

# LGBTQI2-S Workgroup Update



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

December 2012

## Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season and New Year!

This LGBTQI2-S Workgroup Update provides information about new resources, upcoming events, and efforts of the LGBTQI2-S National Workgroup. Each update also spotlights a workgroup member and their efforts to improve the lives of children and youth who are LGBTQI2-S and their families. 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, Workgroup Coordinator, at [jpoirier@air.org](mailto:jpoirier@air.org).

## How to Be an Ally and Make a Difference...

Holidays can be a time of increased stress for LGBT youth without supportive families. To assist providers and community members in encouraging help-seeking behavior for stress and behavioral health challenges for youth who are LGBT, on December 10, the Technical Assistance (TA) Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health hosted a webinar titled, *Promoting Suicide Prevention Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Youth*, to share information, tools, and resources. Workgroup member Michelle Carnes of SAMHSA's Suicide Prevention Branch presented on its efforts to support grantees and suicide prevention efforts in communities across the country. Workgroup member Sylvia Fisher also talked about related data and findings from the system of care national evaluation and prevention strategies.



The webinar also showcased **The Trevor Project**, the leading national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts for youth who are LGBT. The Trevor Project operates a suicide prevention hotline (866-4-U-Trevor); [TrevorSpace](#), a peer social networking site for LGBTQ youth and their allies; [Ask Trevor](#), an online forum for youth to anonymously ask experts questions about sexuality and gender issues; [Trevor Chat](#), an online messaging service that allows youth in crisis to live chat with volunteers who can provide support; and the [Lifeguard Workshop Program](#), which utilizes a structured curriculum to educate participants about recognizing and responding to the warning signs of depression and suicide.



For more resources during this holiday season, see:

- [Tips for a Happy Holiday for LGBT People](#) from PFLAG (Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
- [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)
- [TA Partnership LGBTQI2-S Learning Community Website](#)

You can access a copy of the webinar online at <http://www.tpartnership.org/COP/CLC/pastEvents.php?id=topic5>

## Mississippi's 2012 LGBTQI2-S Conference: Engaging Youth, Families, and Communities

Building on the success of Mississippi's award-winning 2011 Integrity in Services and Supports for LGBTQI2-S Youth Conference, the NFusion initiative, which is part of the Mississippi Transitional Outreach Project (MTO) system of care, held its 2012 LGBTQI2-S conference on November 1 and 2 in Jackson, Mississippi, with over 700 participants from six states. Facebook and Twitter campaigns were launched to promote the conference, reaching over 7,100 accounts and making 15,497 impressions.

Children and youth are identifying as LGBT at younger ages than in the past and providers need to be equipped to effectively support them and their families. This training opportunity aimed to foster courage and resilience, model inclusion, provide information to build capacity to address stigma and support LGBT youth, and develop long-lasting partnerships for all youth and families to be happy, healthy, and successful.

The keynote speaker, Wade Davis, a former National Football League player, spoke about erasing shame and stigma through community building. Mr. Davis participated on a panel presentation that resulted in a dynamic, in-depth discussion with the audience. Other presenters included workgroup members Jeffrey Poirier, who talked about standards of care for improving outcomes, and Peter Gamache, who discussed integration versus rejection. You can access copies of the presentations online at <http://www.nfusionmsconference.org/>. Surveys completed on tablets were collected from participants and results will be used in planning for the next NFusion conference. For more information about MTO, contact Joe Maury, Project Director at [Joe@nfusionms.org](mailto:Joe@nfusionms.org) or for information about MTO cultural and linguistic competence activities, contact MTO's Cultural and Linguistic Coordinator at [Albertstein.pickett@dmh.state.ms.us](mailto:Albertstein.pickett@dmh.state.ms.us).



