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Working with Transgender Youth in Foster Care and Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs 2006-present

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/

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



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>

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/

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)

Helping All of Our Homeless: Developing a Gay- and Transgender-Inclusive Federal Plan to End Homelessness.

Krehely, Jeff. Hunt, Jerome.

Center for American Progress.

2011

This brief reviews existing data and research that suggest gay and transgender Americans are at a higher risk of homelessness than the overall population, with a focus first on youth and then adults. It concludes by offering gay- and transgender-specific recommendations for federal agencies that are working to implement the president's plan to end all forms of homelessness.

(Author abstract)

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/01/pdf/lgbt_homelessness.pdf

Representing Transgender Youth: Learning from Mae's Journey.

Bevel, Garry.

2011

ABA Child Law Practice

29 (11) p. 169-174

This article explores the efforts that made a difference for a transgender youth during her journey through the child welfare system, including advocacy tips and best practices for legal practitioners when working with transgender youth. The rights of transgender youth in foster care, placement, medical and therapeutic services, and school services are reviewed.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/child/clp/archives/vol29/jan11.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

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.ncrights.org/site/DocServer/A_Place_Of_Respect.pdf?docID=8301

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

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

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.

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>

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>

Supportive Social Services for LGBT Youth: Lessons from the Safe Schools Movement (article in Creating Supportive Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth -- Special Issue of The Prevention Researcher).

Russell, Stephen T.
2010

The Prevention Researcher
17 (4) p. 14-16

This 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth. Recommendations include: inclusive, enumerated policies, personnel training and advocacy, student-led school clubs, access to LGBT-related resources, and the integration of LGBT issues in school curricula. 18 references.

<http://lgbtsocialwork.wikispaces.com/file/view/Supportive+Social+Services+for+LGBT+Youth+-+Lessons+from+the+Safe+Schools+Movement.pdf>

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

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>

State of Youth Homelessness: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Homeless Youth in Milwaukee, WI.

Cream City Foundation.

2010

<http://pfundonline.org/pdf/youth%20homelessness%20rept.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.

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

On the Streets: The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender Homeless Youth.

Quintana, Nico Sifra. Rosenthal, Josh. Krehely, Jeff.

Center for American Progress.

2010

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/06/pdf/lgbtyouthhomelessness.pdf>

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

Mallon, Gerald P.

2010

A new, revised version of Lesbian and Gay Youth Issues brings recent research and clinical practice regarding LGBTQ youth into focus for all kinds of youth-serving professionals. These youth are often an invisible population, but it's safe to say that every agency that works with youth has had clients who identify as LGBTQ. With a combination of practical tips, proven research, and personal vignettes—where the youth are able to speak for themselves—this book is a guide for workers who want to help LGBTQ youth confront challenges with their families, at school, in out-of-home care, or in the wider community. New in this edition is a chapter on transgender youth issues, a chapter on other special populations of LGBTQ youth, and specially highlighted sections in each chapter that answer the question, “What Can Youth Workers Do?”

Gay and Transgender Youth Homelessness by the Numbers.

Center for American Progress.

2010

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/06/homelessness_numbers.html

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)

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

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

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.casaforphildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Seven_Tips_for_Programs.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

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

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

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)

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>

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 identity, 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

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)

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

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 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)

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

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 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

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

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>

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)

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>

Transgender Foster Youth: A Forced Identity.

Olson, Christine L.

Davis Polk & Wardwell.

2009

Texas Journal of Women and the Law

19 This Article argues that minors in group foster homes cannot legally be forced to wear traditionally gender-conforming clothing or otherwise perform traditional gender roles, regardless of their biological sex. Although this Article focuses primarily on clothing and physical appearance, the arguments also apply to other aspects of gender expression, which may include walking, talking, choice of romantic partner, etc. Part I examines the importance of allowing adolescents to freely express their own gender identity and also explores relevant federal and state law. Part II argues that to force minors in group foster homes to wear traditionally gender-conforming clothing or otherwise perform traditional gender roles violates the right to free speech under the First Amendment, the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Article concludes by recommending federal and state legislation as well as state agency policies explicitly protecting a foster youth's freedom to express his or her own gender identity while living in a group home. (Author abstract)

National Recommended Best Practices for Serving LGBT Homeless Youth.

