

## Resources for Professionals Serving LGBTQ Youth in Out-of-Home Care

### **Equity Project • Family Acceptance Project™ • Lambda Legal • Legal Services for Children • National Center for Lesbian Rights • Opening Doors Project of the American Bar Association**

#### **Ambiente Joven**

**[www.ambientejoven.org](http://www.ambientejoven.org)**

Ambiente Joven is a project of Advocates for Youth and is dedicated to the gay, lesbian and transgender Latino/a youth community in the U.S. and Latin America, with the goal of providing information about sexual and mental health, as well as general cultural information.

#### **Casey Family Programs, Life Skills Assessment, LGBTQ Supplement**

**[www.caseylifeskills.org](http://www.caseylifeskills.org)**

Casey Family Programs' Life Skills Assessment is a free and easy-to-use tool to help young people prepare for adulthood. The Assessment includes an optional supplement developed specifically for LGBTQ youth. It provides instant feedback. Customized learning plans provide a clear outline of next steps, and the accompanying teaching resources are available for free or at a minimal cost.

#### **CenterLink**

**[www.lgbtcenters.org](http://www.lgbtcenters.org)**

The National Association of LGBT Community Centers' website features the capability to search for LGBT community centers in your city or state. Centers are the primary point of contact for people coming out and seeking LGBT health services, community information and referrals.

1325 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: 202-824-0450

Fax: 202-824-0453

#### **Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)**

**[www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)**

CWLA is an association of nearly 1000 public and private nonprofit agencies that assist over 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with a wide range of services.

2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250

(National Headquarters)

Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 703-412-2400

#### **Children of Lesbians & Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)**

**[www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org)**

COLAGE is the only national and international organization in the world specifically supporting young people with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents.

1550 Bryant Street, Suite 830  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415-861-5437  
Email: colage@colage.org

### **Equity Project**

**[www.equityproject.org](http://www.equityproject.org)**

The Equity Project is an initiative to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in juvenile delinquency courts are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. The Equity Project examines issues that impact LGBT youth during the entire delinquency process, ranging from arrest through post-disposition.

Email: [info@equityproject.org](mailto:info@equityproject.org)

### **Family Acceptance Project™**

**<http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>**

The Family Acceptance Project (FAP) is a community research, intervention, education and policy initiative that studies how family acceptance and rejection affects the health, mental health and well-being of their LGBT children. FAP develops educational materials and resources for families and providers to help families support their LGBT children, and publishes research on LGBT young people and families. FAP is developing the first evidence-based family interventions to help ethnically diverse families decrease rejection and increase support for their LGBT children.

Caitlin Ryan, Director  
Family Acceptance Project™  
Marian Wright Edelman Institute  
San Francisco State University  
432 Capp Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Email: [fap@sfsu.edu](mailto:fap@sfsu.edu)

### **Family Equality Council**

**[www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org)**

The Family Equality Council works to ensure equality for LGBT families by building community, changing hearts and minds, and advancing social justice for all families.

PO Box 206  
Boston, MA 02133  
Phone: 617-502-8700  
Fax: 617-502-8701

### **Gender Spectrum**

**[www.genderspectrum.org](http://www.genderspectrum.org)**

Gender Spectrum provides education, resources and training to help you create a more gender sensitive and supportive environment for all people, including gender variant and transgender youth.

In a simple, straightforward manner, Gender Spectrum helps students, families, schools, and organizations understand and address the concepts of gender identity. Their accessible, practical approach is based on research and experience, enabling their clients to gain a deeper understanding of gender variance.

1122 E Pike St #796  
Seattle WA 98122  
Phone: 1-877-809-4159  
Email: [info@genderspectrum.org](mailto:info@genderspectrum.org)

**GLBT National Help Center**  
**[www.GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org](http://www.GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org)**

The GLBT National Help Center is dedicated to meeting the needs of this community and those questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. The hotline offers free and confidential peer-counseling, information and local resources for cities and towns throughout the United States. The hotline offers counsel to callers of all ages about coming out issues, relationship concerns, HIV/AIDS anxiety, safer-sex information and more.

