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Recent Works on Practice with LGBTQ Youth

Working With LGBTQ Youth.

Child Welfare Information Gateway.

2011

Resources and information about serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth in out-of-home care.

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/cultural/lgbtq.cfm>

Struggling to Survive: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning Homeless Youth on the Streets of California.

Hyatt, Shahera.

California Research Bureau. California Homeless Youth Project.

2011

This brief highlight the challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) homeless youth in California based on an in-depth review of existing research on this population, including a recently released report from the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership (HHYP), as well as a series of interviews conducted with LGBTQ homeless youth and service providers throughout the State. Challenges addressed include getting kicked out of the home and surviving life on the streets. Data is cited that indicates: an estimated 25 to 40% of LGBTQ homeless youth report leaving home due to conflicts with family members around their sexual orientation or gender expression; 33% of LGBTQ youth report being a victim of a hate crime since entering life on the street.; LGBTQ youth are more than three times as likely to be involved in survival sex as their non-LGBTQ peers; and LGBTQ youth report significantly higher rates of suicidal thoughts than their heterosexual peers (73% vs. 53%). Policy recommendations for improving the lives of LGBTQ homeless youth are discussed. 32 references.

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

Families Matter: New Research Calls for a Revolution in Public Policy for LGBT Children and Youth.

Minter, Shannon. Krehely, Jeff.

Center for American Progress.

2011

The Family Acceptance Project is a community research, intervention, education, and policy initiative that works to decrease major health and related risks for LGBT youth such as suicide, substance abuse, HIV, and homelessness. This is all done within the context of their families. Project staff use a research-based, culturally grounded approach to help ethnically, socially, and



religiously diverse families decrease rejection and increase support for their LGBT children. This issue brief provides background information on the Family Acceptance Project and outlines how the project's findings and a new family-based approach can help radically improve the way a wide range of social and public services respond to and serve LGBT youth. In particular, we discuss the project's implications for the child welfare system, family courts, schools, and the juvenile justice system. (Author abstract)

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/02/pdf/families_matter.pdf/

Facilitating Discussion of Transgender Issues: A Primer.

Mallon, Gerald P.

National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections.

2011

This PowerPoint Presentation on by Dr. Gerald P. Mallon, DSW, Director of the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections, provides information on strategies that are useful in creating an environment conducive to discussion of transgender issues with adolescents. It addresses the following topics: Active demonstration of transgender awareness and sensitivity; routinely screening for gender concerns; dilemmas in diagnosis of gender concerns in adolescence; and, conducting a detailed trans-inclusive psychosocial evaluation.

(Author abstract)

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/download/Facilitating%20Discussion%20of%20Transgender%20Issues%2002%2022%202011.pdf

It's Your Life [Website].

ABA Center on Children and the Law.

2011

It's Your Life helps LGBTQ youth in foster care navigate the child welfare system. Explore this site to understand your rights and receive the care and attention you are entitled to. (Author abstract)

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/projects_initiatives/its_your_life.html

Comparison of Treatment Response Among GLB and Non-GLB Street-Living Youth.

Grafsky, Erika L. Letcher, Amber. Slesnick, Natasha. Serovich, Julianne M.

2011

Children and Youth Services Review

33 (5) p. 569-574

Researchers have found that adolescents who identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual (GLB) are at a higher risk for increased substance use and mental health symptoms. The current study is a secondary analysis of two clinical trials for street-living youth. This analysis examines self-identification as GLB as a moderator of treatment effects and addresses whether street-living GLB youth respond differently to a therapeutic intervention than non-GLB street-living youth. Comparisons were made of treatment outcomes on two categories of variables (drug use and mental health symptoms) among 244 homeless GLB and non-GLB identified adolescents. Overall,

GLB and non-GLB adolescents showed similar reductions in drug use and mental health symptoms. However, compared to non-GLB adolescents, GLB adolescents showed greater improvement in reduction of drug use and internalizing and depressive symptom scores. While both groups reported less drug use and fewer mental health symptoms from baseline to post-intervention, GLB youth's scores improved more drastically. Implications of using the identified treatment intervention are discussed. (Author abstract)

Populations Needing Special Attention (chapter in Youth Leaving Foster Care: A Developmental, Relationship-Based Approach to Practice).

Smith, Wendy B.

University of Southern California School of Social Work.

2011

This chapter focuses on providing services to three specific groups leaving foster care: youth with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, and pregnant and parenting youth. It offers an overview of outcomes and issues for each group, a discussion of the effects of maltreatment, and interaction between the particular issue and development. Services and practice recommendations are described for each group. (Author abstract modified)

Representing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in Juvenile Court.

North Carolina Office of the Juvenile Defender.