National Alliance to End Homelessness. Lambda Legal. National Network for Youth. National Center for Lesbian Rights.

2009

This policy brief provides a brief overview of homelessness among LBGT youth. It makes recommendations about improving practice, improving organizational culture, and improving residential services. The recommendations are broken down into three sections. The first section includes steps intake workers, case managers, social workers, youth supervisors, and others who have regular, direct contact with youth should take to improve the experiences of LGBT youth accessing services. The second section includes steps administrators should take to improve agency-wide culture and effectiveness in serving LGBT youth. The final section includes specific steps both administrators and youth workers should take to improve the experiences of youth in residential settings, whether these settings are emergency shelters or longer term transitional living. (Author abstract)

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2239>

http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/2239_file_Recommended_Best_Practices_for_LGBT_Homeless_Youth_4_9_09_.pdf

When Did You First Realize You Were Straight?: Strategies and Legal Requirements for Working with LGBTQ Youth in Child Welfare System.

Rehberg, Maryanne.

Bay Area Academy.

2008

This training is designed to assist child welfare professionals with incorporating a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning (GLBTQ) affirming approach into their social work practice. The curriculum includes current terminology, trends, issues, research and demographic facts and findings. The requirements of the recently passed A.B. 458, which mandates training on the topic of GLBTQ issues, will be discussed as will other relevant legal standards. Suggestions

for best practice skills will be reviewed. The goal of this training is to provide child welfare practitioners with practical information and skills that will enable them to best provide and coordinate effective services for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered youth and families. (Author abstract)

http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/Training_Curric_GLBTOO.html

Advocating for LGBTQ Youth.

Tip Sheets: Quick References for Parents.

Adoption Resources of Wisconsin. Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center (Wis.).
2008

Designed for Wisconsin foster parents, this tip sheet explains that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) adolescents are estimated to make up a disproportionate share of the youth in foster care and the challenges faced by LGBTQ youth. It urges foster parents to be open, accepting, and good listeners when caring for LGBTQ youth and to become more knowledgeable about the needs of such youth. Strategies for finding out more information about the issues faced by LGBTQ youth and adults are discussed, as well as strategies for supporting LGBTQ youth in care and making successful connections. A list of additional resources is included.

<http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org/library/481/lgbtqadvocacy.pdf>

The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals.

Brill, Stephanie. Pepper, Rachel.

2008

Intended for parents and professionals, this text explores the characteristics of gender-variant and transgender children and discusses best practices for creating a safer environment for and meeting the needs of all children and families. Chapter 1 reviews possible signs a child is transgender, key terms, what is meant by gender, social gender role development, and core identity development. Typical ages at which a child realizes he or she is transgender are also explained, as well as gender fluidity and strategies for coming to terms with sexual orientation variance. Chapter 2 explores family acceptance of a child's gender identity and expression, and Chapter 3 focuses on the developmental stages of the transgender child. Chapters 4 and 5 discuss effective parenting practices based on findings of the Family Acceptance Project and when parents should let their children live as their preferred gender. Chapter 6 considers disclosure and provides guidance for deciding whom to tell, how, why, and when. It closes with answers to questions people commonly ask about gender-variant and transgender children. The following chapters discuss working with the child's school to ensure physical and emotional safety, medical issues for transgender children, and legal issues to consider. Chapters close with a list of additional resources.

Meeting the Needs of GLB Youth in Residential Care Settings: A Framework for Assessing the Unique Needs of a Vulnerable Population. (Chapter 10 in *Assessment in Residential Care for Children and Youth.*)

Block, Rebecca G. Matthews, John D.
2008

A review of the literature focuses on both gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) youth as a population and residential care and treatment. Recommendations are presented for the assessment of GLB youth in residential care informed by the strengths perspective, and a case example is presented of these process and content strategies and techniques. 25 references.