### Upcoming Events

**January 21–25: *No Name Calling Week*.** For details visit: [NoNameCallingWeek.org](http://NoNameCallingWeek.org)

**February 27: *TA Partnership webinar on LGBT Youth Experiences in Schools*,** 3:00–4:30 p.m. EST

**March 21–22: *True Colors 2013, Celebrating Our Heroes of the Past, Present, and Future, Storrs, CT*.** For details visit: [www.ourtruecolors.org/Programs/Conference/](http://www.ourtruecolors.org/Programs/Conference/)

### Member Spotlight: Steve Forssell

Dr. Forssell, who has been a member of the workgroup since it began in 2008, is a professor in the Psychology Department at The George Washington University (GWU) and is on the faculty of the GWU Medical Center School of Medicine and



teaches a Health Sciences course in *Human Sexuality: Introduction to Clinical Medicine*. Dr. Forssell is the director of the graduate program in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Health at GWU. The program concentrates on training those who work on the front-lines directly with LGBT individuals as well as policy and care system delivery and management professionals involved in serving the physical and mental health needs of the LGBT population. The program offers a graduate certificate with core courses in the physical health, mental health, and health policy issues facing the LGBT population. Students also complete a mentored capstone project that results in a product that can be put to use to affect positive health outcomes for LGBT people, such as an intervention, a training program, or a social networking application. The program employs a hybrid of in-class and online learning to accommodate the schedules of full time employees.

Dr. Forssell is co-director of the Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Minority Communities. The Institute prepares high-achieving undergraduates for graduate training and careers in public health as practitioners, researchers, educators, public policy experts, and advocates in the health care field, with special focus on serving those who have traditionally experienced less than adequate access to health care or poorer health outcomes.

Dr. Forssell's expertise is in sexual orientation development, same-sex romantic relationships and parenting, HIV/AIDS risk behaviors, high risk sexual behavior interventions, adolescent and young adult romantic and sexual relationships, and health psychology. His research activities involve same-sex couple romantic relationships and sexual behaviors, attachment, and child development.

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

## NEW Online Training Center

The Institute for Innovation and Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work is launching an online training center in **January 2013**. This web-based training platform will allow learners to access online training on a variety of topics related to system of care and cross-system work. Planned modules will include a series on LGBTQI2-S topics. The trainings will be offered at no cost to users and will provide continuing education units for social workers, licensed professional counselors, and psychologists. More information about this exciting new learning opportunity will be available in 2013! In the interim, if you have questions, please contact workgroup member **Marlene Matarese** at [mmatarese@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:mmatarese@ssw.umaryland.edu).

### Resource Spotlight: Youth Digital Story on Gender Identity

The TA Partnership created a digital story about gender identity, featuring workgroup member *enderver\* corbin*. The 15-minute video shares—from a youth perspective—information, resources, and recommended practices for supporting youth who are gender variant. *enderver\** shares a personal story to assist service providers, families, youth, and communities in better understanding gender and supportive practices. The video, which includes closed captioning, is accompanied by 10 guiding questions to facilitate your reflection, as well as small group discussions about the video. You can access the video and reflection questions online at <http://tpartnership.org/COP/CLC/videos.php?id=topic7#content7>. Consider hosting a discussion group in your community!

### Did You Know?

A **survey of more than 10,000 youth who identified as LGBT** ages 13 to 17 found:

- 56% were “out” to their immediate family, 91% to close friends.
- Youth who were “out” to immediate family were more likely to report being happy (41%) than those who were not “out” (33%).
- Youth who were “out” to immediate family were more likely to report they are unsure if they have someone to talk to if they are sad (21%) than those who were not “out” (12%) .
- Almost 1 in 3 indicated they were not “out” to their family because their family was not accepting of LGBT identity.

Source: <http://www.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/NCOD-Youth-Report.pdf>

### Helpful Resources

#### Coming Out As a Straight Supporter:

[www.hrc.org/resources/entry/straight-guide-to-lgbt-americans](http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/straight-guide-to-lgbt-americans)

#### In-Home Services for Families of LGBTQ Youth:

[nrcinhome.socialwork.uiowa.edu/resources/documents/LGBTissuebriefwithpractice.pdf](http://nrcinhome.socialwork.uiowa.edu/resources/documents/LGBTissuebriefwithpractice.pdf)

### 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 this workgroup to develop and enhance services and supports for children and youth who are LGBTQI2-S. The workgroup includes a diverse, 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 SAMHSA staff. Many thanks to Angela Drumm, Communications Associate, for her skillful assistance with designing and developing this update.

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