2011

Although there are few if any reliable statistics concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ), child welfare and juvenile justice systems report that LGBTQ youth are disproportionately represented in child welfare and juvenile justice facilities. Therefore, in an effort to help defense counsel better understand the experiences of LGBTQ youth involved in the juvenile justice system, this document provides a compilation of recent research regarding sexual orientation and gender identity, describes the obstacles faced by LGBTQ youth prior to entering and upon entering the juvenile justice system, and suggests best practices and strategies for defense counsel representing LGBTQ youth. (Author abstract)

http://www.aoc.state.nc.us/www/ids/Juvenile%20Defender/Guides/LGBTQ_Guide.pdf

Information Memorandum To State, Tribal and Territorial Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, Indian Tribes and Indian Tribal Organizations: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth in Foster Care.

United States. Children's Bureau.

2011

The purpose of this memo is to encourage child welfare agencies, foster and adoptive parents and others who work with young people in foster care to ensure that children are protected and supported while they are in foster care. It includes information on workforce development; biological, relative legal guardian, foster and adoptive parent training, support and recruitment;

and, safety of young people in foster care who are LGBTQ.

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2011/im1103.htm

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2011/im1103.pdf

LGBTQ Youth Homelessness.

In Focus.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

2011

Includes: USICH on LGBTQ Youth Homelessness; A Conversation with Jeff Krehely, Director of The LGBT Research and Communications Project at the Center for American Progress; Two Model Programs for Serving LGBTQ Homeless Youth: The Ali Forney Center in New York City, and The Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit; and Additional Resources on LGBTQ Youth Homelessness.

http://usich.gov/media_center/in_focus/lgbtq_youth_homelessness/

A Place of Respect: A Guide For Group Care Facilities Serving Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth.

Marksamer, Jody. Spade, Dean. Arkles, Gabriel.

National Center for Lesbian Rights. Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

2011

This guide offers group care facilities information and tools to provide transgender and gender non-conforming young people with appropriate and informed care. It also describes laws requiring facilities to protect these youth from harassment and abuse, to provide them with appropriate medical care, and to treat them fairly. This publication helps staff understand the experiences and concerns of transgender and gender non-conforming youth, and explains how staff members can respond to these youths' safety, programmatic, and health care needs in an informed and effective manner that meets facilities' legal obligations. Finally, it provides administrators with a model policy and comprehensive practice guidelines to help keep transgender and gender non-conforming youth safe, prevent programmatic disruptions, and promote respectful and supportive environments for all youth. (Author abstract)

http://www.nclrights.org/site/DocServer/A_Place_Of_Respect.pdf?docID=8301

What Lawyers Need to Know About Representing LGBTQ Youth [Video 1].

American Bar Association. Section of Litigation. Children's Rights Litigation.

2010

This videotape includes a presentation from conference held at Cardoza Law School in April 2010 that focused on successfully representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in a variety of settings. The presentation discusses representing LGBTQ youth in foster care and in the juvenile justice system. It addresses the importance raising the awareness of LGBTQ youth, definitions of LGBTQ individuals, findings from the Open Doors Project on the experiences of LGBTQ youth, characteristics of LGBTQ youth, challenges faced by LGBTQ youth, the importance of knowing the LGBTQ status of clients, and best practices for representing LGBTQ youth. Recommendations are made for using open language and creating an

environment that is conducive to disclosure.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/childrights/video/1004-video-LGBT-video01.html>

What Lawyers Need to Know About Representing LGBTQ Youth [Video 2].

American Bar Association. Section of Litigation. Children's Rights Litigation. 2010

This videotape includes a presentation from conference held at Cardoza Law School in April 2010 that focused on successfully representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in a variety of settings. The presentation features a gay youth who discusses his experiences as a 17-year-old who was thrown out of his family home. He highlights the critical preventative care he received from a case manager that helped him transition to independent living. An additional presentation reviews the challenges faced by LGBTQ youth and legal issues that arise from sexual identity discrimination and/or collateral consequences of homelessness or poverty. Recommendations are made for best practices in representing LGBTQ youth.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/childrights/video/1004-video-LGBT-video02.html>

What Lawyers Need to Know About Representing LGBTQ Youth [Video 3].

American Bar Association. Section of Litigation. Children's Rights Litigation. 2010

This videotape includes a presentation from conference held at Cardoza Law School in April 2010 that focused on successfully representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in a variety of settings. The presentation discusses the differences in the legal protections of youth in foster care and lack of legal protections of homeless youth, efforts to protect LGBTQ youth using State and federal law, and key lawsuits that have been brought by LGBTQ youth in foster care. Practice tips for lawyers representing LGBTQ youth are explored.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/childrights/video/1004-video-LGBT-video03.html>

What Lawyers Need to Know About Representing LGBTQ Youth [Video 4].

