



Region 10 LGBTQ+ Convening

Ingrid Ulrey

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Katie Carter

Pride Foundation

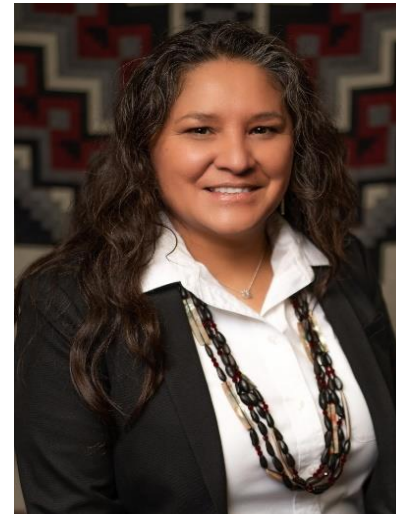
[@hhsregion10](https://twitter.com/hhsregion10) 

Welcome



Hannah Bristol

Senior Advisor, White House Office of Public Engagement



Esther Lucero

President and CEO, Seattle Indian Health Board



Lightning Round



Jessica Marcella
Gender Affirming Care



Lee Stevens
Monkeypox Virus



Amy Andre
Mental Health and Wellness



Allison Lowery Palmer
LGBTQ+ Youth



Elliot Kennedy
LGBTQ+ Older Adults





LIGHTNING ROUND – HHS Speakers



1. Gender Affirming Care

- Speaker: Jessica Marcella, M.P.A., HHS Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Population Affairs

2. Monkeypox Virus

- Speaker: Lee Stevens, Senior Policy Advisor, HHS Intergovernmental and External Affairs

3. LGBTQ+ Mental Health and Wellness

- Speaker: Amy André, M.A., M.B.A., Staff Lead, SAMHSA Sexual and Gender Minority Interest Group

4. LGBTQ+ Youth

- Speaker: Allison Lowery Palmer, Senior Advisor, ACF Children's Bureau

5. LGBTQ+ Older Adults

Speaker: Elliott Kennedy, Director, Office of Policy Analysis and Development

MONKEYPOX



MONKEYPOX

**What To Do If You
Suspect Monkeypox**



Reducing Stigma - Monkeypox Communication and Community Engagement

How CDC is Framing Communication Around Monkeypox

Helping people make the best-informed decisions to protect their health and the health of their community from monkeypox requires providing key prevention information to the public and working with partners and trusted messengers to ensure information reaches affected communities. Anyone can get monkeypox, and CDC is carefully monitoring for monkeypox in the United States. CDC is working to provide frontline healthcare providers and public health officials with information about what monkeypox looks like and how to manage the illness. Many—though not all—of the reported cases have been among gay and bisexual men. Given this, CDC is focusing on identifying and using specific channels that will directly reach gay and bisexual men across racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic backgrounds. In addition to this focused messaging, CDC is also providing information to a wider audience about symptoms and the behaviors that can lead to the spread of monkeypox.

How Partners can Help Message about Monkeypox

- Partners can help by providing monkeypox information to different communities and various channels. Be careful to avoid marginalizing groups who may be at increased risk for monkeypox. Keep messages fact-based to help prevent stigmatizing populations most affected.
- While developing resources and messages, use CDC's Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication.



<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/prevention.html>

Reducing Stigma - Monkeypox

Communication and Community Engagement

For Messages to General Audiences:

- Promote messaging that provides information on what monkeypox is and how it can spread and encourages seeking health care if experiencing monkeypox-like symptoms.
- Emphasize that anyone can get monkeypox and promote it as a public health concern for all. Focusing on cases among gay and bisexual men may inadvertently stigmatize this population and create a false sense of safety among those who are not gay and bisexual men. When using images of the rash from patients with monkeypox, focus on how cases typically appear in the current outbreak and avoid showing extreme cases, unless necessary.
 - In some situations, such as healthcare provider education, it may be necessary to show extreme case presentations. Carefully consider the audience and whether only presenting images of how cases typically appear may accomplish the same goals.
 - Include pictures of people from diverse backgrounds and racial/ethnic groups.

