LGBTQ+ Youth and Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems

Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., LPC | He, Him, His
Program Manager, Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams
Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

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When you hear “LGBTQ”, who comes to mind?

What We’re Here to Do…and Not Do

- Promote one goal: Helping any and all children
- Learn from available research and literature
- Discuss impact of services
- Be respectful and safe
- Be curious and ask questions
- Otherwise, no agenda, gay or otherwise
The “Official” Learning Objectives

• Enhance understanding of sexual orientation, sexual identity, and gender expression particularly that of youth.

• Be able to identify how youth who identify as a LGBTQ+ are impacted.

• Learn how to enhance professional (and personal?) work to provide culturally appropriate services to youth who identify as a LGBTQ+ and their families.
The Dinglehopper; Wait – It’s a...

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
Genderqueer/Gender Expansive
Queer, Questioning
Intersex
Ally/Affirming, Asexual
Friendly
Pansexual
Demisexual
Two-Spirit

The Dinglehopper; Wait – It’s a F...

LGBT
LGBTQ
LGBTQIA
LGBTQIAAF
LGBTQIAAFP
LGBTQIAAFP2-S
LGBTQQIAAFP2-S
LGBTQQIDAAPPO2SBNBGNGGAPPO+

Sexual Orientation / Gender Identity & Expression
But What is a Fork Anyways?

- Be clear on definitions. For example, gender and sex are not necessarily the same.
- Be aware of heteronormative and gender binary language.
- Use of gender pronouns and, also, vocabulary.
- LGBTQ+ culture and language and communication is fluid and dynamic.
% LGBT Adults by State (2019)

Estimate 73,000,000 Children in USA (2019)
Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are

OVERALL "OUT" CHART

9 in 10 LGBT youth (91%) are out to their close friends

Nearly two-thirds (64%) are out to their classmates; 61% are out at school

More than half (56%) are out to their immediate family

Immediate family 56%
Extended family 25%
Close friends 91%
Classmates 64%
Your teachers 38%
Your clergy 5%
At work 11%
At school 61%
Religious community 8%
Your coaches 11%
Your doctor 16%

People’s Responses to Sexual Minorities

- Adverse misconceptions
- Physical abuse
- Family violence
- Bullying
- Sexual abuse
- Homelessness
- Substance abuse
- Dating violence
- Victimization
- Family rejection
92% of LGBT youth say they hear negative messages about being LGBT. The top sources are school, the Internet and their peers.

www.hrc.org/youth

#LGBTYOUTH

26% of LGBT youth say their biggest problems are not feeling accepted by their family, trouble at school/bullying, and a fear to be out/open. 22% of non-LGBT youth say their biggest problems are trouble with class, exams and grades.

www.hrc.org/youth

#LGBTYOUTH
Increased Likelihood of Adverse Effects

- Major Depression
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- PTSD
- Substance Abuse / Dependence Disorders
- Suicide
- High risk sexual behaviors
- Entry into foster care and/or juvenile justice

Conversion / Reparative / ??? Therapy

Any attempt or effort to change an individual’s sexual orientation, sexual identity, or gender expression

NOT SUPPORTED BY SCIENCE/RESEARCH
INEFFECTIVE AT BEST, HARMFUL AT WORST
LGBTQ+ Youth and Child Welfare
(adapted with permission from Terry Scraggins, 2020)

- Overrepresentation in foster care system: 1 out of 5
- Increased frequency of placement disruptions: 19/6% vs. 8.6%
- Increased risk of suicidal ideation, depression, sexually transmitted infections

LGBTQ+ Youth and Juvenile Justice

- About 15% of overall number of delinquency cases
- More likely to be targeted and stopped by police
- Out-of-home placements and detention more common and for longer durations
- More likely to not be given due process
- More likely to be prosecuted for age-appropriate consensual sexual activity
LGBTQ+ Affirmative Services

An approach to services that embraces a positive view of LGBTQ+ identities and relationships, and addresses the negative influences that homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism have on the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

Being an Affirmative Professional Involves...

• Engage in self-reflection to identify own thoughts, beliefs, etc.

• Get and stay educated and keep up with the current knowledge

• Acknowledge that each person has own unique story

• Act as an ally by challenging heterosexism and the gender binary; challenge oppression
Tips for Affirmative Professionals

• Use the correct terminology; when in doubt, ask!

• Be open about your commitment to providing affirmative services to all clients and reflect that commitment in policies

• Create an affirmative setting

• Get involved (local community) and know the local resources

When Non-SOGIE People Are Stuck

• Be respectful

• Confirm your goal: Safe, happy, and healthy children; not to change beliefs

• Listen and work toward gaining an understanding

• Reminder of common foundation: Love
Where to Go for More

- Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth: [https://www.ok.gov/occy/Resources/index.html](https://www.ok.gov/occy/Resources/index.html)
- GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD): [www.glad.org](http://www.glad.org)
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC): [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)
- It Gets Better Project: [www.itgetsbetter.org](http://www.itgetsbetter.org)
- The Trevor Project: [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)
- PFLAG: [https://www.pflag.org](https://www.pflag.org)
- Gender Spectrum: [www.genderspectrum.org](http://www.genderspectrum.org)
- Centers for Disease Control: [https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm)
Thank you!

Jimmy.Widdifield@occy.ok.gov  
[0] 405-606-4919  
https://www.ok.gov/occy