2261 Market Street, PMB #296  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Phone: 888-843-4564  
Email: [info@glbtnationalhelpcenter.org](mailto:info@glbtnationalhelpcenter.org)

**The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network**  
**[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)**

GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. Established nationally in 1995, GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

90 Broad Street, 2nd Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
Phone: 212-727-0135  
Email: [glsen@glsen.org](mailto:glsen@glsen.org)

**Lambda Legal**  
**[www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)**

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

Lambda Legal's Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project raises awareness and advances reform on behalf of LGBTQ youth in child welfare, juvenile justice and homeless systems of care. The Project aims to increase the will and capacity of youth-serving organizations to prepare and support LGBTQ youth as they transition from adolescence to independence. The Project works with LGBTQ youth as well as social workers, case managers, administrators and other child welfare advocates to ensure safe and affirming child welfare services for LGBTQ youth.

120 Wall Street, Suite 1500  
(National Headquarters)  
New York, NY 10005  
Phone: 866-LGBTTeen (toll free), or 212-809-8585  
Email: [cwla.lambda.network@lambdalegal.org](mailto:cwla.lambda.network@lambdalegal.org)

**National Center for Lesbian Rights**  
**[www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org)**

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is a national non-profit, public interest law firm committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families. NCLR litigates precedent-setting cases at the trial and appellate court levels; advocates for equitable public policies affecting the LGBT community; provides free legal assistance to LGBT people and their legal advocates; and conducts community education on LGBT legal issues.

Since its inception in 1993, NCLR's Youth Project has been educating service providers, advocating for policy changes, providing legal information, and helping youth share their stories; ensuring a brighter future for all LGBT young people—in schools, at home, in foster care, and in the juvenile justice system.

870 Market Street, Suite 370  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 415-392-6257  
or toll-free 1.800.528.6257  
Email: [info@nclrights.org](mailto:info@nclrights.org)

**National Youth Advocacy Coalition**  
**[www.nyacyouth.org](http://www.nyacyouth.org)**

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition is a capacity building organization that advocates for and with LGBTQ young people in an effort to end discrimination against these youth and to ensure their physical and emotional well-being. NYAC builds the capacity of organizations that serve LGBTQ youth through technical assistance, resource sharing, and youth engagement.

1638 R Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC, 20009  
Phone: 800-541-6922  
Email: [nyac@nyacyouth.org](mailto:nyac@nyacyouth.org)

**Opening Doors Project**  
**[www.abanet.org/child/lgbtq.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/child/lgbtq.shtml)**

The Opening Doors Project, a project of the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law, aims to increase the legal community's awareness of LGBTQ youth in foster care and the unique issues they face, and provide the legal community with advocacy tools to successfully represent these youth.

The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law is a full-service technical assistance, training, and research program addressing a broad spectrum of law and court-related topics affecting

children. The attorneys working on this project have, combined, 25 years working in the child welfare legal community. They have represented the child welfare agency and children and youth in the foster care system. They focus much of their work on permanency issues for youth in foster care with an emphasis on LGBTQ youth.

740 15th St, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005-1019

Phone: 202-662-1720

Email: *Please direct inquiries to*

Mimi Laver: LaverM@staff.abanet.org or Andrea Khoury: KhouryA@staff.abanet.org

### **OutProud**

**[www.outproud.org](http://www.outproud.org)**

OutProud, the National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth, serves the needs of these young men and women by providing advocacy, information, resources and support. Its goal is to help queer youth become happy, successful, confident and vital LGBT adults.

369 Third Street, Suite B-362

San Rafael, CA 94901-3581

Email: [info@outproud.org](mailto:info@outproud.org)

### **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**

**[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)**

PFLAG promotes the health and well being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

1726 M Street NW, Suite 400 (National Office)

Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: 202-467-8180

Email: [info@pflag.org](mailto:info@pflag.org)

### **Safe Schools Coalition**

**[www.safeschoolscoalition.org](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org)**

The Safe Schools Coalition is a public-private partnership in support of LGBT youth to help schools — at home and all over the world — become safe places where every family can belong, where every educator can teach and where every child can learn, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

10501 Meridian Avenue N.

Seattle, WA 98133

Phone: 206.632.0662, ext. 49

Email: [questions@safeschoolscoalition.org](mailto:questions@safeschoolscoalition.org)

## **The World Professional Association for Transgender Health**

**[www.wpath.org](http://www.wpath.org)**

WPATH is a professional organization devoted to the understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders with 500 members from around the world, in fields such as medicine, psychology, law, social work and counseling.