American Bar Association. Section of Litigation. Children's Rights Litigation. 2010

The fourth in a series, this videotape includes a presentation from a conference held at Cardoza Law School in April 2010 that focused on successfully representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in a variety of settings. The presentation by Michelle Kline of the Advocacy Center and others discusses LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system. Reasons LGBTQ youth become involved in the juvenile justice system are explained, as well as the needs of LGBTQ youth, the benefits of working with child welfare practitioners, and best practices for lawyers representing LGBTQ youth.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/childrights/video/1004-video-LGBT->

[video04.html](#)

Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth, LGBTQ Caregivers and LGBT Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents.

California Dept. of Social Service.

2010

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to provide public and private child welfare, adoption agencies and probation department's information on resources available to improve services to LGBTQ youth, their caregivers and LGBT prospective foster and adoptive parents. (Author abstract)

http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acin/2010/I-81_10.pdf

It's Your Life: Opening Doors: Improving the Legal System's Approach to LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care.

Desai, Krishna. Laver, Mimi. Khoury, Andrea.

ABA Center on Children and the Law.

2010

This booklet is designed to help LGBTQ youth understand what to expect in the child welfare legal system. It explains the child welfare legal process; the legal and other professionals who can help LGBTQ youth navigate the child welfare system; typical child welfare placements; the rights and expectations LGBTQ youth should have while in the child welfare system; available supports and services; and guidance for LGBTQ youth who are emancipating from the child welfare system.

http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20100727112137/http://www.abanet.org/child/docs/itsyourlife_book.pdf

All Our Children: Strategies to Prevent Homelessness, Strengthen Services and Build Support for LGBTQ Youth.

NYC Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Runaway and Homeless Youth.

2010

<http://www.gaycenter.org/files/imce/docs/LGBTQ-Youth-Report.pdf>

Opening Doors Project: Improving the Legal System's Approach to LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care.

National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues. ABA Center on Children and the Law.

2010

Child CourtWorks

11 (4) This brief profiles the Opening Doors Project located at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. This project is designed to address barriers for lesbian, gay,

bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in the child welfare system. The goal of the program is 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 and decision-making tools to successfully assist these youth. Resources provided by the program are noted, particularly a guide for lawyers and judges. The guide includes information on the role of judges and lawyers to provide good representation and make the best decisions for LGBTQ youth, the need for judges and attorneys to examine their own attitudes and beliefs, the importance of building strong client relationships, and best advocacy practices for LGBTQ youth at each stage of the case. Judicial guidelines for assisting LGBTQ youth are included.

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publishing/child_courtworks/ccw_vol11_no4.auth_checkdam.pdf

LGBTQ Youth Issues: A Practical Guide for Youth Workers Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth.

Mallon, Gerald P.
2010

Getting Down to Basics: Tools to Support LGBTQ Youth in Care: Working with Homeless LGBTQ Youth.

Fostering Transitions. Child Welfare League of America. Lambda Legal.
2010

This tool kit gives guidance on an array of issues affecting LGBTQ youth and the adults and organizations who provide them with out-of-home care.

<http://www.lambdalegal.org/take-action/tool-kits/getting-down-to-basics/>

Providing Safe and Supportive Placements for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Foster Care.

Willis, Clarissa.
2010

Fostering families today

9 (6) p. 40-41

The incidence of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) youth in the foster care system is discussed, as well as specific challenges faced by LGBT youth. Suggestions are provided to help caregivers and social workers be more inclusive of LBGT youth and to provide them with necessary supports and services.

The Health and Health Care of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adolescents.

Coker, Tumaini R. Austin, Bryn. Schuster, Mark A.
2010

Annual Review of Public Health

31 p. 457-477

Adolescents face a variety of challenges in their transition to adulthood; lesbian, gay, and

bisexual adolescents face these typical challenges as well as additional challenges that are related to the social stigma of their sexual orientation. For some lesbian, gay, and bisexual adolescents, this stigma may induce psychosocial stress, leading to increased health risk behaviors and poorer health outcomes. In this article, we review data on the health and health care of LGB adolescents. We examine health indicators and health risks for LGB youth, including substance use, eating disorders, suicidality, risky sexual behaviors, violence exposure and victimization, and homelessness. We also examine health care provision and utilization for LGB youth. Lastly, we discuss ways in which researchers and clinicians can improve LGB adolescent health and health care. (Author abstract)

Shelter and Transitional Housing for Transgender Youth.

Yu, Van.

Center for Urban Community Services (New York).