We're All Human Beings, Aren't We? Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Young People in Care. (Chapter 18 in *Direct Work: Social Work with Children and Young People in Care*)

Freed-Kernis, Ane.
2008

This chapter explores issues faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth and the challenges of working with LGBT youth. It reviews current research and incorporates the voices of LGBT youth who have been or are cared for by the Albert Kennedy Trust. Steps are described for broadening professional practices to encompass organizational traits and structures that best empower LGBT young people in care. 36 references.

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

Laver, Mimi. Khoury, Andrea.
ABA Center on Children and the Law.
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. (Author abstract)

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/child/PublicDocuments/ABA_LGBTQ_Text_REV5.authcheckdam.pdf

Providing Services and Supports for Youth who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex or Two-Spirit.

Practice Brief 1.

Poirier, Jeffrey M. Francis, Karen B. Fisher, Sylvia K. Williams-Washington, Kristin. Goode, Tawara D. Jackson, Vivian H.

National Center for Cultural Competence. United States. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Mental Health Services.

2008

This Practice Brief is for policymakers, administrators, and providers seeking to learn more about (1) youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, or two-spirit (LGBTQI2-S) and (2) how to develop culturally and linguistically competent programs and

services to meet their needs and preferences. (Author abstract)

<http://www11.georgetown.edu/research/gucchd/nccc/documents/lgbtqi2s.pdf>

What's Good for the Gays is Good for the Gander: Making Homeless Youth Housing Safer for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth.

Hunter, Ernst.

2008

Family Court Review

46 (3) p. 537-542

Across the United States, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth are grossly overrepresented in the homeless youth population. These youth are at an increased risk of being victims of violence in homeless facilities. This Note examines the causes of the overrepresentation of LGBT youth in the homeless youth population. Additionally, this Note suggests the following changes to the regulation of homeless youth housing programs to make them safer for these youth; (1) placing low maximum limits on the occupancy capacity at which these programs may operate, (2) requiring that all showering facilities provide individual privacy, (3) prohibiting anti-LGBT discrimination in the provision of services, (4) requiring nondiscrimination and sensitivity training, and (5) promoting the creation of LGBT-specific homeless youth housing programs.

(Author abstract)

Questions and Answers: LGBTQ Youth Issues.

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)

2008

<http://www.siecus.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=605&grandparentID=477&parentID=591>

Suicide Risk and Prevention for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth.

Malley, Effie. Posner, Marc. Potter, Lloyd. Bradshaw, Lori.

Suicide Prevention Resource Center. United States. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Mental Health Services.

2008

This paper highlights the higher risk of suicidal behavior among lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) youth. This higher risk may well extend to transgender (T) youth. Additionally, the paper provides recommendations to reduce this risk by addressing stigma and prejudice at the institutional and individual level; by forming partnerships across youth-serving, suicide prevention, and LGBT youth agencies; by building on recent advances in research; and by responding to the issues of LGBT youth. To write the paper, the authors reviewed relevant up-to-date literature and researched current services for LGBT youth. Youth, for the purposes of this paper, is defined as between ages 15 and 24. Drafts of the paper were reviewed by LGBT youth and experts with relevant interests. (Author abstract)

http://www.sprc.org/library/SPRC_LGBT_Youth.pdf



Creating Inclusive Services for LGBT Youth in Out of Home Care: Training Resources.

Out of Home Youth Advocacy Council. Family Builders by Adoption. Legal Services for Children. National Center for Lesbian Rights.

