

# National Workgroup To Address the Needs of Children and Youth Who Are LGBTQI2-S and Their Families

## VISION

All children, youth, and families in the populations of interest live, learn, work, play, thrive, and participate fully in safe, supportive communities where culturally and linguistically competent services and supports are available, accessible, and appropriate.

## MISSION

Promote accessible, strength-based, and culturally and linguistically competent services and supports that improve the lives of children, youth, and families in the populations of interest without regard to age, culture, ethnicity, family composition, gender, gender expression, gender identity, geographical location, language, living situation, race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. In addition, eliminate shame, stigma, and the experience of discrimination among children, youth, and families in the populations of interest.

## PURPOSE

This national workgroup includes a diverse group of individuals (e.g., youth, family members, researchers, direct service providers, policy-makers, program administrators, etc.) who help guide development of policies, programs, materials, products, and other resources to improve the lives of children, youth, and families in the populations of interest.

## POPULATIONS OF INTEREST

Children and youth who (1) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, or two-spirit (LGBTQI2-S) or (2) have LGBTQI2-S parent(s)/caregiver(s), and are in need of, or are receiving, services from a Child, Adolescent and Family Branch (CAFB) program throughout the U.S. and territories—along with their families.

## PRINCIPLES

### Promotion of:

- A public health framework for providing and delivering services and supports
- Acceptance of oneself and others among children, youth, and families within the populations of interest, and among providers and the larger community
- Mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health and wellness
- Family-related approaches to services and care
- Empowerment and full inclusion of grantee populations of interest in system of care (SOC) activities supported by the CAFB, treatment planning, etc.
- Empowerment of youth in guiding the support they need
- Delivery of culturally and linguistically appropriate services for all persons, regardless of racial/ethnic identity and geographic location (e.g., Native American, Latino, Asian, African American/Black, territorial, reservation, rural/urban)
- Development of assets-based and culturally and linguistically competent services and supports, and strengthening of existing services and supports that embrace these values for the populations of interest
- For service providers from all traditions/practices, increased awareness and knowledge about specific needs of populations of interest

## CHALLENGES

### Experiences of Children, Youth and Families

- Exclusion, stigma, prejudice, and discrimination-related consequences (e.g., shame, secrecy, and embarrassment associated with negative societal attitudes and behavior such as heteronormative bias)
- Social inequalities and disparities in health and access to health care
- Health disparities in emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual wellness
- Potential for at-risk behaviors (e.g., suicidal ideation, substance abuse) and unsafe environments (e.g., homelessness)
- Lack of full support from familial/cultural/social/educational/faith-based groups and institutions
- Perceptions that not conforming with one's birth-assigned gender is pathological and unacceptable
- Requirements that youth not identifying with their birth-assigned gender:
  - Receive a Gender Identity Disorder (GID) diagnosis to receive medical services and hormone therapy and other transition-related therapies
  - Be at least 18 years of age in many jurisdictions to begin gender-transition therapies

### Provisions of Services and Supports

- Lack of culturally and linguistically competent services
- Inadequate access to, or knowledge of, existing supports and services
- Inadequate awareness about gender and sexual identity development
- Inadequate information and misinformation regarding service needs of the populations of interest
- Reduction of traditional cultural beliefs and supports for indigenous persons due to colonization of tribal and territorial areas
- Varying and sometimes inadequate commitment, experience, training and (or) knowledge of service providers (e.g., clinicians, behavioral health professionals, and administrators), which can be due to prejudice, lack of awareness, or lack of appropriate tools/expertise

## OBJECTIVES

### Objective One

Promote full, positive inclusion of children, youth, and families in the populations of interest in the life and functioning of federally funded SOC grantee communities and in the programs the CAFB funds (CA-SIG, Circles of Care, Healthy Transitions, Statewide Family Networks, Systems of Care, etc.)

### Objective Two

Foster collaborative partnerships among individuals, providers, organizations, and the larger community to increase awareness, promote acceptance, and address the needs of the populations of interest

### Objective Three

Support development and implementation of assets-based and culturally and linguistically competent and appropriate policies, programs, services, supports, resources, and other materials to increase awareness, promote acceptance, and address the needs of the populations of interest



## ACTIVITIES

### Supports for Children, Youth, Families, and Caregivers

- Promote family acceptance and appropriate engagement among families and communities to facilitate treatment interventions and improve related outcomes
- Develop and institute plans of care that reflect acceptance of youth choices in positive youth development and treatment services and supports
- Develop outreach and engagement strategies to promote help-seeking behavior to access needed services

### Supports for System of Care Communities

- Promote organized access to, and availability of, assets-based and culturally and linguistically appropriate services and supports in SOC grantee communities
- Foster collaboration across agencies, including formal and informal LGBTQI2-S organizations and agencies, to support full, positive inclusion of the populations of interest
- Identify and implement financing mechanisms that support other national workgroup activities and efforts to address the needs of the populations of interest
- Provide ongoing training and learning opportunities about LGBTQI2-S issues and topics to staff, providers, youth and families, other community members, technical assistance providers, evaluators, and consultants
- Build partnerships with varied organizations and networks (e.g., faith based, community based) to identify, develop, and (or) promote appropriate services and supports
- Develop, maintain, and continually update a database of consultants with pertinent expertise for referral and access purposes
- Develop and disseminate information and resource products including practice briefs to inform communities; a trauma curriculum based on principles of trauma, resilience, and recovery; and a resource toolkit for SOC communities
- Identify social marketing strategies to increase awareness, reduce stigma, promote acceptance, and encourage help-seeking behavior among the populations of interest
- Develop cultural and linguistic guidelines for providers to ensure provision and delivery of culturally and linguistically competent practices
- Liaison with guides and professional organizations (e.g., NAMI, CWLA, LGBT Health Coalition) to collect information and identify related dissemination strategies and delivery systems
- Develop an evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of activities, products, and deliverables resulting from national workgroup efforts and its subcommittees

## LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

### Children, Youth, Family, and Caregivers

- Increased child, youth, family, and caregiver satisfaction with SOC supports and services
- Continued promotion of resilience of children, youth, families, and caregivers within SOC communities

### System of Care Communities

- Increased implementation of focused social marketing campaigns to increase awareness, reduce stigma, promote acceptance, and encourage help-seeking behavior among the populations of interest

## For More Information

If you would like to access information about the workgroup online including this logic model, summaries of past annual workgroup meetings, a contact list of workgroup members, and Resources including LGBTQI2-S websites, please visit:

<http://tpartnership.org/CO/P/CLC/lgbtqi2s.php>