1300 South Second Street, Suite 180

Minneapolis, MN 55454

Phone: 612-624-9397

Email: [wpath@wpath.org](mailto:wpath@wpath.org)

## **The Trevor Project**

**[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)**

The Trevor Project operates the only nationwide, around-the-clock crisis and suicide prevention helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. If you or a friend are feeling lost or alone call The Trevor Helpline.

9056 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 208

West Hollywood, CA 90069

Phone: 310-271-8845

Hotline: 866.4.U.TREVOR

Email: [info@thetrevorproject.org](mailto:info@thetrevorproject.org)

## **Youth Guardian Services**

**[www.youth-guard.org](http://www.youth-guard.org)**

Youth Guardian Services is a youth-run organization that provides support services on the Internet to LGBTQ and supportive youth.

101 East State Street, #299

Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone: 877-270-5152

## **YouthResource**

**[www.youthresource.com](http://www.youthresource.com)**

YouthResource, a website created by and for LGBTQ young people 13 to 24 years old, takes a holistic approach to sexual health by offering support, community, resources and peer-to-peer education about issues of concern to LGBTQ young people.

2000 M Street NW, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-419-3420

## Selected Bibliography

### **It's Your Life: Educating LGBTQ Youth and their Advocates about their Rights and Responsibilities in the Foster Care System**

American Bar Association, 2010

LGBTQ youth who are in foster care have certain rights that they should expect will be respected. *It's Your Life* is a new ABA publication which provides guidance for youth about what their rights and responsibilities are and how to access the professionals to help them get what they need. Youth will read real life stories of LGBTQ youth who have been in care and faced very difficult issues, ranging from school to placement to health care. Youth will get tips on how to address these issues.

To Order: See <http://www.abanet.org/child/lgbtq.shtml>

### **National Recommended Best Practices for Serving LGBT Homeless Youth**

Lambda Legal, National Center for Lesbian Rights, et al., 2009

LGBT youth are overrepresented in the homeless population and all too often experience discrimination and abuse when accessing homeless youth services. This publication, developed by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Alliance to End Homelessness, the National Network for Youth, and Lambda Legal, contains the first set of guidelines dedicated to increasing the ability of agencies to competently work with homeless LGBT youth. The recommendations include specific guidance on how to improve daily practice, create a supportive organizational culture, and make residential services more accessible to LGBT youth.

Download full publication: <http://www.nclrights.org/site/DocServer/national-recommended-best-practices-for-lgbt-homeless-yo.pdf?docID=5821>

### **Moving the Margins: Curriculum for Child Welfare Services with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth in Out-of-Home Care**

National Association of Social Workers and Lambda Legal, 2009

Developed in partnership with the National Association of Social workers, this manual provides trainers with a guide for implementing trainings for service providers working with LGBTQ youth in the foster care, juvenile justice and homeless systems of care. It includes modules on areas such as: vocabulary; values clarification; the risks, challenges and strengths specific to LGBTQ youth and their caregivers; managing confidential information; enhancing skills to intervene with biological, adoptive and foster parents; addressing differential treatment in child welfare agencies; and addressing the needs of transgender youth.

Download full publication: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/moving-the-margins/moving-the-margins.html>

### **Supportive Families, Healthy Children: Helping Families with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Children**

Family Acceptance Project™, Marian Wright Edelman Institute, San Francisco State University, Caitlin Ryan, 2009

This is the first of several basic educational materials to share findings from the Family Acceptance Project to help families support their LGBT children. This first version is written in English, Spanish and Chinese at a 10th grade reading level. Follow up versions will be written in easier to read formats at lower literacy levels, and will focus on a range of topics.

Download publications: <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/publications>

To order: Contact FAP at [fap@sfsu.edu](mailto:fap@sfsu.edu) for information on ordering publications in bulk

### **Helping Families Support Their Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Children.**

National Center for Cultural Competence, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, Washington, DC, Caitlin Ryan, 2009

Caitlin Ryan wrote this family practice brief for SAMHSA, in conjunction with the National Center for Cultural Competence, that provides basic guidance for families and the providers who work with them to help families support their LGBT children. This practice brief includes findings from the Family Acceptance Project™ and was distributed to mental health systems of care.