2007

This paper discusses different training resources for child welfare professionals who are working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth in California. It describes a brochure, fact sheet, resource directory, poster, a best practice resource, DVD, and PowerPoint presentation. In addition, the following training tips are provided: tailor the training to fit the audience; familiarize yourself with the training resources; include and integrate youth trainers; create an open and safe environment; assess your comfort level; actively engage participants; and make it real. Key messages of the training are also discussed and include: all youth benefit from an inclusive and respectful environment; LGBT youth do not have unique needs; the goal is to provide fair treatment and promote positive outcomes, not to change anyone's personal beliefs; coming out promotes adolescent health; family acceptance promotes well-being and family rejection promotes unsafe behaviors and negative health outcomes; transgender and gender nonconforming youth are entitled to acceptance and respect of their gender identity; LGBT youth are legally entitled to safety and equal treatment; families of LGBT youth need support and education; and LGBT youth need permanent families.

http://www.ncrights.org/site/DocServer/Preface_OHYAC_training_FINAL.pdf?docID=2921

We Are...GLBTQ. [DVD]

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

2007

This 40-minute DVD and booklet highlight the experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) youth. The DVD features GLBTQ adolescents sharing their experiences in foster care, including coping with rejection of their birth and foster families, struggling with their identity, and coming out. Information is provided on the GLBTQ terminology, the need for services for these youth, and the risks faced by the youth. Myths about GLBTQ youth are debunked and perspectives of adoptive and foster parents are provided. The ineffectiveness of reparative therapy is also noted. The booklet provides facts about the prevalence of GLBTQ youth, definitions of key terms, the truth about myths, insights provided by GLBTQ youth, and strategies for improving the life of GLBTQ youth in foster care. Discussion questions for the DVD are also included.

Discussion guide:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/We%20Are%20GLBTQ%20Discussion%20and%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>

Guidelines for Providing Culturally Competent Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Homeless Youth.

Mayor's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs (Washington, DC)

2007

According to a 2007 report, LGBTQ youth comprise up to 42% of the youth homeless population

in the United States. LGBTQ youth face unique challenges in receiving social services, Lambda Legal Defense and the National Alliance to End Homelessness developed recommended best practices for serving LGBT homeless youth. Here are these and other recommendations that will help your agency improve the delivery of service to LGBTQ youth. (Author abstract)

<http://dc.gov/DC/GLBT/Publication%20Files/BestPracticeHomeless.pdf>

Reach Out: Enhancing Services to Out-of-Home Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning Youth. Evaluation 2004-2006.

Wolfsun, Marian. Lee-Davis, Carolyn.

New England Network for Child, Youth & Family Services.

2007

This report discusses the activities and outcomes of Reach Out, a three-year initiative (FY 2004-2006) in northern New England designed to foster positive institutional change in the systems that serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, particularly those who are homeless, runaway, and/or in foster care or the juvenile justice system.

<http://www.nenetwork.org/glbtc/REACHOUTEVAL.pdf>

Opening Doors for LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care.

Opening Doors ; #1.

Khoury, Andrea.

2007

ABA Child Law Practice

26 (5) p. [65], 70-73

This article discusses the risks facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in foster care, including suicide, homelessness, harassment at school, prejudicial treatment, and substance abuse. It describes the roles judges and lawyers must play to protect LGBTQ youth and to help them succeed and provides recommendations for interacting with LGBTQ youth. 22 references.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/child/clp/archives/vol26/july07.pdf>

Exploring Attitudes about LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care.

Opening Doors ; #2.

Laver, Mimi.

2007

ABA Child Law Practice

26 (7) p. [97], 102-107

This article explores the attitudes child welfare lawyers and judges expressed about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth during five listening forums held about the county. It discusses how attitudes and words can impact LGBTQ youth and suggests ways to project positive attitudes and help LGBTQ youth. Strategies for identifying and discussing attitudes and actions toward LGBTQ youth are recommended, and the Riddle Homophobia Scale and an attitude checklist are provided. 19 references.

<http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/child/odwebcast/lgbtqattitudes.authcheckdam.pdf>

Strong Relationship, Strong Advocacy: Tips for Building Relationships with LGBTQ Youth.

Opening Doors ; #3.

Khoury, Andrea.