2010

Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health

14 (4) p. 340-345

This is one article in a three part series in this issue of The Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health documenting the proceedings from the workshop "The Psychiatric Needs of the Transgender Homeless Population" at the 2009 American Psychiatric Association's Institute on Psychiatric Services Conference in New York City. In the United States, transgender youth are overrepresented among the homeless. The stigma and discrimination that causes and maintains homelessness among transgender people is also prevalent in the streets and at programs that serve homeless people. This makes life for transgender people in foster care, at shelters, and in transitional housing difficult and even dangerous. Shelter policies have been created and adopted to address safety concerns of transgender people. In addition, transitional housing and other services exclusively serving sexual/gender minorities have also been developed to provide safe shelter for this population. (Author abstract)

Nowhere to Go: Issue Brief on Gay and Transgender Youth Homelessness.

Wagner, David.

Center for American Progress.

2010

This brief explores the plight of gay and transgender youth who are homeless, and calls for the U.S. Congress to amend the Runaway Homeless Youth Act with provisions and spending that specifically account for the needs of homeless gay and transgender youth. Information is provided on the unique challenges faced by gay and transgender youth on the street and reasons for the over-representation of gay and transgender youth among homeless youth, including coming out early in life, systemic flaws in the foster care system, and the lack of shelters for homeless gay and transgender youth. A gap in federal funding for serving homeless gay and transgender is noted, and the mistreatment of such youth by shelters is described. Shelters that work for gay and transgender youth are then profiled and recommendations are made for outlawing discrimination in federally funded shelters, funding shelters designed for gay and

transgender youth, and conducting more research and collecting more data on gay and transgender youth homelessness. 26 references.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/08/pdf/nowhere_to_go.pdf

Creating Spaces to Support Transgender Youth (article in Creating Supportive Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth -- Special Issue of The Prevention Researcher).

McGuire, Jenifer K. Conover-Williams, Meredith.

2010

The Prevention Researcher

17 (4) p. 17-20

This article describes family, school, and community contexts linked to the well-being of transgender adolescents. Strategies for promoting positive development for transgender youth are discussed, and recommendations for youth organizations to ensure they are inclusive and supportive of all gender identifies and expressions are highlighted. 1 table and 26 references.

Queer Youth Space: A Protective Factor for Sexual Minority Youth.

Asakura, Kenta.

2010

Smith College Studies in Social Work.

80 (4) p. 361-376

Physical, psychological, and social vulnerabilities of sexual minority youth are well documented. Yet factors that protect this population from these risks remain relatively unknown. Previous researchers suggest that (1) a sense of safety, meaningful relationships with others, and positive identity development are protective and (2) social support programs focusing on sexual minority youth (Queer Youth Space) have a positive impact. In this article, Queer Youth Space is explored as a program that may promote protective factors and mediate risks. Theories of attachment, self psychology, and social identity are applied to conceptualize Queer Youth Space and its protective roles. Implications for social work practice and research are discussed. (Author abstract)

Victimization, Family Rejection, and Outcomes of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Young People: The Role of Negative GLB Identity.

Willoughby, Brian L. B. Doty, Nathan D. Malik, Neena M.

2010

Journal of GLBT Family Studies

6 (4) p. 403-424

Victimization and family rejection of sexual orientation are two salient stressors facing gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) young people. While initial research has established a link between these sexuality-related stressors and GLB youths' mental health outcomes, the factors that underlie this relationship remain unclear. The current study examines the role of negative GLB identity (i.e., negative feelings about one's own sexual orientation) in mediating the relationship between sexuality-related stress (i.e., victimization, family rejection) and youth outcomes (i.e.,

internalizing problems, substance use, and cigarette smoking). Participants included 81 GLB young people (ages 14 to 25 years) recruited through college groups, youth organizations, study advertisements, and friend referrals. Path analyses revealed that victimization and family rejection experiences were related to youths internalizing problems via negative GLB identity. However, stressors and health risk behaviors were not related through negative GLB identity, although some direct relationships between stressors, substance use, and smoking emerged. Limitations and implications of the present study are discussed. (Author abstract)

**Creating Supportive Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth
(Special Issue of *The Prevention Researcher*).**

Russel, Stephen T. Horn, Stacey S. Romeo, Katherine E. Ryan, Caitlin. McGuire, Jenifer K. Conover-Williams, Meredith.

2010

The Prevention Researcher

17 (4) p. 1-20

Intended for prevention researchers, this issue focuses on services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth. An introductory article outlines the social science research about the contemporary lives of LGBT youth, as well as the most recent research regarding the risk and resilience in their lives. A following article discusses the importance of peer relationships for LGBT youth and highlights strategies for creating more positive peer context for LGBT students within the school environment. The various phases of the Family Acceptance Project which is working to shift the paradigm from serving LGBT youth alone to serving them in the context of their families are highlighted in the third article on engaging families to support LGBT youth. The fourth article draws on knowledge about the safe school movement to suggest several key principles that could help guide the creation of supportive and inclusive community programs and services for LGBT youth. The final article describes family, school, and community contexts linked to the well-being of transgender adolescents. It concludes with recommendations for youth organizations to be inclusive and supportive of all gender identifies and expressions. Numerous references.

