LGBT community and formulate effective means of addressing them.

Eight state agencies currently collect or are updating their systems to collect LGBT demographic information in their clinical and survey instruments: the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, the Department of Health, the Office for the Aging, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the Office of Children and Family Services, and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. The Taskforce is working with all agencies to identify additional appropriate systems to update in 2015, and will ensure agencies are sharing resources and best practices in training and implementing these changes.

RESEARCH

Williams Institute Research Report Indicates LGB Parents and Their Children Functioning Well Despite Confronting Heterosexism

Despite confronting heterosexism in a variety of social contexts—including healthcare, legal and school systems—lesbian, gay and



bisexual (LGB) parents and their children are functioning quite well. Studies that have compared lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents in terms of mental health, perceived parenting stress, and parenting competence have found few differences based on family structure. Research findings have shown that outcomes for psychological adjustment, academic achievement, and social functioning for children born into LGB-parent families do not vary significantly from those in different-sex parent families. You can access this [research report](#) online.

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