2008

ABA Child Law Practice

26 (11) p. 145, 150-153

This article explains how to build solid relationships that lead to strong advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. It describes key skills lawyers must have when representing LGBTQ youth: provide competent representation, exercise diligent, communicate with the client, protect client confidentiality, serve as an advisor, and avoid misconduct and prejudice. Key relationship-building skills for judges are also discussed. 18 references.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/child/clp/archives/vol26/jan08.pdf>

Legal Advocacy and Decision Making with LGBTQ Youth.

Opening Doors ; #4.

Laver, Mimi.

2008

ABA Child Law Practice

26 (12) p. 161, 166-171

This article discusses factors judges and lawyers should consider to assure safety, permanency, and positive well being outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth; tools for involving youth in their case planning, including court appearances; and tips to help LGBTQ youth find their voices in the dependency court process. A list of questions every lawyer and judge should ask in a case involving LGBTQ youth is provided. 21 references. (Author abstract modified)

<http://apps.americanbar.org/child/clp/archives/vol26/feb08.pdf>

Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in Foster Care.

National Foster Youth Advisory Council. Child Welfare League of America.

2006

<http://www.cwla.org/programs/positiveyouth/nfyacstatementslgbtq.pdf>

Funders Brief on LGBT Out-Of-Home Youth Issues.

Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues. Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families.

2006

On May 18, 2006, Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues and Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families held a WebEx funder briefing on issues related to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and

Transgender (LGBT) Out-of-Home Youth. What follows is a very brief summary of the issues addressed in the briefing and a list of groups involved in this work, as well as some helpful resources. Subjects include: Meeting the Needs of LGBT Out-Of-Home Youth; Projects Related to LGBT Youth in Out-Of-Home Care; and Litigation Related to LGBT Youth in Out-Of-Home Care. (Author abstract modified)

http://www.gcyf.org/usr_doc/Funder_Brief_for_LGBT_Youth.pdf

Transgender Children and Youth: A Child Welfare Practice Perspective.

Mallon, Gerald P. DeCrescenzo, Teresa.

2006

Child Welfare.

LXXXV (2) p. 215-241

Using an ecological framework, the existing literature and research, and the authors' combined 60 years of clinical practice with children, youth, and families, this article examines gender variant childhood development from a holistic viewpoint where children, youth, and environments are understood as a unit in the context of their relationship to one another. The focus is limited to a discussion about the recognition of gender identity; an examination of the adaptation process through which gender variant children and youth go through to deal with the stress of an environment where there is not a "goodness of fit"; and a discussion of the overall developmental tasks of a transgender childhood and adolescence. Recommendations for social work practice with gender variant young people are presented in the conclusion of the paper. (Author abstract)

The Model Standards Project: Creating Inclusive Systems for LGBT Youth In Out-of-Home Care.

Wilber, Shannan. Reyes, Carolyn. Marksamer, Jody.

2006

Child Welfare.

LXXXV (2) p. 133-149

This article describes the Model Standards Project (MSP), a collaboration of Legal Services for Children and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. The MSP developed a set of model professional standards governing the care of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in out-of-home care. This article provides an overview of the experiences of LGBT youth in state custody, drawing from existing research, as well as the actual experiences of youth who participated in the project or spoke with project staff. It will describe existing professional standards applicable to child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and the need for standards specifically focused on serving LGBT youth. The article concludes with recommendations for implementation of the standards in local jurisdictions. (Author abstract)

Achieving Permanency for LGBTQ Youth.

Jacobs, Jill. Freundlich, Madelyn.

2006

Child welfare.

LXXXV (2) p. 299-316

This article brings together two significant efforts in the child welfare field: achieving permanence for youth in out-of-home care and meeting the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. During the past several years, a national movement has taken place to assure all children and youth have a permanent family connection before leaving the child welfare system; however, LGBTQ youth are not routinely included in the permanency discussions. At the same time, efforts in addressing the needs of LGBTQ youth have increased, but permanency is rarely mentioned as a need. This article offers models of permanence and practices to facilitate permanence with LGBTQ youth and their families. It also offers a youth-driven, individualized process, using youth development principles to achieve relational, physical, and legal permanence. Reunification efforts are discussed, including services, supports, and education required for youth to return to their family of origin. For those who cannot return home, other family resources are explored. The article also discusses cultural issues as they affect permanence for LGBTQ youth, and, finally, addresses the need for ongoing support services to sustain and support permanency. (Author abstract)

GLBTQ Youth: A Resource Guide for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth in New York City's Foster Care System.

