



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, September 19, 2014

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

Workgroup Member Update

Update from Workgroup Member Dillon Turman

Many thanks to Dillon for sharing the following community update:

Cherokee Nation HERO Project is a brand new system of care in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. For those of you that were in attendance at Georgetown Institutes, you may or may not have come across our name. Our program consists of multi-faceted services aimed to holistically provide for children's and families within our community and surrounding areas. Before I was asked to be a cabinet member and partner in the youth advocacy aspect of things, I had no clue what systems of care was. After I began to learn a bit more about it, it was shocking to me that this type of 'wraparound' care was not already implemented in departments and organizations worldwide. It also helped me understand that silo mentalities are very real.

With that being said, I am happy to tell you that HERO Project is announcing not one youth group but multiple youth group's to spread across each county within our tribe's 14-county jurisdiction.

Last week, the youth the group that I am heading met to discuss a name for our group (which has yet to be decided), t-shirt ideas, social media

outreach opportunities and engagement. One issue that we came across specifically is that there is currently no large pool of opportunity here for youth to get involved in or spend their free time; we mostly just have a skating rink and a movie theater.

Therefore, it is one of many personal goals that our youth workgroup works to recruit others that possess the ability to make a difference and provide them with an anchor point so that they may invest their time and energy in making change and doing what they love.

I am truly grateful that I am able to be a part of such an enriching experience. An experience that not only breaks down the walls of harsh stigmas and misunderstandings that have haunted us for so long within our communities, but also an experience that shows some youth that have never known true care and comfort in their lives that we are here for them as the shoulder to lean on in their times of need and an outlet for their innovations, their purpose and their endeavors.

I look forward to providing all those at SAMSHA and this wonderful workgroup with updates regarding Cherokee Nation HERO Project, and I look forward to seeing the actions of our program seed throughout and manifest itself into the greatest change we've ever known.

NEW Resource

Building Support for Schools that Openly Affirm the Diversity of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

This new, easy-to-use **toolkit** from GroundSpark's Respect for All Project will help teachers, administrators, and community members talk about inclusive schools, persuade decision makers, and connect with others in their area for support. The toolkit is based on years of on-the-ground experience that our "rapid response" network has accumulated from supporting school personnel who are grappling with these challenges.

The free guide contains talking points, how-to tips, and worksheets to help encourage and support schools to address stigma related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Bullying Resource

Building Capacity to Reduce Bullying - Workshop Summary

Bullying- long tolerated as just a part of growing up- finally has been recognized as a substantial and preventable health problem. Bullying is associated with anxiety, depression, poor school performance, and future delinquent behavior among its targets, and reports regularly surface of youth who have committed suicide at least in part because of intolerable bullying. Bullying can also have harmful effects on children who bully, on bystanders, on school climates, and on society at large. Bullying can occur at all ages, from before elementary school to after

high school. It can take the form of physical violence, verbal attacks, social isolation, spreading rumors, or cyberbullying.

On April 9-10, 2014, the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Research Council (NRC) held a 2-day workshop titled "Building Capacity to Reduce Bullying and Its Impact on Youth Across the Lifecourse." The purpose of this workshop was to bring together representatives of key sectors involved in bullying prevention to identify the conceptual models and interventions that have proven effective in decreasing bullying, to examine models that could increase protective factors and mitigate the negative effects of bullying, and to explore the appropriate roles of different groups in preventing bullying. You can access the full report [online](#).

Online Course

Creating a Safe Space for Teens

The Administration for Children & Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau's (FYSB) Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program is offering a new online course on working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. The training aims to ensure that pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease prevention messages are inclusive of all teens. Topics covered include definitions of terms related to sexual orientation and gender identity and specific challenges faced by LGBTQ youth.

Free registration is required. For more information, visit the [website for FYSB's National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth](#).

Video

Janet Miller, Middle School Teacher, YouTube Video


Janet Miller, a teacher at Hoover Middle School, was blown away by district-wide statistics that revealed the risk of violence that transgendered youth experience. Moved by the statistics, Miller stated to her colleagues that it was their responsibility to create a safe learning environment for ALL students and that any type of discrimination should not be tolerated. She started a GSA at the Middle School where she teaches. Access the video [online](#).

Conference

Gender Conference East, November 14 & 15

Gender Spectrum is very excited to be partnering with PFLAG Howard County-MD and the Gender & Family Project of the Ackerman Institute to create [Gender Conference East](#).

Join families and professionals for a fun and informative conference dedicated solely to the needs of children and youth across the gender spectrum!



Friday, November 14, 2014 - **Professional Symposium**

Saturday, November 15, 2014 - **Family and Youth Conference**

Baltimore, MD at the North Baltimore Plaza Hotel

The Professional Symposium is dedicated to helping education, legal, medical, and mental health professionals better understand and serve transgender and gender-expansive children and youth. Join local and national leaders for in-depth exploration of best practices for ensuring every young person is safe and supported, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

The Family and Youth Conference will feature a broad array of workshops and supportive spaces for parents; separate programming for teens, tweens, and kids; various community-building opportunities; and numerous resources to help attendees support the gender diversity of all children and youth. We will also have a number of optional activities planned on the evening of November 14 for families and youth arriving early.

To learn more about our gathering, please visit

www.genderconferenceeast.org or email

info@genderconferenceeast.org.

National Workgroup to Address the Needs of Children and Youth
Who are LGBTQI2-S and Their Families