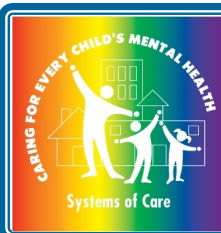


LGBTQI-2S NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 24, 2010

Welcome to the LGBTQI2-S Workgroup Newsletter!

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year! Thanks to all who have helped enhance cultural and linguistic competency in mental health systems for children/youth who are LGBTQI2-S and their families!

The LGBTQI2-S National Workgroup is launching this inaugural issue of a newsletter in honor of the coming New Year. The newsletter offers you and your community a tool to stay informed about what the Workgroup is doing, new LGBTQI2-S resources, and upcoming events. We will disseminate the newsletter four times annually.



Each issue will include articles about workgroup members to describe their exciting work. We will also highlight what communities are doing to improve the lives of children/youth who are LGBTQI2-S and their families and plan to include articles by youth and/or highlighting youth. If you would like to write a short article about your work or your community, suggest a resource to highlight, or add an event to our calendar, please contact Jeff Poirier at jpoirier@air.org.

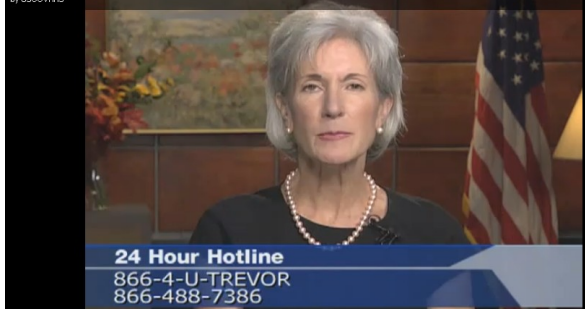
Making a Difference: HHS Secretary Supports LGBT Youth

On October 27, 2010, Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius delivered an inspirational four-minute video message for youth who are LGBT and suffering from bullying and intolerance. Secretary Sebelius contributed this video to the *It Gets Better* Project. This website provides an

opportunity for the public to submit user-created videos so that children and youth who are LGBT can see with their own eyes how love and happiness can be a reality for them. Adults who are LGBT can share the stories of their lives and straight allies can add their names in solidarity

with this effort. To date, the website has received submissions from celebrities, organizations, activists, politicians and media personalities, including President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. See the Secretary's message at <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/video/entry/yxc-tc97xxa>

HHS Secretary supports the "It Gets Better Project" in Support of LGBT Youth by USDOHHS



Did you know?

Youth who are lesbian, gay, and bisexual are approximately **40% more likely** than other teens to **receive punishment** at the hands of school authorities, police, and the court (to learn more, see Himmelstein and Brückner's December 6th press release at:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/papbyrecent.dtl>

Future Events

True Colors Annual Conference XVIII, Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services
March 11-12, 2011 | Storrs, CT | <http://ourtruecolors.org/Programs/Conference/index.html>

True Colors is the largest LGBTI and ally youth conference in the country. In addition to youth of all ages, teachers, social workers, community providers, and other professionals attend in large numbers.

Cultural Competence in Focus: Improving Services and Supports for Children/Youth Who Are LGBTQI2-S and Their Families July 21-22, 2011 | Technical Assistance Partnership Summer Training Post-Meeting

More information to come!

Resources Spotlight

Find Youth Info, Bullying Prevention and Response

http://findyouthinfo.gov/topic_bullying.shtml

New article from the Family Acceptance Project: Gender-Nonconforming Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth: School Victimization and Young Adult Psychosocial Adjustment in the November 2010 issue of *Developmental Psychology*. See the abstract at:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20822214>.

Happenings...

Fall 2010 has been a season filled with many happenings. Since 1994, October has been recognized as LGBT history month to include **National Coming out Day** on October 11th. On November 20th, **National Transgender Day of Remembrance**, we remembered those who have been killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

As a part of LGBT history month, the Technical Assistance Partnership's LGBTQI2-S Learning Community held a webinar on *Transgender and Nongender Identity*. During the webinar, endeavor* Corbin and Jean-Michel Breville, National Workgroup members, dis-

cussed the difference between sex, gender, and sexual orientation; identified challenges experienced by youth who are transgender or nongender; and provided information, strategies and approaches that communities can use to reduce/eliminate stigma and experiences of discrimination, and improve mental health and other outcomes among these children and youth.

To view the webinar, please go to <http://www.tapartnership.org/COP/CLC/pastEvents.php?id=topic5>. The Learning Community's December webinar, *Understanding the Health and Wellness Needs of Two-Spirit* Youth and Other Tribal Youth with LGBT Identities and the Provision of Care Within Systems of Care*, is archived on the same webpage.



"I will never forget how much love was in that room and vowed to myself on the car ride home that I was one day going to give back to the community all that was given to me."

- Bill Briggs,
Executive Director of
Metro DC PFLAG,
describing his first visit
to a PFLAG chapter

Welcome New Member, Bill Briggs!

Bill Briggs came out of the closet as a gay male in 1989; two weeks shy of his 16th birthday in a Catholic High School in New Jersey. While his parents were quite supportive, his community, particularly his high school and Boy Scout troop, was not. Bill and his family quickly found a supportive and accepting community in the local Philadelphia Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). "I will never forget how much love was in that room and vowed to myself on the car ride home that I was one day going to give back to the community all that was given to me." Twenty years later, Bill became the third Executive Director of Metro DC PFLAG and has been loving it from day one.

Metro DC PFLAG is one of only a handful of PFLAG Chapters with a paid staff. It oversees several support groups in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, provides a free and confidential help line for parents and the community, and delivers educational opportunities for the community to better understand the importance of a safer school environment and a community free of homophobia.

Prior to coming to Metro DC PFLAG, Bill was the Program Manager of Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM) ORION Program. As the only LGBT youth program in Northern Virginia, it provides risk reduction, educational and social activities to youth who are LGBT.

Connect with Us

The Child, Adolescent and Family Branch (CAFB), Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has initiated and supported the National LGBTQI2-S Workgroup to develop and enhance services and supports for children and youth who are LGBTQI2-S. The workgroup includes a diverse and knowledgeable group of recognized experts and consumers including youth, family members, clinical and human service providers, program administrators, technical assistance providers, evaluators and researchers, cultural and linguistic competence experts, and CAFB and SAMHSA project officers and staff.

Would you like to contribute to future issues of this newsletter? Share your stories, comments, or questions by contacting Jeff Poirier.

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Many thanks to Newsletter Editor and Workgroup Member Mojdeh Motamedi!

Learn more about the LGBTQI2-S National Workgroup at:
<http://tapartnership.org/COP/CLC/lgbtqi2s.php>