



September 21, 2017

CHILDREN' ADVOCATES ROUNDTABLE: MEETING NOTES

LGBTQ: Child and Youth Health

Amanda Wallner, CA LGBT Health & Human Services Network Director, Health Access

Federally: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

- Would result in millions of dollars in lost health care for California
- Would have a huge adverse impact on individuals with pre-existing conditions, youth, and children

Disparities

HIV

- Lower HIV Risk in families that are accepting
- Need to provide youth and families with the assistance that they need to help families to be more accepting
- Contact Amanda Wallner at Health Access for resources: awallner@health-access.org

Substance Abuse

- Higher use among LGBT
 - Can lead to school drop-outs, criminal justice involvement...
 - Some problems with infrastructure – when youth are moved out of state for treatment – the state to which they move could be problematic for the youth (re: acceptance, etc.)
- RFPs – attempting to reduce tobacco use among LGBT Youth
- Prop. 64 put in place measure to reduce substance use in the LGBT community
- There is a need for a focus on communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the “War on Drugs”

Approaches to improving LGBT Health include:

- Focus on reduction of stigma
- Work with community organizations
- Build expertise among service providers
- Bolster sexual health education and cultural competence
- Consent and Privacy: Youth need to know they are SAFE and their information is protected
- Not all kids who benefit from these services and programs are LGBT – straight kids benefit from this knowledge as well

Transgender youth

- Family Support - needs to start very young – particularly for trans-gender youth
- There is a need for increased education re: trans medical issues among providers
- There is a need for access to medical services

Overall – California has done a good job of providing inclusive policies

Specific Threats to LGBT in the new federal bill

- Section 1557: Nondiscrimination clause in the ACA – it's inclusion was a victory for the LGBT community
 - Very inclusive definition of gender
 - There was a case in Texas that says the definition is too broad
 - Federal government has said there will be changes (may narrow the definition of gender)
 - Section 1557 also includes protections for reproductive healthcare
- *Note that in CA we have strong protections for gender identity and sexual orientation (which is not in 1557)

Question: The Military is the largest employer of transgender people in the country – What is the impact on access to healthcare

- The impact will be felt outside of the trans-military troops because the ban adds to the stigma associated with being transgender inside AND outside of the military – the messaging will cause problems for transgender youth.
- The cost of implementing the ban is more than the cost of healthcare for transgender service members

LGBTQ: Juvenile Justice

Shannan Wilber, Youth Policy Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights

Stigma

- The risks associated with stigma

- Think about the risks associated with stigma as a public health crisis
- Systems through which LGBT youth cycle often START with stigma
 - The juvenile justice system is often the last system – the last result.

Juvenile Justice System: Data

- See Impact document from the [National Center for Lesbian Rights](#) ([posted on the Roundtable Website](#))
- 19% of young people identified as lesbian, gay, transgender or gender nonconforming
 - Gender nonconformity is more of a risk for youth than identifying as LGBTQ
 - Data is very different for girls and boys
 - Regional disparities – higher in northern CA
- Once they are in the Juvenile justice system, LGBTQ youth tend to be detained more often – and there are not enough appropriate placements for them
 - Detention itself is very harmful
- There has, historically, been a high # of prostitution-related charges for LGBTQ-GNC youth
 - 90% of these youth are youth of color
 - Increase risk with law enforcement involvement and differential treatment in juvenile justice system
- The region of CA that agreed to do the initial data collection re: Juvenile Hall (much more in depth) was the central valley
 - Prior to collecting data – need to have comprehensive non-discrimination policy – young people need to know the policy exists
 - Training
 - Data
- The younger generation is more understanding and accepting – but – unfortunately – less engaged.
- *Group of grassroots Juvenile justice organizations that is interested in legislation around protecting LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system – CONTACT SHANNAN WILBUR AT THE CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.*
<http://www.nclrights.org/about-us/staff/shannan-wilber/>

LGBTQ: Youth Homelessness

Shahera Hyatt, Director, California Homeless Youth Project

Struggling to survive – see the report here:

<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/StrugglingToSurviveFinal.pdf>

[See PowerPoint for the notes on this presentation](#)

- Federally, proposed \$7 billion proposed cut to HUD would be devastating because CA does not kick in a lot of funding...
- *October 10 – there is a hearing in Los Angeles on LGBTQ youth homelessness. Contact*

[Shahera Hyatt](#) *at the California Homeless Youth Project for details.*

LGBTQ: Education

Krystal Torres-Covarrubias, OUT for Safe Schools Coordinator,
Los Angeles LGBT Center

