



## 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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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](mailto:andrew.hunt@samhsa.hhs.gov)

Workgroup Coordinator, Jeffrey Poirier, Ph.D., Principal Researcher, [American Institutes for Research](#), [jpoirier@air.org](mailto:jpoirier@air.org)

### Rolling Stones Article

#### **The Forsaken: A Rising Number of Homeless Gay Teens Are Being Cast Out by Religious Families** **Rolling Stone - September 03, 2014**

While life gets better for millions of gays, the number of homeless LGBT teens - many cast out by their religious families - quietly keeps growing. Read the full article [online](#).

### Webinar

#### **Supporting Homeless LGBTQ Youth through Better Access to Care**

Date/Time: October 8, 2014, 2:00pm ET

Sponsors: The National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the National LGBT Health Education Center

Speaker: Jama Shelton, PhD, LMSW, Director, Forty-to-Nine Project, True Colors, NYC and National Workgroup member

Register [online](#).

## School Resources

As many as 40% of homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ), the majority of whom have experienced family rejection and abuse because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The stigma and discrimination experienced by many LGBTQ youth amplifies the struggles and health risks associated with homelessness. In this webinar, Jama Shelton, LMSW, PhD, Director of the Forty to None Project of the True Colors Fund in New York City, will raise awareness of the challenges experienced by LGBTQ youth, and will discuss ways that health care providers and youth service providers can help facilitate access to culturally responsive care and resources. Dr. Shelton will also talk about ways in which providers can help prevent homelessness by working affirmatively with community partners, including the families of LGBTQ youth.

### **Back-to-School Resources from the Human Rights Campaign's Welcoming Schools Project**

The following are resources to get the school year off to an affirming start in schools:

- [Developing A Welcoming Classroom](#)
- [Gender & Children: A Place to Begin](#)
- [Creating a Welcoming Early Childhood Education Program](#)
- [Where to Start: Creating a Welcoming Elementary School as a School Counselor](#)
- Download the complete, [Welcoming Schools Starter Kit](#) with over 70 pages of resources to get the year off to a great start.

Also, here are four simple ways to start the year with a welcoming classroom:

1. Develop expectations for respect and kindness in your classroom.
2. Create a display of books featuring all kinds of families.
3. Celebrate your students' lives with hallway displays.
4. Build community with simple beginning of the year poetry lessons.

Find out more about the Welcoming Schools Project on their [blog](#).

## Two-Spirit Resource

### **Sharing Our Lived Experiences: 22 Tips for Caring for Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ Youth in the Child Welfare System**

The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCPFC), in collaboration with the National Resource Center for Tribes (NRC4Tribes), developed this [just-released resource](#) which provides child welfare professionals and caregivers with tips for working with and

caring for Two-Spirit and LGBTQ (Native youth in the child welfare system. These tips are based on conversations with several Two-Spirit people who were formerly in foster care. They are also informed by conversations with Native allies who were adopted from the child welfare system and/or had experience working with and caring for youth in the child welfare system.

## OJJDP Literature Review

### **LGBTQ Youths in the Juvenile Justice System**

This just-released Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) [literature review](#) summarizes research and data on LGBTQ in juvenile justice systems, including related risk and protective factors along with recommendations to reform policy and practice.

### **Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Los Angeles County Foster Care: Assessing Disproportionality and Disparities**

From the study [press release](#):

## RESEARCH

This first-of-its-kind study finds that approximately 1 in 5 (or 1,400) foster youth in Los Angeles County, home to the nation's largest population of foster youth, identify as LGBTQ. The study was funded as part of a landmark \$13.3 million, five-year grant awarded to the Los Angeles LGBT Center as part of the federal Permanency Innovations Initiative. It is the first population-based survey aimed at measuring sexual orientation and gender identity of youth in any foster care system. You can access the [executive summary](#) and [full report](#) online.