Know Your Rights: Transgender Youth in Foster Care.

Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

2010

Designed for youth, this pamphlet explains the rights of transgender youth in foster care in New York City. It reviews rights to safety, expression of gender identity, access to healthcare, and communication with family, friends, and mentors outside of the foster care system, including other lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and adults. A list of organizations that can be contacted for assistance is provided. The role of the Administration of Children's Services (ACS) in ensuring youth safety is discussed, as well as the definitions of transgender and gender expression.

<http://srlp.org/files/kyr%20foster%20care%20eng-.pdf>

An Evaluation of the Service Needs Among Transgender Homeless Youth.

Miller, Lesley T.

Larkin Street.

San Francisco State University. Department of Public Administration.

2009

This paper explores the differences in service needs between transgender and nontransgender homeless youth. Variables such as mental and physical health, housing stability, psychiatric treatment, substance abuse, overall health, depression, and sex work were explored as well as potential explanations for the findings. Data from 2000 homeless youth as well as interviews with service providers were analyzed for this study. Both chi-squared and independent sample t-tests found significant difference between the test and general population for a variety of measures. Transgender youth have a higher incidence of receiving outpatient mental and physical health services, reporting serious anxiety, having suicidal thoughts or having attempted suicide, receiving counseling, having been under psychiatric care in the past, and engaging in risky sexual behavior for money. Comments and comparisons are made and implications for service providers and future research are explored. (Author abstract)

<http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~ltmiller/documents/LarkinStreet.pdf>

12 Tips for Advocating for LGBTQ Youth.

Top Tips for Volunteers.

Oberloh, LaRae.

National CASA Association.

Sioux Falls Area CASA Program (Sioux Falls, S.D.)

2009

The Connection (National CASA Association)

p. 14-15

This fact sheet lists 12 ways Court Appointed Special Advocates and Guardians ad Litem can advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Strategies include: examine biases and recognize it is okay to be uncomfortable at times, obtain specific education and training on advocating for LGBTQ youth, research and be aware of resources, use general terms when speaking with people, respect confidentiality, recognize the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, ensure safety for LGBTQ youth, learn laws pertinent to LGBTQ individuals, be a visible advocate, recognize system failures that impact youth, recognize educational failures, and advocate for permanency.

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Top_Tips.pdf

Best Practices for Meeting the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Homeless Youth.

Larkin Street Youth Services.

2009

This brief explores the incidence of homeless youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ), reasons why they become homeless, and the unique needs of LGBTQ

youth that should to be addressed. Statistics are provided that highlight the demographics of the LGBTQ youth and their length of time without stable housing. Issues the youth are dealing with are reviewed and include: daily survival, physical health, mental health issues, and substance use. The additional stigma and challenges faced by transgender youth are noted, and strategies professionals can use to serve LGBTQ homeless youth are discussed in the areas of housing, behavioral health, educational support, workforce development, and independent living skills. Finally, the importance of program policies that address gender orientation issues, staff training, data collection, and community collaboration in developing programs is emphasized. 28 references.

<http://www.larkinstreetyouth.org/news/pdf/LGBTQYouthBrief%2010.09.pdf>

Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care.

National CASA Association.

2009

The Connection (National CASA Association)

p. 6-13

This brief begins by describing the unique challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth in foster care. Challenges include a stigmatized identify, a lack of permanency, and a lack of safety. Perspectives of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), youth, and child welfare workers on these challenges are shared, and initiatives CASA programs are implementing to help LGBTQ youth are described. Success stories of LGBTQ youth who have been helped by CASAs are included, as well as a list of resources related to LGBTQ youth in care.

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Cover_Story.pdf

Opening Doors: Improving the Legal System's Approach to LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care Project [Website].

American Bar Association. Opening Doors Project.

2009

As a judge, lawyer or other child welfare professional do you understand the risk factors common to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth? These include high suicide rates, substance abuse, health issues, and harassment in foster care and in school. Do you know how a youth's LGBTQ status affects permanency (including reunification, adoption, guardianship, or placement with a fit and willing relative)? The Opening Doors Project 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. (Author abstract)

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/projects_initiatives/lgbtq.html

A National Approach to Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ Homeless Youth.

National Alliance to End Homelessness.

2009

This two-page fact sheet provides an overview of the prevalence and experience of LGBTQ youth, causal factors, and risks to LGBTQ youth while homeless. It also highlights a reform agenda to end homelessness for LGBTQ youth and makes best practices recommendations for youth-serving professionals, case workers, and advocates, for administrators and supervisors, and for residential services. (Author abstract)

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2240>

http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/2240_file_LGBTQ_Homeless_Youth_Factsheet_4_9_09.pdf

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

Majd, Katayoon. Marksamer, Jody. Reyes, Carolyn.