You Are Not Alone.

Diaz, Linda. Kimmel, Kristin. Freedman, Karen J.

Lawyers for Children.

2006

Designed for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (GLBTQ) young people in foster care in New York City, this resource guide explains available support services and provides information on organizations to help GLBTQ youth with: foster care issues, including the right to appropriate services, confidentiality, medical care, HIV status, sexual orientation, Service Plan Review meetings, and programs for GLBTQ young people; independent living, including discharge planning, consent to remain in foster care, Supervised Independent Living Programs, housing, education, college, employment and job training, and immigration status; homelessness and emancipation issues; physical health and addiction issues; and mental health issues and finding the right counselor. A glossary of terms related to GLBTQ is included.

<http://www.lawyersforchildren.org/sitecontent.cfm?page=handr-yourarenotaloneCLBTQe>

<http://www.lawyersforchildren.org/handbooks/GLBTO-Interior.pdf>

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

Ray, Nicholas.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

2006

Through a comprehensive review of the available academic research and professional literature, we answer some basic questions, including why so many LGBT youth are becoming and remaining homeless. We report on the harassment and violence that many of these youth experience in the shelter system and we summarize research on critical problems affecting them,

including mental health issues, substance abuse and risky sexual behavior. We also analyze the federal government's response to youth homelessness, including the specific impact on LGBT homeless youth of increased federal funding for faith-based service providers. We also partnered with five social service agencies who have written sections that detail model programs they have developed to improve service delivery to LGBT homeless youth. In order to put a face to all of this research and data, we also include profiles of LGBT homeless youth, many of which were collected through focus groups we conducted at service providers around the country. Finally, in consultation with a number of youth advocacy organizations, we conclude with a series of state-, federal- and practitioner-level policy recommendations that can help to curb this epidemic.

(Author abstract)

<http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/HomelessYouth.pdf>

Regional Listening Forums: An Examination of the Methodologies Used by the Child Welfare League of America and Lambda Legal to Highlight the Experiences of LGBTQ Youth In Care.

Woronoff, Rob. Estrada, Rudy.

2006

Child welfare.

LXXXV (2) p. 341-360

In 2002, the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund began Fostering Transitions: CWLA/Lambda Joint Initiative to Support LGBTQ Youth and Adults Involved with the Child Welfare System. To document the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, as well as identify strategies for systems improvement, initiative staff associated with the joint initiative conducted a series of Regional Listening Forums in 13 cities in the United States. More than 500 participants attended the forums, representing 22 states from every region in the country. Participants included former and current youth in care as well as the adults who work most closely with them. This article focuses on the methodologies on which the forums were developed and conducted. (Author abstract)

Breaking the Silence: LGBTQ Foster Youth Tell Their Stories: A Tool for Training Care Providers on Working Effectively with LGBTQ Youth [DVD + Bonus CD Materials].

National Center for Lesbian Rights.

2006

There are thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) young people in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems throughout the country. Unfortunately these systems routinely subject LGBTQ youth to differential treatment, deny them appropriate services and fail to protect them from violence and harassment. Breaking the Silence is an excellent tool for raising awareness about LGBTQ youth in foster care and to assist in training providers on working with LGBTQ foster youth. The Breaking the Silence DVD and Resource CD give presenters and trainers easy-to-use tools that can help educate providers on making foster care safe, supportive, and welcoming of all youth, including LGBTQ youth. (Author abstract)

The Legal Rights of LGBT Youth in State Custody: What Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Professionals Need to Know.