- Problem: There is not enough youth involvement in education policies
- Demonizing schools does not help
- What information do we need to have to be better school advocates?
- See Fact Sheet here

Youth Risk behavior survey

- CDC National Survey
- District by district
- Nationwide Data
 - Data on students who designate as LGBTQ
 - Does not include data from Trans students
 - They are attempting to develop a question to reflect that data
- Schools:
 - Nationwide: 6% of all youth were threatened with or injured with a weapon ON SCHOOL PROPERTY
 - 10% of all LGBT Youth
 - 12% of “unsure” Youth
 - 42.8% of LGBT seriously contemplated suicide – people at the school need to be aware and make the changes necessary to provide support

GLSEN School Climate Survey (2015)

- Self selecting
- Information about people who self-identify as LGBTQ
- When you see GLSEN Advertise – tell your students to take the survey – (60% of respondents identify as white) more responses will be valuable (the 2017 survey is closed – but watch for the next survey) <https://www.glsen.org/>
- 85.2% of students surveyed experienced verbal harassment or were threatened
 - Of these students – 57.6% did NOT report the harassment or threats
 - 63.5% Said that the school staff did NOTHING in response or told the student to ignore it.
 - Doing nothing and appearing to do nothing are the same
 - The school needs to include the student in its response to the complaint

4 Systems Level Recommendations

- 1) GSAs (clubs that include LGBTQ students) where students can go to talk
- 2) Curriculum – students should be exposed to LGBTQ people in the curriculum (historical contributions...)

- 3) Inclusive policies – specifically policies that are enumerated to protect LGBTQ students
- 4) Supportive Adults: Adults make all the difference – Supportive adults on campus are valuable “growing the team”

- California has strong policies to protect LGBTQ youth: It is important to ensure that these policies are implemented at the district level

FAIR Education Act

- The FAIR education Act was passed in 2011 – LGBTQ people should be represented in the curriculum
 - Currently advocating for textbooks for grades K-8 that comply with the act
 - FAIR Act Implementation Network
 - For more information on the FAIR Act: <http://www.faireducationact.com/>

LGBTQ: Foster Care

Joey Hernández, Policy and Mobilization Manager, Los Angeles LGBT Center

- Systems Integration: Ability to recognize LGBT in the foster care system
- Issues:
 - Taking away clothes as a form of punishment
 - Competence – mental health providers

The LGBTQ Center

- Serves 42,000 clients / month
- 80-100 homeless clients / day
- 65% of LGBTQ youth in foster care have had 5+ placements
- LGBTQ in foster care - often an extension of family rejection
- Focus:
 - Preventative services
 - Advocacy
 - Bias reduction
- Center is engaging with CFS, probation...
- Working with the board of Supervisors to put services in place

RISE Program

- Wraparound teams for LGBTQ in foster care to help with family
- How to deal with bias in the system – train professionals to use best practices

Further information and How to help

1. Child Welfare League of America's "Recommended Practices to Promote the Safety and Well-Being of LGBTQ Youth and Youth at Risk of or Living with HIV in Child Welfare Settings": <https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/recommended-practices-youth.pdf>
2. Executive summary of the William's Institute's "[Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Los Angeles Foster Care](#)" report.
3. The Los Angeles LGBT Center's sign-on request for recommendations to the LA County Board of supervisors to support LGBTQ youth in foster care can be found at: <https://goo.gl/forms/CGa7mIY1kUwPxx4F2>

The letter opens with...."we are deeply concerned that despite state law being clear on the mandate to the child welfare system to provide resources and supports services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth to ensure permanency outcomes in a population that is more likely to be placed in congregate care, have longer stays in foster care, and report poor treatment by the foster care system."

Their asks are the following...

- 1) Adopt Nondiscrimination Policies and Ensure Legal Protections
- 2) Implement LGBTQ-Specific Programs and Services
- 3) Hire and Designate Specialized Staff
- 4) Promote LGBTQ Preparedness
- 5) Provide Access to Funding

Born Perfect:

"Born Perfect Campaign"

- Campaign to end conversion therapy
- Conversion therapy takes many forms – need to recognize it when and where it is happening
- Contact the National Center for Lesbian Rights for more information:
bornperfect@nclrights.org

Legislative Hearing:

Legislative hearing in LA re: LGBTQ youth **on October 10**: contact [Shahera Hyatt](#) (Shahera.Hyatt@library.ca.gov) at the California Homeless Youth Project or [Joey Hernandez](#) (joey.hernandez@lalgbtcenter.org) at the Los Angeles LGBT Center for more information.