


ENSURING THE SAFETY, PERMANENCY AND WELL-BEING OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH IN CARE OF CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS

California Administration of the Courts
UC Davis June 11, 2014
Fresno June 18, 2014



Training Objectives

- Approach the topic of LGBTQ youth in child welfare systems with cultural humility
- Learn about the concepts and terminology related to SOGIE, and examine common myths
- Increase understanding of the legal and professional standards governing child welfare services to LGBTQ youth
- Examine the objectives of safety, permanency and well-being as they apply to LGBTQ youth

Cultural Humility Embraces:

- a willingness to **openly assess oneself**
- acceptance of **one's limitations**
- acknowledging **gaps in one's knowledge**
- openness to new & **contradictory** ideas

Cultural Humility Involves:

- a) A lifelong process
- b) Serious self-reflection and self-critique
- c) A commitment to respecting different viewpoints
- e) Engaging with others from a place of learning
- f) An attitude that acknowledges that culture is individual & can only be understood individually

Culturally Humble Practice:

“Those who practice cultural humility work to **increase self-awareness** of their own biases and perceptions and engage in a **life-long process of self reflection** about how to put these aside and **learn from clients.**”

(Tervalon & Murray-Garcia, 1998)

CWLA/LAMBDA REGIONAL LISTENING FORUMS

YOUTH QUOTES



RE-TEACHING GENDER AND SEXUALITY

THE SPECTRUM

Our sexuality and gender identity aren't set in stone. In fact, people's identities can be fluid. THE SPECTRUM can help you visualize how you feel at any given time. Mark how you identify today on each line, but don't feel limited - it's ok to mark something different tomorrow!

BIOLOGICAL SEX
(What the doctor assigned you at birth)

GENDER IDENTITY
(How you feel on the inside)

GENDER EXPRESSION
(How you present yourself to others)

GENDER PRESENTATION
(How the world sees you)


SEXUAL ORIENTATION
(Who you like)

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth.
TheTrevorProject.org



Sexuality Terminology

The Youth Perspective



Mrs. Madrigal, “You don’t have to keep up dear, you just have to keep open.”

Context and intent:

A father is asked, “Have you ever set your son on fire?”

He responds, “Yeah, a few times. He loved it.”

Huh?

Digital Stories:

- Captain

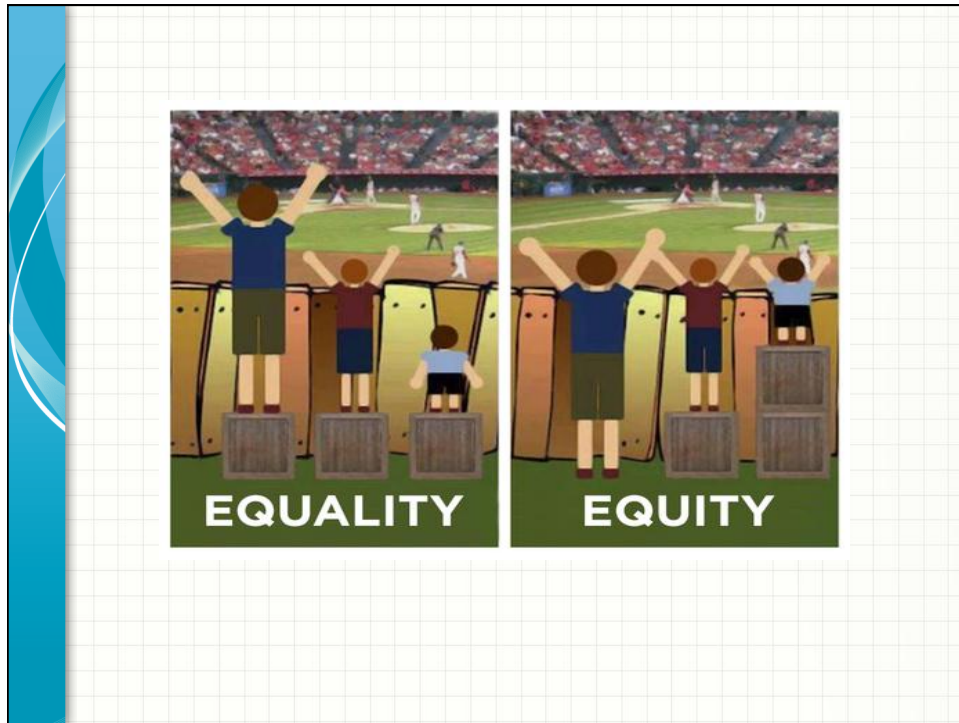
Laws in California



AB 458

Foster Care Nondiscrimination Act

- The right to fair and equal access to services, placement, care, treatment and benefits
- The right to NOT to be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived SO/GI