National Juvenile Defender Center. National Center for Lesbian Rights. Legal Services for Children.

2009

This report examines the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth in juvenile courts across the United States. It 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. This report begins by discussing barriers to fair and effective juvenile justice systems, the responsibility of professionals to treat youth in juvenile courts fairly, common misconceptions and biases about LGBT youth in the juvenile justice system, and attempts to change, control, or punish LGBT adolescent sexual orientation and gender identity. The impact of family rejection and school harassment on LGBT youth involvement in the juvenile justice system and the lack of services to meet the needs of LGBT youth are also described. Following chapters consider the harmful and inappropriate use of pretrial detention, unsafe and unfair conditions of confinement for LGBT youth, and barriers to zealous defense advocacy for LGBT youth. The report concludes LGBT court-involved youth across the country often face denials of due process, unduly punitive responses, harmful services and programs, and unsafe conditions of confinement. Recommendations are made for guaranteeing due process protections and improving outcomes for all youth in delinquency proceedings, including LGBT youth. 51 references.

<http://www.lsc-sf.org/wp-content/uploads/hidden-injustice-low-res-final.pdf>

Incidence and Vulnerability of LGBTQ Homeless Youth.

Youth Homelessness Series ; Brief No. 2.

National Alliance to End Homelessness.

2009

This brief reviews research concerning LGBTQ homeless youth and offers suggestions for

interventions with positive outcomes for homeless adolescents and young adults. (Author abstract)

http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/2141_file_LGBTQ_Brief_2007.pdf

Asset-Based Approaches for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQI2-S) Youth and Families in Systems of Care.

FMHI Publication ; 252.

Gamache, Peter. Lazear, Katherine J.

Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health (Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute).

2009

Families with a parent, child, or youth who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, two-spirit (LGBTQI2-S) or transitioning navigate varying levels of acceptance and support when accessing and utilizing needed services within the mental health system. This monograph offers a public health approach for communities to meet the needs of these families. It presents a description of the research literature related to youth and families who are LGBTQI2-S. It also discusses a conceptual model of cultural competence to develop programs to serve the LGBTQI2-S population, and provides recommendations for next steps in a research agenda to develop an inclusive and asset-based system of care to meet the needs of youth and families who are LGBTQI2-S. (Author abstract)

<http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/rtcpubs/FamExp/lgbt-mono.pdf>

Supporting LGBTQ Youth: A Judicial Bench Card.

American Bar Association. Opening Doors Project.

2009

Designed to assist judges, this tip sheet lists strategies for supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth (LGBTQ). Tips are provided for fostering an inclusive environment in the courtroom, ensuring fair treatment of LGBTQ youth, and providing necessary services and support for LGBTQ youth. Placement and permanency strategies are also listed for supporting LGBTQ youth for reunification, adoption, guardianship or relative placement, and for another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA).

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/child/PublicDocuments/Bench_Card.aut_hcheckdam.pdf

Student Note: From the Inside Out: Calling on States to Provide Medically Necessary Care to Transgender Youth in Foster Care.

Turner, J. Lauren.

2009

Family Court Review

This Note addresses the foster care system's failure to provide medically necessary care to transgender youth in its care. Lack of medically necessary care is an issue with dire consequences for transgender youth, and has been the subject of recent litigation in New York. Part II of this

Note tells the story of life in foster care for some transgender youth, including statistics about the harassment and abuse transgender foster care youth face and the negative consequences they must endure as a result of that treatment. Part III suggests that child welfare agencies live up to the legal duty they owe to transgender youth under their guardianship. Specifically, Part III proposes that states adopt child welfare laws stating that hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery are medically necessary treatments for Gender Identity Disorder (GID), and that such medically necessary treatment will be provided at the agencies' expense if not covered by Medicaid. Additionally, Part III discusses the constitutional duty of child welfare agencies to care for transgender foster care youth. Part III further contemplates how adopting the proposed legislation will affirm the state's commitment to that duty and ensure that transgender foster care youth receive the medical care they need at the appropriate time. Finally, Part IV addresses anticipated counterarguments to the proposal including the risks associated with the treatment, the cost of treatment, the ability of minors to consent to the treatment, and the stigma involved in characterizing transgenderism as a disorder. This Note ultimately concludes that both the benefits of providing transgender foster care youth with the medical attention they require, and the devastating consequences that would result by continuing to deny these youth the care they need, are too great to ignore. (Author abstract)

Social Work Practice With Transgender and Gender Variant Youth. Second Edition.

Mallon, Gerald P.