For Messages to Gay & Bisexual Men:

- It's important to reach any disproportionately affected community with non-alarmist, fact-based messaging about monkeypox that provides people with tools they can use to protect themselves and others.
- When focusing messages to gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, use targeted channels that directly reach these audiences, such as specific websites, dating apps, or media programs.
- To help make messages resonate, use relatable or personal stories that depict people “like me” from the intended audience.

Messaging and dissemination tactics may need to be adapted to reach the communities who need the information as we learn more about the current monkeypox outbreak



Reducing Stigma - Monkeypox Communication and Community Engagement

How Partners Can Disseminate Messages for Events

CDC encourages partners to reach out to local event organizers to provide information about monkeypox and offer information and messages to share. The following are some tips:

- Conduct an environmental scan of upcoming, large-scale events in your community. Consider festivals where there may be spin-off or side events like dances and gatherings where people may have close, skin-to-skin contact with others.
- Take an inventory of other venues where close, skin-to-skin contact can occur, such as massage parlors, spas, saunas, and sex clubs.
- Engage trusted community-based organizations, community leaders, and community healthcare providers to connect with event organizers and impacted communities.
- Have a clear call to action. This can include raising awareness by sharing information, asking people to seek health care if they experience a rash, or directing community members to local healthcare providers who can coordinate testing.
- Provide event organizers with information and materials such as:
 - Messages that can be used on websites and social media sites
 - Talking points that event organizers can use when talking with their customers or attendees
 - An event organizer letter template, which organizers can download, adapt, and send to their attendees/customers
 - Printed materials that can be passed out at events and in venues
 - A point of contact if they have more questions or need information

It will take partnerships between healthcare providers, affected individuals, and public health officials to ensure people who need care can access it and protect their loved ones.



Reducing Stigma - Monkeypox

Communication and Community Engagement



Frame the image of monkeypox by

- ✓ Using inclusive language, such as 'us' and 'we' pronouns.
- ✓ Using non-sensationalistic language and images and using language that resonates with the audience.
- ✓ Presenting concepts that the audience will be open to hearing or reading.
- ✓ Using positive, diverse, and credible images.
- ✓ Emphasizing prevention strategies, symptom recognition, and the treatable nature of monkeypox to minimize fear and promote action and sense of personal agency.

Stigma Reduction Communication Strategies

Describe monkeypox as a legitimate public health issue that is relevant to all people.

Educate about Monkeypox.

Emphasize that Monkeypox:

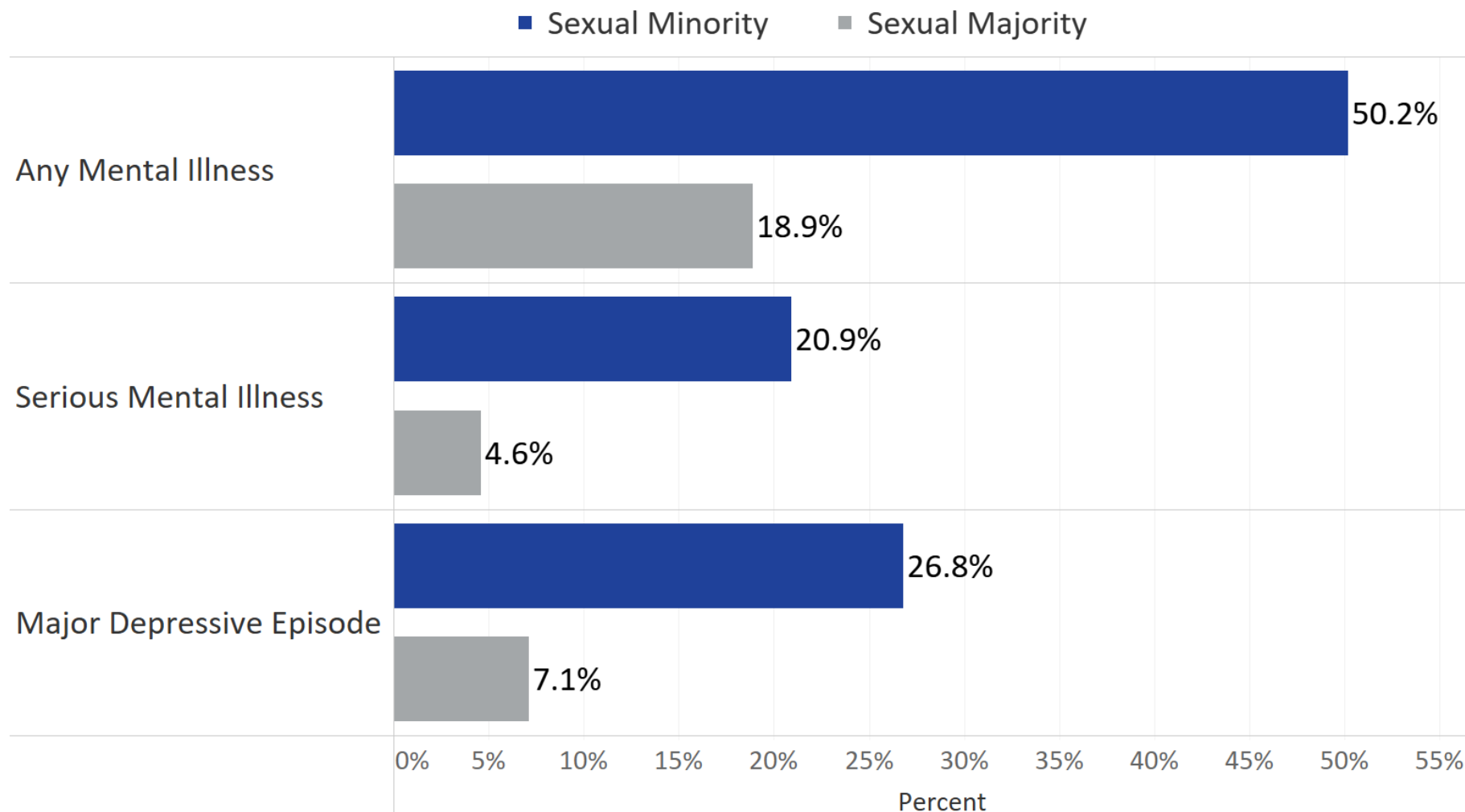
- Is spread through:
 - Direct contact with an infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids
 - Respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex
 - Touching objects, fabrics (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the rash or body fluids of someone with monkeypox
 - Being scratched or bitten by an infected animal
- Can be acquired by all people, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation
- Causes a rash
- Can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. This can take several weeks

SAMHSA Programs and Initiatives

SAMHSA's LGBTQI-focused efforts include the following:

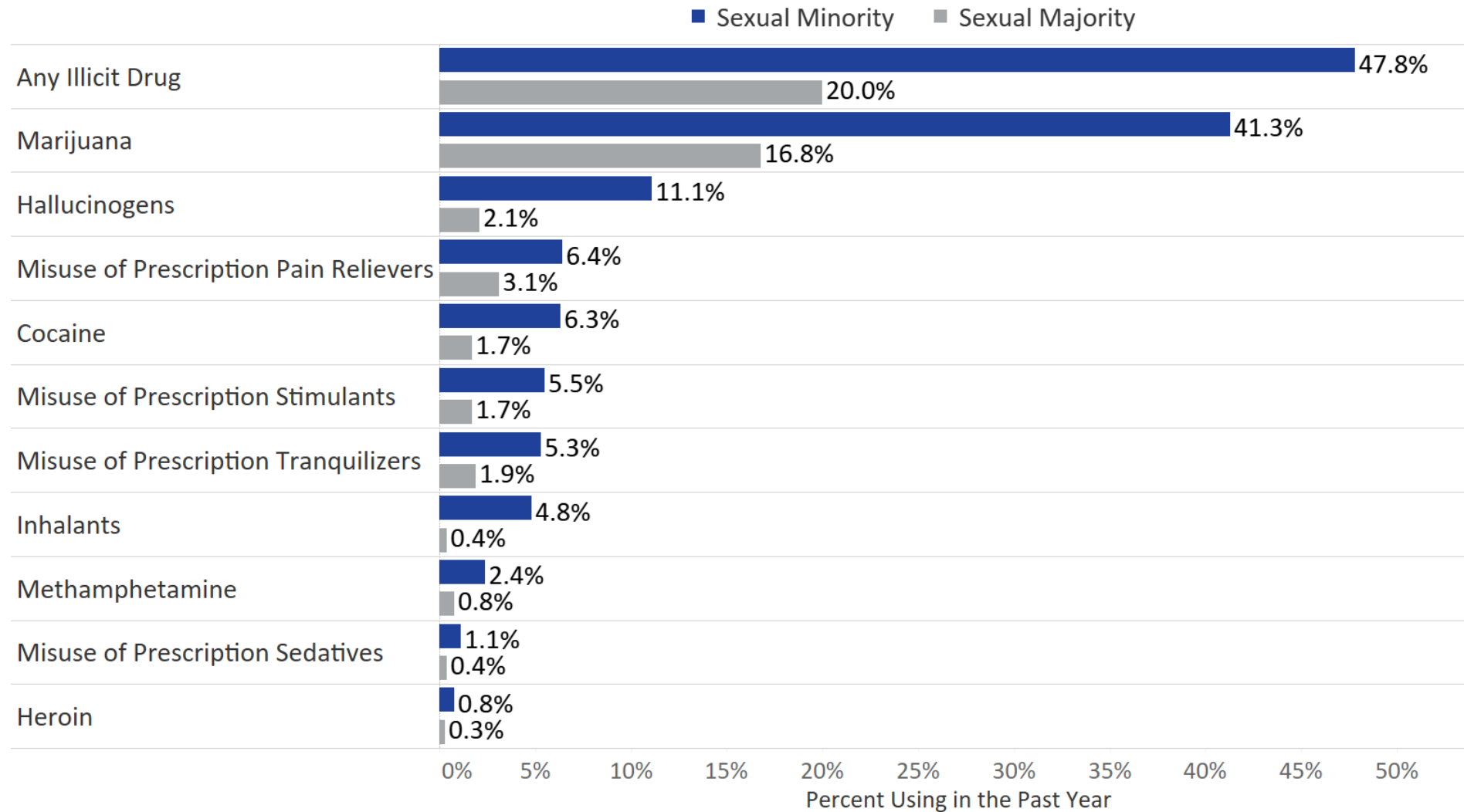
- Encouraging states to consider LGBTQI+ needs in administering their SAMHSA Block Grants resources
- Social media and educational messages, such as [this article on the SAMHSA blog](#) from our Assistant Secretary, Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, on supporting LGBTQI+ youth.
- Including a sexual and gender minority focus in funding announcements where it is appropriate
- Supporting the inclusion of sexual orientation questions in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). [View the 2020 NSDUH Lesbian, Gay, & Bisexual Adults slide deck.](#)
- Providing targeted technical assistance to grantees and other stakeholders issuing guidance on the implementation of the Supreme Court's decision in U.S. v. Windsor related to the federal definitions of "spouse" and "marriage"
- SAMHSA and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) have compiled [a list of professional training curricula to improve the health and well-being of the LGBTQI+ population.](#)

Past Year Mental Health among Sexual Minority and Sexual Majority Adults* Aged 18 or Older: Percentages, 2020



* All differences in mental health estimates between sexual minority and sexual majority groups are statistically significant at the 0.05 level.
Note: Sexual minority adults identified as being lesbian, gay, or bisexual. Sexual majority adults identified as being heterosexual or straight.
Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Quarters 1 and 4, 2020.

Past Year Illicit Drug Use among Sexual Minority and Sexual Majority Adults* Aged 18 or Older, by Drug Type: Percentages, 2020



* All differences in drug use estimates between sexual minority and sexual majority groups are statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

Note: Sexual minority adults identified as being lesbian, gay, or bisexual. Sexual majority adults identified as being heterosexual or straight.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Quarters 1 and 4, 2020.

SAMHSA Behavioral Health Resources

- [Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth](#) is a report that presents therapeutic practices related to youth, and sexual orientation and gender identity. These practices are based on research, clinical expertise, and expert consensus. The report makes the case for eliminating the use of conversion therapy among youth.
- [A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals](#) is a manual that informs clinicians and administrators about substance abuse treatment approaches that are sensitive to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) clients. Covers cultural, clinical, health, administrative, and legal issues as well as alliance building.
- [A Practitioner's Resource Guide: Helping Families to Support Their LGBT Children](#) is a resource guide that offers information and resources to help practitioners throughout health and social service systems implement best practices in engaging and helping families and caregivers to support their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children.
- [Helping Families Support Their Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender \(LGBT\) Children \(PDF | 897 KB\)](#) is a report that provides information about sexual orientation and gender identity to help friends, family, and other adults support LGBT children and adolescents. It reports research findings from the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco University and includes research on the impact of families on their LGBT children's health, mental health, and well-being. It also provides ways ethnically, religiously, and socially diverse families, parents, and caregivers can support their LGBT children. Family materials and provider tools such as education materials, assessment and policy resources, research publications, and gender spectrum education and training materials are presented.