Download publication: <http://nccc.georgetown.edu/index.html>

### **Hidden Injustice: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Juvenile Courts**

Legal Services for Children, National Juvenile Defender Center and National Center for Lesbian Rights, 2009

The Equity Project's most recent publication, *Hidden Injustice*, represents the first effort to examine the experiences of LGBT youth in juvenile courts across the country. The report is based on information collected from 414 surveys and 65 interviews with juvenile justice professionals, including judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation officers, detention staff, and other juvenile justice advocates; focus groups and interviews of 55 youth who possess relevant firsthand experience; and an extensive review of relevant social science and legal research findings.

The report contains detailed recommendations directed towards judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation officers, detention facility administrators, policy makers, and advocates. In addition, the report makes eleven core recommendations to enhance the overall capacity of the juvenile justice system to work effectively with LGBT youth. *Hidden Injustice* is an invaluable resource for anyone who is committed to pursuing a fair and just juvenile delinquency system where all youth are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

For More Information, or To Download or Order a Free Copy:

[http://www.nclrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=issue\\_youth\\_equityproject](http://www.nclrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=issue_youth_equityproject) or  
[www.equityproject.org](http://www.equityproject.org)

### **Social Work Practice with Transgender and Gender Variant Youth**

Gary Mallon, ed., 2009

Through personal narratives and case studies, this fully updated second edition explores the childhood and adolescent experiences of transgendered persons. Addressing the differences between

male-to-female (MTF) and female-to-male (FTM) individuals and identifying the specific challenges of transgender persons from diverse races, cultures, and religious backgrounds, this compelling book offers suggestions that will help social workers and the youths' families learn more about the reality of transgender persons' lives.

To Order: Order online at <http://www.routledge.com/social-work-practice-with-transgender-and-gender-variant-youth-9780415994828>

### **Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression in Social Work Education: Results from a National Survey**

Council on Social Work Education and Lambda Legal, 2009

This report from Lambda Legal and the Council on Social Work Education features the results of a study to determine the level of preparation for social work students to serve LGBT individuals and LGBT youth in out-of-home care. This survey of more than 600 social work programs revealed that program directors need more resources to increase their knowledge on sexual orientation and gender expression and to further infuse content on LGBT individuals and youth throughout curricular areas. The report includes recommendations that social work schools can adopt to better prepare the next generation of child welfare advocates and other service providers to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care and LGBT communities more generally.

Download full publication: [http://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/booklets/bkl\\_study-of-lgbt-issues-in-social-work.html](http://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/booklets/bkl_study-of-lgbt-issues-in-social-work.html)

Download executive summary: [http://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/booklets/bkl\\_sexual-orientation-and-gender-expression-in-social-work-education.html](http://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/booklets/bkl_sexual-orientation-and-gender-expression-in-social-work-education.html)

### **The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals**

Stephanie Brill and Rachel Pepper, 2008

This comprehensive first-of-its-kind guidebook explores the unique challenges faced by families raising gender variant and transgender children. Through extensive research and interviews, as well as years of experience working in the field, the authors cover gender variance from birth through college.

To Order: <http://www.genderspectrum.org/book.htm>

### **Opening Doors for LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care: A Guide for Lawyers and Judges**

American Bar Association, Laver & Khoury, 2008

This guide aims to increase the legal community's awareness of LGBTQ youth in foster care and the issues they face. It provides tools for lawyers and judges to aid their advocacy and decision making on behalf of LGBTQ youth. Special attention is given to helping lawyers and judges understand the unique needs and risk factors of LGBTQ youth, forming positive attitudes and beliefs about LGBTQ youth, developing strong attorney-client relationships, and using effective advocacy strategies.

To order: Call the ABA Service Center at 800.285.2221. Or go to the ABA web-store at <http://www.ababooks.org> (ISBN: 978-1-60442-073-9, ABA CATALOG #: 5490444)

Website: <http://www.abanet.org/child/lgbtq.shtml>

### **Gramercy Stories – DVD**

Joyce Chopra and Susan Monserud, 2008

This documentary (52 minutes) from filmmakers and Lambda Legal friends Joyce Chopra and Susan Monserud offers an inspiring look inside a group home in Manhattan providing a safe haven for 25 LGBT teenagers. Told from their candid perspective, the film follows these courageous youth as they strive to overcome obstacles on the path to adulthood.