Estrada, Rudy. Marksamer, Jody.

2006

Child Welfare.

LXXXV (2) p. 171-194

Youth in state custody, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, have federal and state constitutional and statutory rights. These rights guarantee a young person safety in their placement as well as freedom from deprivation of their liberty interest. Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth have these rights violated on a regular basis. Many cases in both the child welfare and juvenile justice contexts have resulted in extensive and time-consuming consent decrees as well as sizable damages awards. Knowledge of a youth's legal rights can help providers avoid legal liability while creating a safer and healthier environment for LGBT youth. This article provides a general overview of the successful federal legal claims that youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems have made, discussion of the rights generated as a result, particle application of these rights to the experiences of LGBT youth with hypothetical scenarios, a focus on specific rights that emanate from certain state laws, and a focus on specific concerns of transgender youth. (Author abstract)

Issues of Shared Parenting of LGBTQ Children and Youth in Foster Care: Preparing Foster Parents for New Roles.

Craig-Oldsen, Heather. Craig, J. Ann. Morton, Thomas.

2006

Child Welfare.

LXXXV (2) p. 267-280

Foster parents have increasingly assumed new and challenging roles during the past decade. Meeting the developmental, attachment, and grieving needs of children and youth in out of home care is challenging by itself, but can become even more difficult with the issues that arise when the child is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ). Preservice and in-service foster parent training programs can strengthen shared parenting skills by focusing on the universal critical issues of safety, well being, and permanence for children and youth in foster care. This article will focus on these skill areas: (1) sharing parenting to promote healthy growth and development of LGBTQ youth in foster care, (2) threats to safety of LGBTQ youth in foster care, and (3) general challenges and strategies for preparing foster parents of LGBTQ youth to build support systems. (Author abstract)

LGBTQ Youth in Child Welfare.

Mallon, Gary. Wornoff, Rob. (Eds.)

2006

Child welfare.

LXXXV (2) p. [107]-438

This special journal issue explores the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ)

persons affected by child welfare in national, State, and local policies, child welfare agency practices, and professional publications. An introduction considers what child welfare agencies need to do to respond to LGBT children, youth, and families and the need for alternatives and strategies. Following articles discuss: the experiences of a gay foster parent; the Model Standards Project, a program for creating inclusive systems for LGBT youth in out-of-home care; results of a health survey on lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) homeless youth; the legal rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT) youth in State custody; the sexual and physical abuse of LGB adolescents in the United States and Canada; child welfare practices for transgender children and youth; strategies for working with gay and lesbian youth in care; issues of shared parenting of LGBTQ children and youth in foster care; GLB foster parents; achieving permanency for LGBTQ youth; recommendations for strengthening gay and lesbian headed families in the adoption process; methodologies used by the Child Welfare League of America and Lambda Legal to highlight the experiences of LGBTQ youth in care; a model of integrated assessment of need and program planning for gay and lesbian youth; and the outcomes of a transitional living program serving LGBTQ youth in New York City. The journal closes with a model curriculum for training youth services professionals to provide culturally competent services for sexual and gender minority youth in care. Chapters include references.

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

Woronoff, Rob. Estrada, Rudy. Sommer, Susan.

Child Welfare League of America. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

2006

This publication serves as a guide for helping the child welfare system better meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in care. It is a compilation of the experiences of LGBTQ youth in care, along with concrete solutions to end the problems they face in the foster care, juvenile justice, and homeless or transitional living systems. The information was gathered during 13 listening forums in 2003 and 2004 attended by more than 500 people in 22 states, including social workers, service providers, administrators, caregivers, and LGBTQ youth who are or were in care. (Author abstract)

<http://www.cwla.org/programs/culture/outofthemargins.pdf>

Outcomes for a Transitional Living Program Serving LGBTQ Youth in New York City.

Nolan, Theresa C.

2006

Child Welfare.

