

National Workgroup To Address the Needs of Children & Youth Who Are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, Two-Spirit (LGBTQI2-S) and Their Families

VISION

All children, youth & families in the populations of focus live, learn, love, work, play, thrive & participate fully in emotionally & physically safe, supportive communities where culturally & linguistically competent services & supports are available, accessible & appropriate.

MISSION

1. Promote accessible, strength-based & culturally & linguistically competent services/supports without bias based on age, culture, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity & expression, geographical location, language, living situation, race, religion/faith, variations in biological sex (sometimes referred to as intersex¹), sexual orientation & socio-economic status.
2. Eliminate shame, prejudice & the experience of discrimination for children, youth, families & caregivers (C/Y/F/C) in the populations of focus.

PURPOSE

A workgroup of diverse individuals (e.g., youth, family members, researchers, community members, policymakers, program administrators) guiding development, dissemination & implementation of policies, programs, materials, products & other resources to improve the lives of C/Y/F/C.

POPULATIONS OF FOCUS

Children & youth who are in need of, or are receiving, services from human service systems (e.g., behavioral health, child welfare, schools) & have (1) diverse sexual orientations, gender identities/expression (SOGIE) and/or variations in biological sex; and/or (2) parents/caregivers with diverse SOGIE—and the families of these children & youth.

We Promote...

- A public health approach
- High-quality services & supports
- Increased knowledge & acceptance among service providers, allies & the larger community
- Behavioral, physical & spiritual health & wellness
- Acceptance of self & others
- Youth guiding their services, supports & care
- Family-focused approaches to services, supports & care
- Full inclusion & equity in all Child, Adolescent & Family Branch (CAFB) programs & activities
- Strengths- & assets-based services & supports
- Individualized services & supports that respond to cultural background & linguistic needs

Individual & Environmental Factors

Extent to Which Children, Youth, Families & Caregivers Experience:

- Physically & emotionally safe environments (e.g., schools)
- Inclusion without shame, prejudice, discrimination & (or) violence
- Equal access to services, supports & health care
- Resilience as well as behavioral, physical & spiritual wellness
- Support from family, culture, education, community, social institutions & faith-based groups
- Positive attitudes toward & beliefs about SOGIE & variations in biological sex
- At-risk behaviors (e.g., suicidal ideation, substance abuse) & challenges associated with rejection, bias & violence (e.g., homelessness)

Provision of Services & Supports

- Knowledge, training & experience among service providers about service & support needs
- Extent to which services & supports are:
 - Adequate
 - Accessible
 - Individualized
 - Responsive to cultural background & linguistic needs
- Awareness about gender & sexual identity development
- Support of traditional cultural beliefs & supports for indigenous persons

OBJECTIVES

1. Promote **comprehensive inclusion** in Federally funded system of care grantee communities & CAFB-funded programs
2. Facilitate **partnerships & collaboration** among individuals, providers, organizations & the larger community to increase awareness, promote acceptance & inclusion, reduce prejudice & address the needs of youth & families
3. Develop, implement & share **individualized strengths- & assets-based policies, programs, services, supports, resources & other materials** that respond to the cultural background & linguistic needs of youth & families

ACTIVITIES

Services/Supports for Children, Youth, Families & Caregivers

- Promote family acceptance approaches
- Encourage youth-guided development of plans of care for services & supports
- Develop outreach strategies to encourage help-seeking behavior for needed services & supports

Services/Supports for Communities

- Make strengths- & assets-based services & supports available
- Develop & distribute resources (e.g., practice briefs, resource toolkit)
- Develop individualized services, supports & guidelines that respond to cultural background & linguistic needs
- Partner with organizations, including those that represent the populations of focus, & agencies to support full inclusion
- Collaborate with professional & constituent organizations (e.g., National Association of School Psychologists, True Colors Fund) to coordinate resource sharing & supports
- Partner with organizations (e.g., faith based, community based) to develop appropriate services & supports
- Develop, maintain & update a database of consultants to respond to requests for relevant expertise
- Provide training & technical assistance to staff, providers, educators & community members
- Develop social marketing strategies to increase awareness & acceptance, reduce prejudice & encourage help-seeking behavior
- Evaluate whether workgroup activities, products & deliverables are effective
- Identify & obtain funding support for national workgroup activities & products

OUTCOMES

Children, Youth, Families & Caregivers

- Increased help-seeking behavior
- Increased satisfaction with supports & services
- Improved well-being, including greater resilience
- Increased family acceptance

Providers

- Increased availability & utilization of individualized strengths- & assets-based services & supports
- Expanded implementation of policies, procedures, resources, services & supports that respond to cultural background & linguistic needs

Community Wide

- Greater knowledge, acceptance & inclusion throughout communities
- Reduced prejudice associated with SOGIE & variations in biological sex
- Implementation of focused social marketing campaigns to reduce prejudice, promote help-seeking behavior & increase acceptance

Workgroup Services/Supports

- Completed resources
- Large-scale dissemination of and sustained funding streams supporting workgroup activities, products & resources
- Data-based evidence of effectiveness of workgroup activities, products & deliverables

More Information

Workgroup website:

www.tapartnership.org/COP/CLC/lgbtqi2s.php

Or contact:

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¹Intersex¹ is a term associated with medical conditions that influence biological sex development prior to birth. These conditions can result in physical sex characteristics that vary from what is typically considered male & female.