To Order: Order online at <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/issues/youth/out-of-home-care/> or call Lambda Legal at 212-809-8585

### **Equity Project Resource CD: Ensuring Fairness & Respect for LGBT Youth in the Justice System**

The Equity Project Staff and Advisory Committee, Resource CD, 2007

Since 2005 the National Juvenile Defender Center, Legal Services for Children, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights have been collaborating on the Equity Project, an initiative to ensure that LGBT youth in juvenile delinquency courts are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. The Equity Project examines issues that impact LGBT youth throughout the entire delinquency court process - from arrest through post-disposition - identifying obstacles to fair treatment and developing recommendations to prevent discrimination. For more information about the Equity Project visit <http://www.equityproject.org/>

**The Equity Project Resource CD** provides a compilation of almost 100 resources relating to LGBT youth in the juvenile justice system, including training materials, sample pleadings, model and adopted policies, tools for advocating for transgender youth, and more. It is an essential tool for every juvenile defender and for others working in the juvenile justice system who are committed to fairness and respect for all young people.

Download *Resource CD - Table of Contents*:

[http://www.equityproject.org/pdfs/Table\\_of\\_Contents.\\_Equity\\_Project\\_Resource\\_CD.summit.pdf](http://www.equityproject.org/pdfs/Table_of_Contents._Equity_Project_Resource_CD.summit.pdf)

To order *Resource CD*: Send an email to [info@equityproject.org](mailto:info@equityproject.org)

### **Promising Practices in Adoption and Foster Care: A Comprehensive Guide to Policies and Practices that Welcome, Affirm and Support Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Foster and Adoptive Parents**

Human Rights Campaign Foundation All Children – All Families Initiative, 2007

Offering examples of effective agency practices, the Guide is the first comprehensive, practical tool aimed to help agency leaders actively improve policies and practices that affect their work with LGBT prospective adoptive parents. The Guide features sample policies and materials, along with tips from leaders of welcoming agencies, researchers in the field and LGBT adoptive and foster parents.

To order: Order online at <http://www.hrc.org/issues/7609.htm>

**Breaking the Silence: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Foster Youth Tell Their Stories - DVD and Resource CD**

National Center for Lesbian Rights, 2006

The *Breaking the Silence* DVD, produced in collaboration with the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project and the Center for Digital Storytelling, contains ten short digital stories that were written and directed by LGBTQ youth who have spent time in state custody. Each of these digital stories is designed to stand on its own. For specific suggestions on how to use the DVD for training or other purposes, refer to the *Introduction and User's Guide* and the *DVD Viewing and Discussion Guide* provided on the CD.

The Bonus CD contains a comprehensive collection of more than 25 resources produced by organizations that are nationally respected for their expertise in supporting LGBTQ out-of-home youth. These tools provide additional background and support for trainers and advocates as well as guidance to administrators and managers on how to transform agencies to be safe and non-discriminatory.

To order (Free of Charge): Order online at [www.nclrights.org/youth\\_bts](http://www.nclrights.org/youth_bts)

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness**

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Nicholas Ray, 2006

Of the estimated 1.6 million homeless American youth, studies have found between 20 and 40 percent are LGBT. This Report discusses the reasons why so many LGBT youth are homeless and the risks they face in shelters and on the street. It includes chapters written by leading service providers on their work with homeless LGBTQ youth, along with state-, federal-, and practitioner-level policy recommendations.

Download full publication: [http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports\\_and\\_research/homeless\\_youth](http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/homeless_youth)

**Getting Down to Basics: Tools to Support LGBTQ Youth in Care**

Child Welfare League of America and Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, 2006

This tool kit offers practical information on helping to ensure that LGBTQ youth in care receive the support and services they deserve. Consisting of 18 colorful pull-outs, it serves as an ideal starting point for administrators and practitioners unfamiliar with LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care issues. Specific target audiences include: caseworkers; attorneys, guardians ad litem, and advocates; congregate care providers; juvenile justice professionals; faith-based providers; LGBTQ youth; and families supporting LGBTQ youth. Sub-topics include (but are not limited to): working with transgender youth; working with homeless LGBTQ youth; LGBTQ youth risk data; recommendations for training and education; combating misguided efforts to ban lesbian and gay adults as foster and adoptive parents; and basic facts about being LGBTQ.