LXXXV (2) p. 385-406

Providing stable housing for runaway and homeless youth is a major function of a transitional living program. This article introduces the focus of one program working with LGBTQ youth in New York City and discusses some issues to consider when working with this population. The article also presents data associated with young people's lives after discharge. In any discussion of outcomes, both reason for discharge and length of stay play important roles in whether or not

an exit is safe. Regardless of these two elements, the places youth move to when leaving programs are crucial to their safety and well-being. The exit can be safe even when a young person is discharged early from a program. This article presents types of exits, as well as status of employment and school enrollment at exit. Some youth and staff-identified lessons gained in the program also are discussed in detail. Types of aftercare services sought by discharged youth are specified. This article also describes any differences in outcomes for youth with and without foster care experience. (Author abstract)

Supporting LGBTQ Youth and Families: Raising Awareness, Creating Cultural Change, and Improving Services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth in Care.

Child Welfare Issues ; no. 2

Casey Family Programs.

2006

The exact number of LGBTQ youth in care is unknown, but these young people may face many challenges, including discrimination and homelessness. Casey Family Programs is addressing issues affecting LGBTQ youth by examining the organization's internal structure and practice. This four-page briefing describes how Casey strives to support LGBTQ youth and families in many ways including: Establishing an office of diversity; Creating an LGBTQ leadership team; Requiring a two-day training presented by Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth Support Project (GLYS); and Supporting LGBTQ listening forums. (Author abstract)

<http://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/Academy/pdf/FocusDecember.pdf>

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.

Estrada, Rudy. Marksamer, Jody.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

2006

This report explains the challenges lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth face in child welfare and juvenile justice placements. It discusses the rejection and hostility many face from families and society, as well as harassment and assault in youth facilities. It then explains ways attorneys and advocates can use both general child welfare protections and LGBT specific nondiscrimination protections in the courtroom and in the development of best practices, policies, and training materials, to address the mistreatment of LGBT young people in State custody. Key practices are identified and include: LGBT youth should be protected from emotional and physical harm in their child welfare and juvenile justice placements; LGBT youth should not be sent to conversion therapies or denied supportive services; child welfare professionals must monitor and supervise an LGBT youth's placement; LGBT youth must be placed in appropriate juvenile justice settings and not isolated; LGBT youth in the juvenile justice system have the right to receive appropriate mental and physical health care; LGBT youth should be allowed to express their sexual orientation and gender identity while in State custody; and LGBT youth should not be required to participate in religious activities that condemn LGBT

people. Non-litigation strategies to effectuate change for LGBT Youth in State custody are discussed, and two innovative collaborative projects that support systemic change for LGBT youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are highlighted: Fostering Transitions, the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and Lambda Legal's Joint Initiative; and the Model Standards Project, a collaboration of Legal Services for Children and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. 77 references.

http://www.nclrights.org/site/DocServer/youth_in_state_custody_article.pdf?docID=1324

The Legal Rights of Young People in State Custody: What Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Professionals Need to Know When Working with LGBT Youth.

Estrada, Rudy. Marksamer, Jody.

Lambda Legal.

2006

There are thousands of LGBT youth in child welfare and juvenile justice systems throughout the country. Unfortunately these youth are routinely left unprotected from violence and harassment, subjected to differential treatment or denied appropriate services. An increasing number of advocates working with LGBT youth in state custody have brought this issue to light through lawsuits and system reform efforts. This article will describe the legal rights of young people in these systems, focusing on the particular scenarios that may arise when child welfare and juvenile justice professionals work with LGBT youth. (Author abstract)

<http://www.nclrights.org/site/DocServer/LegalRights LGBT State Custody.pdf?docID=1741>

CWLA best practice guidelines : serving LGBT youth in out-of-home care.

Wilber, Shannan. Ryan, Caitlin. Marksamer, Jody.

Child Welfare League of America.

2006

This book contains the first-ever set of comprehensive recommendations about how child welfare and juvenile justice professionals can best serve and work with LGBT youth in state care.

<http://www.nclrights.org/site/DocServer/bestpracticeslgbyouth.pdf?docID=1322>