California Student Safety & Violence Prevention Act AB 537

- Protects students and employees in California public schools against discrimination or harassment based on
 - Sexual orientation
 - Gender identity
 - Gender nonconforming appearance or behavior

The School Success and Opportunity Act AB 1266

- Requires schools to permit students to participate in sex-segregated programs, activities and facilities *consistent with their gender identity* regardless of the gender listed in their school records.

LGBT Competency Training AB 868

- Requires the California Judicial Council to include *cultural competency and sensitivity relating to, and best practices for, providing adequate care to LGBT youth* in training of:
 - Family law judges and bench officers
 - Dependency court judges and bench officers
 - Dependency attorneys for children
 - CASAs

Core Objectives


- Safety
- Permanency
- Well-being



Ensuring the Safety of LGBTQ Youth in Care

- What makes someone feel safe?
- What are some safety concerns for LGBTQ youth in care?
- What can child welfare practitioners do to ensure the safety of LGBTQ youth in care?





Street Child by Justin Reed Early

San Diego Study

Child Welfare Journal Article

National Alliance to End
Homelessness Best Practice Guide



Digital Stories:

- George
- Darryn



What does it feel like to
have a secret?



Ensuring Permanency for LGBTQ Youth in Care

- What do we mean by “permanency?”
- What role can child welfare practitioners play in ensuring permanency for LGBTQ youth?

Permanency

- Engage families to increase acceptance
- Decrease reliance on group care
- Work with youth to identify permanent connections
- Increase and diversify LGBT affirming placements
- Train and support caregivers

Always My Son

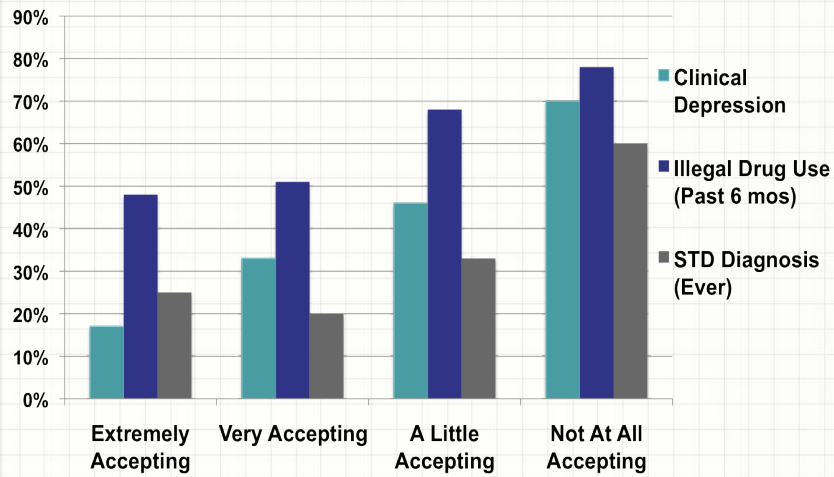
Foster Parent Survey

1. Would you be willing to care for an LGBTQ youth?
2. Have you ever attended a training about LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care?
3. If yes, do you feel as though you have sufficient information to be able to provide a safe and stable home for LGBTQ youth?
4. Would you be willing to attend training (or additional training) on the needs of LGBTQ youth?
5. Are you currently aware of, or connected to, supportive services for LGBTQ Youth?
6. What types of support do you think you would need in order to care for LGBTQ youth?