Download full publication: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/take-action/tool-kits/>

To order (Free of Charge): Order online at <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/issues/youth/out-of-home-care/> or call Lambda Legal at 212-809-8585

## **LGBTQ Youth in Child Welfare: A Special Issue of CWLA's Child Welfare Journal**

Child Welfare League of America, 2006

For this special issue of the *Child Welfare* journal, CWLA has brought together a diverse array of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and others to provide an LGBTQ-affirming perspective to the complex issues of gender and sexual orientation in child welfare, assisting agencies, caseworkers, foster parents, and policymakers in stripping away the rhetoric and providing culturally competent practices and strategies that truly meet the needs of LGBTQ youth.

To order: Order online at <http://www.cwla.org/pubs/> or call CWLA at 1-800-407-6273

## **CWLA Best Practice Guidelines: Serving LGBT Youth in Out-of-Home Care**

Child Welfare League of America, Wilber, Ryan, & Marksamer, 2006

This easy-to-use resource contains the first-ever set of comprehensive professional guidelines for how child welfare and juvenile justice professionals can best serve LGBT youth in state care. The *Best Practice Guidelines* developed out of recommendations from the Model Standards Project, a collaboration between Legal Services for Children and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Download full publication, executive summary, and Power Point presentation:

[www.nclrights.org/youth\\_pubs](http://www.nclrights.org/youth_pubs)

To order: Order online at <http://www.cwla.org/pubs> or call CWLA at 1-800-407-6273

## **Out of the Margins: A Report on Regional Listening Forums Highlighting the Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth in Care**

Child Welfare League of America and Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Woronoff, Estrada & Sommer, 2006

The CWLA/Lambda Regional Listening Forums provided an opportunity for LGBTQ youth in care, and the adults who work with and care for them, to share their experiences and work together to identify strategies for bringing about lasting change within the child welfare system. *Out of the Margins* consolidates the responses of the more than 500 youth and adult participants from 22 states who attended the Forums and offered personal stories of actual experiences and concrete solutions for building the capacity of the child welfare system to better meet the needs of LGBTQ young people.

Download full publication: [www.cwla.org/programs/culture/outofthemargins.pdf](http://www.cwla.org/programs/culture/outofthemargins.pdf)

To order (Free of charge): Order online at <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/issues/youth/out-of-home-care/> or call Lambda Legal at 212-809-8585

## **Agency Readiness Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide to Gauge Agency Readiness to Work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth**

National Network for Youth, 2002 (reprinted 2004)

The *Agency Readiness Index* (ARI) is an organizational development tool designed to assess how well an agency provides services for sexual minority youth. It serves as a group discussion guide to

identify and discuss areas in which an agency is competent and also areas in which improvements can be made. ARI is organized around seven modules of agency performance: leadership, operating standards, human resources, staff knowledge and development, agency climate/environment, HIV prevention programs, and community relations. Each module contains a series of questions. All questions should be answered individually and a collective score should be given for each module. The results of each module are then used for future planning. The instrument was developed by the National Network for Youth as part of a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded capacity-building initiative.

To order (Free of Charge): Find ordering information: <http://www.nn4youth.org/agencyreadiness.aspx>

### **Youth in the Margins: A Report on the Unmet Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Adolescents in Foster Care**

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, et al., Sullivan, Sommer & Moff, 2001

This report urges foster care systems and agencies to take crucial remedial steps to serve their LGBTQ clients. It includes background on the unaddressed needs of LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care and basic measures for reform. It also includes state-by-state findings and recommendations based on a survey of LGBT-related foster care policies and services in fourteen states

Download full publication: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/publications/>

To order (Free of Charge): Order online at <http://www.lambdalegal.org/take-action/tool-kits/> or call Lambda Legal at 212-809-8585

### **'Justice for All? A Report on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Youth in the New York Juvenile Justice System**

Urban Justice Center, Feinstein, et al., 2001

This report, the first of its kind, documents the discrimination and bias against LGBT youth that pervades New York's juvenile justice system. The report concludes with recommendations for professionals in the juvenile justice system to help improve the treatment of LGBT youth.