2009

Through personal narratives and case studies, this text explores the childhood and adolescent experiences of transgender and gender variant young people. It is designed to offer practical guidance to help social workers and youths' families learn more about the reality of transgender and gender variant youths' lives. An introductory chapter discusses the language and terminology of trans culture, definitions related to trans youth, and the development of trans identity for trans youth. Following chapters address: using an ecological approach in practice with transgender and gender variant youth; ethical issues in the mental health treatment of trans adolescents; internal and external stress factors associated with the identity development of transgender and gender variant youth; social work practice with transgender and gender variant youth; social work practice with female-to-male transgender and gender variant youth; the experiences of an emerging male-to-female transgender and gender variant youth; group-work practice with transgender and gender variant youth; social work practice with transgender and gender variant youth and their families; and legal advocacy on behalf of transgender and gender nonconforming youth in different settings, including youth in foster care, juvenile justice settings, schools, and homeless shelters. A final chapter discusses creating a trans-affirming culture and transforming the culture of agencies. The book closes with a summary of recommendations for the clinical treatment of transgender and gender variant youth. Numerous references. (Author abstract modified)

7 Tips for CASA/GAL Programs on Working with LGBTQ Youth.

National CASA Association.

2009

The Connection (National CASA Association)

Cover Story Sidebar 2

The following tips were compiled from interviews with 25 CASA staff members and volunteers, youth formerly in foster care, parents and national experts on the needs of LGBTQ youth.

(Author abstract)

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Seven_Tips_f_or_Programs.pdf

Moving the Margins: Training Curriculum for Child Welfare Services with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in Out-of-Home Care.

Elze, Diane. McHaelen, Robin.

National Association of Social Workers. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

2009

Sponsoring Organization: Tides Foundation's Out-of-Home Youth Fund.

The National Association of Social Workers and the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund joined in partnership to improve out-of-home care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning/queer (LGBTQ) youth. *Moving the Margins: Training Curriculum for Child Welfare Services with LGBTQ Youth in Out-of-Home Care* is intended to provide training on building the capacity, awareness and skills of social workers and other child welfare practitioners to better serve and respond to the needs of this population of youth. This curriculum is divided into modules, assuming that trainers will present aspects of the materials to a range of different audiences, with differing levels of understanding, prior knowledge and job responsibilities. The first half of the curriculum (LGBTQ 101) is designed as an introduction for trainees just beginning their journey toward cultural competency with LGBTQ clients, staff and peers. The basic LGBTQ 101 is a 2.5-hour values clarification training that offers participants the opportunity to explore their personal views and values regarding this population, differentiate between a value or belief and a myth or stereotype and develop strategies to balance personal views and professional responsibilities when the two are in conflict. Module V (Learning Lab) may be added to the basic curriculum when there is a minimum of 3 hours to train or as a second, skill-building training with the same participants. The second half of the curriculum (LGBTQ 201) is designed in skill-building modules. Each module explores in greater depth many of the issues LGBTQ clients face in out-of-home care systems. These modules include scenarios that can be explored in small group discussions, through role-play and in learning labs. Because facilitators may be required to provide training in less than the optimal 2.5 to 3 hours, the curriculum also provides sample agendas for 1 hour, 1.5 hour and 2 hour workshops. (Author abstract)

http://data.lambdalegal.org/publications/downloads/mtm_moving-the-margins.pdf

Psychosocial Problems Associated With Homelessness in Sexual Minority Youths.

Gattis, Maurice N.

2009

Journal of human behavior in the social environment.

19 (8) p. 1066-1094

Sexual minorities are overrepresented among homeless youths, and this is often related to reactions to their status as sexual minorities. While on the streets, they are at increased risk for victimization, substance and alcohol use, sexual risk behaviors, and mental health issues compared to homeless heterosexual youths. This article uses ecological systems theory to examine psychosocial problems associated with homelessness among sexual minority youths and reviews empirical literature examining outcomes related to homeless sexual minority youths including mental health, substance use, and sexual risk behavior. Implications for social work are discussed including practice, policy, and suggestions for future studies. (Author abstract)

Providing High-Quality Representation for LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care.

Laver, Mimi.

American Bar Association. Children's Rights Litigation Committee.

2009

Children's Rights

11 (1) p. 1, 8-11

This article discusses the challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth in foster care, and how attorneys can develop a strong lawyer-client relationship with these youth. Attorneys are urged to examine their attitudes about those who identify LGBTQ to ensure they do not negatively impact representation. Reasons attorneys should know their client's LGBTQ status are discussed, as well as tips for assisting LGBTQ youth, strategies for advocating outside the courtroom, and questions that should be asked to ensure safe placements.

11 references.

http://apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/childrights/content/newsletters/childrens_winter2009.pdf

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

Ryan, Caitlin.

Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development. National Center for Cultural Competence.

San Francisco State University.

2009

Sponsoring Organization: Center for Mental Health Services (U.S.). Child, Adolescent, and Family Branch.