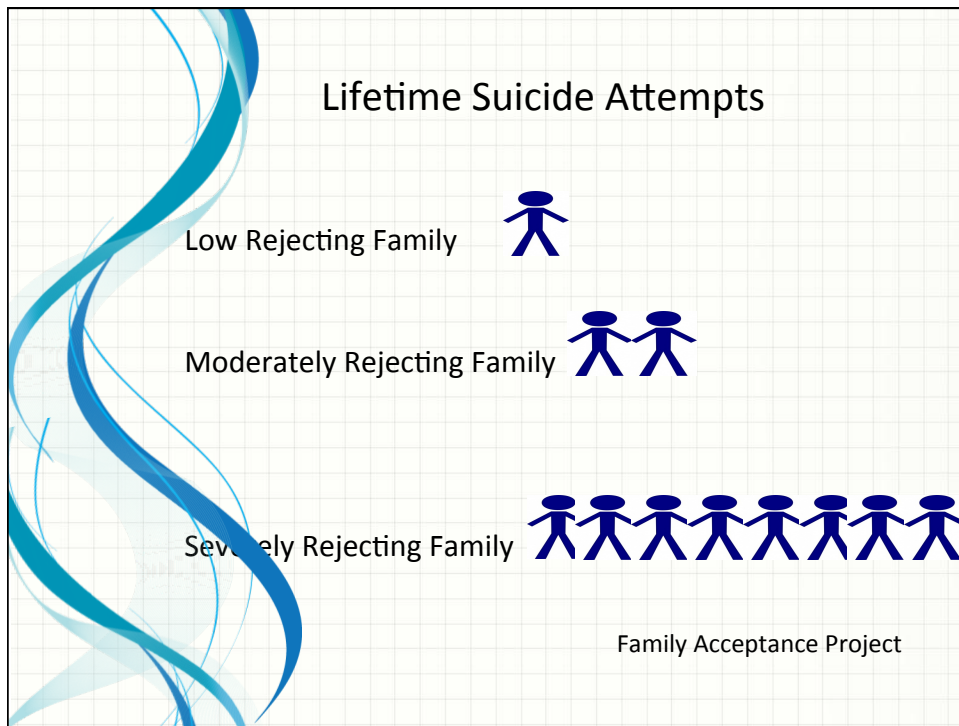
**ENSURING WELL-BEING OF LGBTQ
YOUTH
HOME, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY**

Family Acceptance Project




Family Acceptance Project: Optimism

Family Acceptance	See a Future as a Happy LGBT Adult
Family Extremely Accepting	92%
Family Very Accepting	77%
Family A Little Accepting	59%
Family Not at All Accepting	35%



(Family Acceptance Project 2009)

Behaviors that help	Behaviors to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your child about their SO/GI • Advocate for your child when he or she is mistreated • Express affection when you learn your child is LGBT • Require that family members respect your child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressuring your child to be more of less feminine or masculine • Telling your child that God will punish them • Blaming your child when they are mistreated • Making your child keep their LGBT identity a secret



School

Risk Factors

- School-based victimization increases risk
 - Truancy
 - School failure
 - Depression
 - Low self esteem
 - Lack of positive peer connections

Protective Factors

- Safe and affirming schools increase well-being
 - School engagement
 - Academic success
 - Positive peer relations
 - Hope for the future