Download full publication:

<http://www.urbanjustice.org/pdf/publications/lesbianandgay/justiceforallreport.pdf>

### **Select Journal Articles:**

Caitlin Ryan et al., *Family Rejection as a Predictor of Negative Health Outcomes in White and Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults*, 123 (1) *Pediatrics* 346 (2009).

Jody Marksamer, *And by the Way, Do You Know He Thinks He's a Girl? The Failures of Law, Policy, and Legal Representation for Transgender Youth in Juvenile Delinquency Courts*, 5 *Sexuality Res. & Soc. Pol'y* 72 (2008).

Rudy Estrada & Jody Marksamer, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Young People in State Custody: Making the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems Safe for All Youth Through Litigation, Advocacy, and Education*, 79 Temp. L. Rev. 415 (2006).

Barbara Fedders, *Coming Out for Kids: Recognizing, Respecting, and Representing LGBTQ Youth*, 6 Nev. L. J. 774 (2006).

Colleen A. Sullivan, *Kids, Courts and Queers: Lesbian and Gay Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Systems*, 6 Tul. J.L. & Sexuality 31 (1996).

## **Relevant Cases:**

### ***RG v. Koller*, 415 F. Supp. 2d 1129 (D. Haw. 2006)**

Three youths who identify as or who are perceived to be LGBT filed a motion for preliminary injunction seeking relief from the discrimination, harassment, and verbal, physical, and sexual abuse they suffered at the hands of Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) staff and wards. The court partially granted the plaintiff's preliminary injunction on due process grounds, finding that the conditions at HYCF were physically and psychologically unsafe for the plaintiffs. The court ruled that the defendants were deliberately indifferent to the health and safety of the plaintiffs in failing to provide (1) policies and training necessary to protect LGBT youth, (2) adequate staffing and supervision, (3) a functioning grievance system, and (4) a classification system to protect vulnerable youth. The court found that the practices of isolating the LGBT youths, ostensibly for their protection, and failing to protect them from physical and psychological abuse were clear violations of due process.

For more information: <http://www.aclu.org/lgbt/youth/>

### ***Rodriguez v. Johnson* (2006)**

Alyssa Rodriguez, now 20 years old, is a transgender woman who was deprived of her prescription hormone medication and punished for her feminine hairstyle and other aspects of her gender expression by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) while at the Red Hook Residential Center and other New York juvenile detention facilities. Rodriguez had been on hormone therapy from a young age and experienced severe health consequences and emotional distress due to withdrawal symptoms after being forced to go without treatment. The case filed on Rodriguez's behalf resulted in a settlement. OCFS paid a monetary award to Rodriguez and is taking significant steps to improve its treatment of transgender youth, including the creation of a policy on the care of LGBTQ youth.

For more information: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/in-court/>

For a copy of the OCFS policy: [http://www.srlp.org/files/LGBTQ\\_Youth\\_Policy\\_PPM\\_3442\\_00.pdf](http://www.srlp.org/files/LGBTQ_Youth_Policy_PPM_3442_00.pdf)

### ***Doe v. Bell*, 194 Misc.2d 774, 754 N.Y.S.2d 846 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 2003)**

A New York Superior Court ruling that a transgender youth's Gender Identity Disorder constitutes a disability within the meaning of the State Human Rights Law. As such, the court required the New York City Administration for Children's Services to make reasonable dress code accommodations for

the youth's disability. The petitioner was granted exemption from the dress policy and permitted to wear feminine clothing in the all-male foster care facility.

For more information: <http://www.srlp.org/areas/youth>

***Policies of Note:***

Illinois, Department of Children and Family Services, Support and Well-Being of LGBTQ Youths, Procedures 302.A Appendix K (Released 3.13.09)

New York Office of Children and Family Services, LGBTQ Youth, PPM 3442.00 (Issued 3.17.08)

Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility: Non-Discriminatory, Developmentally Sound Treatment of LGBT Youth, Policy No. 1.43.04 (Effective 4.11.07)

New York City Department of Juvenile Justice, Anti-Discrimination of LGBTQ Youth (Effective 2.6.07)

Connecticut, Department of Children and Families, Non-Discrimination of LGBTQI Individuals, Policy Manual 30-9 (Effective 5.14.04)