This practice brief was developed for families, caretakers, advocates, and providers to: Provide basic information to help families support their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children; Share some of the critical new research from the Family Acceptance Project™ (FAP) at San Francisco State University. This important new research shows that families have a major

impact on their LGBT children's health, mental health, and well-being; and Give families and LGBT youth hope that ethnically, religiously, and socially diverse families, parents, and caregivers can become more supportive of their LGBT children. This practice brief reports on specific findings from FAP research. (Author abstract)

http://www11.georgetown.edu/research/gucchd/nccc/documents/LGBT_Brief.pdf

Helping Courts Serve the Best Interests of LGBTQ Youth.

Bermudez, Flor.

National CASA Association.

Lambda Legal.

2009

The Connection (National CASA Association)

This fact sheet discusses the challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth in foster care, and the role Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers play in helping judges understand the risks LGBTQ youth in care face and the impact they may have on children's lives. CASA volunteers are urged to recognize that anti-LGBTQ attitudes are the product of prejudices with no place in the child welfare system. The need for CASA programs to implement basic LGBTQ competence trainings is stressed, as well as the need for CASA volunteers to fully explain to youth their role as agents of the court.

Additional recommendations include: having CASA service recommendations address support and guidance for parents and foster parents, helping LGBTQ youth receive culturally competent services, helping the court assess whether foster families and congregate settings are able to ensure safety and positive development for these youth, and ensuring health care providers are informed of the risks these youth face.

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Partner_Perspective.pdf

LGBTQ: Sexual Orientation Questions of Youth.

Youth In Progress. New York (State). Office of Children and Family Services. Center for Development of Human Services.

2009

This brochure explains the key terminology surrounding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, lists facts about LGBTQ people, and emphasizes that all foster youth, including LGBTQ youth, have rights while in care. A list of additional resources is provided, as well as contact information for New York Youth In Progress regional offices.

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5090.pdf>

A Glimpse Within: An Exploratory Study of Child Welfare Agencies' Practices With LGBTQ Youth.

Rosenwald, Mitchell.

Barry University School of Social Work.

2009

Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services
21 (4) p. 343-356

This article presents findings from a national survey of agency members of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) with respect to organizational culture and service delivery for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Sixty-seven study participants provided quantitative and qualitative data via an Internet questionnaire. Overall, agencies fall short of fully subscribing to recommendations made by the CWLA. They could improve their support for providing an inclusive environment, creating supportive policies, and selecting childcare providers regardless of sexual orientation/gender identity. In addition, agencies varied with respect to the relative emphasis that services geared specifically for LGBTQ should occur. Although some progress has been made, much work remains for child welfare agencies to fully address the needs of LGBTQ youth. (Author abstract)

Information Packet: LGBTQ Youth and Spirituality.

Tidhar, Noam.

National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections.
2009

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

This paper discusses the challenges lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and queer (LGBTQ) youth face in general and in various religions. It shares findings that indicate there is a direct correlation between spiritual practice and a positive sense of well being amongst LGBTQ individuals, and that religion, faith, and spirituality have proven to be helpful in the healing process and self-affirmation of LGBTQ people dealing with the homophobia of religious fundamentalism, substance abuse, and terminal illness. A shift towards the greater acceptance of LGBTQ adults and youth within religious organizations is noted, and the need for families to use their faith and values to support their LGBTQ children is stressed. Lists of websites that address general issues for LGBTQ youth, resources that address LGBTQ youth and spirituality, and website resources for LGBTQ youth by type of faith are included. 28 references.

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/Tidhar LGBTQ Youth Spirituality2009.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/Tidhar_LGBTQ_Youth_Spirituality2009.pdf)

Supporting the Emotional and Psychological Well Being of Sexual Minority Youth: Youth Ideas for Action.

Davis, Tamara S. Saltzburg, Susan Locke, Chris R.

2009

Children and Youth Services Review

31 (9) p. 1030-1041

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) populations are susceptible to stress-related mental health disorders because of daily imposed stigma and prejudice. Yet minimal information exists from the perspective of sexual minority youth about how to support them in managing a challenging social environment during critical stages of development. Through the lens of youth from two geographic communities this study examined what is needed to support GLBT



adolescent mental health. The study employed inductive secondary analysis of qualitative and quantitative data gathered through Concept Mapping needs assessments. Findings include 61 unduplicated ideas for support across the two groups of youth; 14 primary themes emerged with 22 stated needs common among both groups. Areas of need in multiple service systems are identified. The importance of the supports for meeting youths' emotional needs varied between the two communities. Ideas generated represent youth ideas for improving conditions which contribute to disparate community supports needed to develop positive emotional and psychological well being. The findings are conceptualized with regard to psychological and physical safety; community impact on emotional well being; schools and psychosocial supports; and access to relevant mental health and health care. Discussion includes implications for practice and policy. (Author abstract)