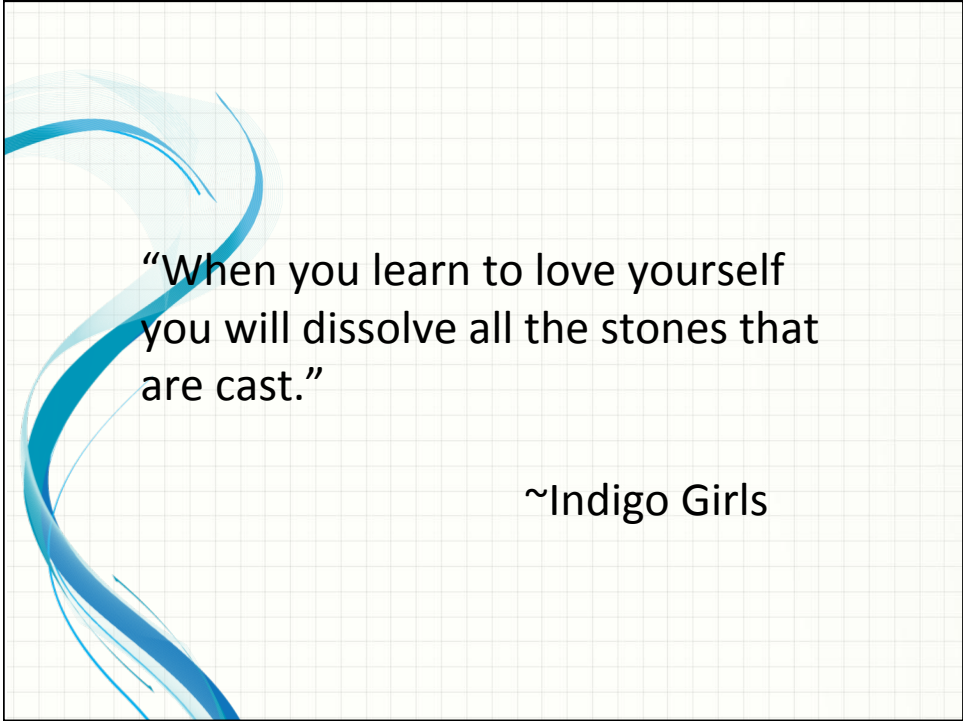
Community

Risk Factors

- Isolation
- Rejecting faith community
- Biased politicians and laws
- Anti-LGBT violence or harassment
- Lack of LGBT affirming space
- Lack of local role models

Protective Factors

- Anti-discrimination laws and policies
- Openly LGBT community leaders
- Affirming congregations
- LGBT Community Center
- Pride events
- Public protest against anti-LGBT incidents

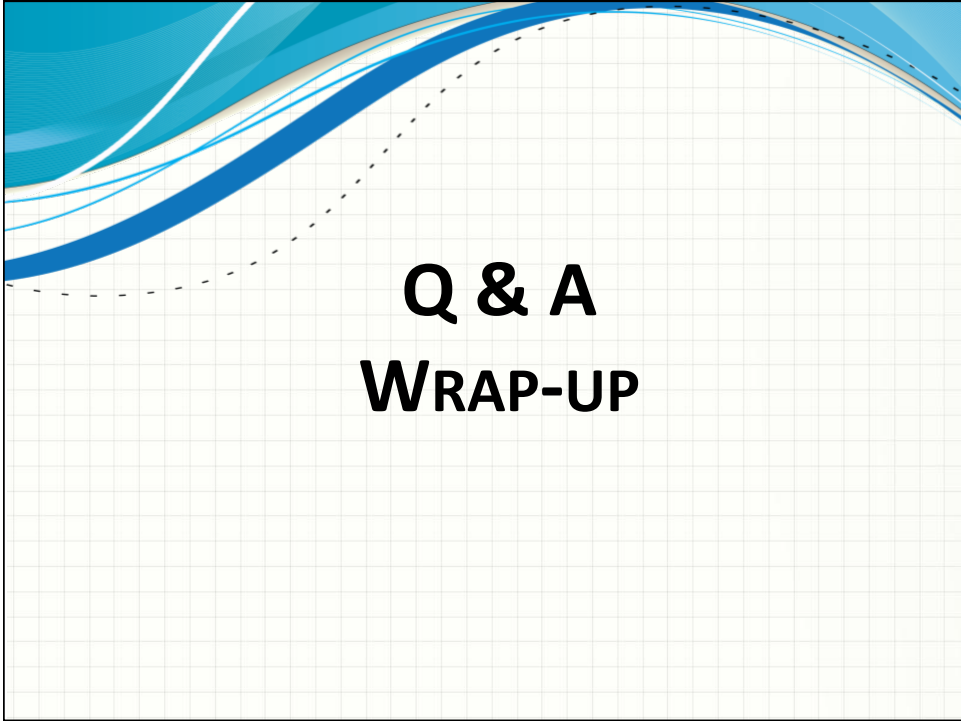


“When you learn to love yourself
you will dissolve all the stones that
are cast.”

~Indigo Girls



TYLER/BERDIE



Q & A WRAP-UP

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