Resources from LGBTQ+ Center of Excellence

- [Resources for Supporting the Bi Community](#) was published last week in recognition of Bisexual Visibility Day.
- [Center of Excellence LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity E-Learning Modules](#) providing information on terminology, general identity development, disparities among LGBTQ+ populations across the lifespan, and best practices for behavioral health providers.
- [Supporting Trans Youth](#), asking experts about supporting trans and gender diverse youth in the midst of a record-breaking year for anti-trans legislation. [Animated Short on Providing Equitable and Affirming Care to LGBTQ+ Older Adults \(six minutes, 37 seconds\)](#)
- [Learning About Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression \(SOGIE\) \(six minutes, 34 seconds\)](#)
- [Webinars on foundational and advanced topics](#) such as Caring for LGBTQ+ Older Adults Using a Behavioral Health Lens and Gender Identity, Expression & Behavioral Health IOI.
- [More Resources from the Center of Excellence](#)

ACF HHS Region 10 LGBTQ+ Convening

Sept 28, 2022

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER, AYSHA E. SCHOMBURG

PRESENTED BY: ALLISON LOWERY PALMER, SENIOR ADVISOR



Children's Bureau: Focus on Equity

The Associate Commissioner has articulated four priority goals for Children's Bureau; consistent with the President's Executive Order, equity is the overarching focus of all of the Children's Bureau's work and infuses each goal.

Children's Bureau is focusing on the needs of older LGBTQ+ youth, especially those who will be transitioning out of care, by integrating lived experience of LGBTQ+ young adults who experienced foster care into Children's Bureau's work, policies, and decision-making.



LGBTQI+ Policy and Guidance

March 2, 2022: [Guidance for Title IV-B and IV-E Agencies When Serving LGBTQI+ Children and Youth](#)

Children's Bureau released an Information Memorandum (IM) that provides a roadmap for child welfare agencies to support and protect LGBTQI+ children and youth when they are at risk in their homes and while they are in foster care.

- States unequivocally that conversion therapy is harmful
- States unequivocally that gender affirming care is not child abuse

The IM underscores each agency's responsibility to support all children and youth who are in care, including those who are LGBTQI+.



Associate Commissioner: We Stand In Support

March 2, 2022: [A Message in Support of LGBTQI+ Children and Youth Who Are Involved with the Child Welfare System](#)

“We stand strongly in support of providing affirming medical care to LGBTQI+ children and youth, including those who are transgender, gender non-confirming, and those to whom such care is denied. The Children's Bureau is clear that providing such care is necessary, important, is in children and youth's best interests, and is not abusive.”

“ I want to speak directly to LGBTQI+ children and youth in foster care and to all the family members, child welfare workers, and organizations who support and affirm them daily: thank you for your strength, your authenticity, your courage, your hard work, and most of all, thank you for sharing your stories and experiences with me. Know that Children’s Bureau and I stand shoulder to shoulder with you as we design and work towards a child welfare system that supports and affirms every LGBTQI+ child and youth.”

—Associate Commissioner Schomburg



Young Professional Roundtable for PRIDE

In June 2022, ACF hosted a roundtable of LGBTQ+ young professionals with lived experience in the child welfare/runaway and homeless youth systems to discuss how ACF should implement the President's EO. Some highlights include:

- The EO aligns with their recommendations; they appreciate how the EO encompasses every federal agency;
- Although not always called “conversion therapy,” those harmful activities are still prevalent;
- Identity is intersectional; and
- The government should collect data about LGBTQ+ youth who are involved with child welfare/runaway homeless youth systems, which will help to inform services for those youth.



HHS Region X Convening

The Pride Foundation

LGBTQI+ Older Adults

Elliot J. Kennedy, Esq.

Administration for Community Living

September 28, 2022

Contact: Elliot.Kennedy@acl.hhs.gov

Experiences of LGBTQI+ Older Adults

- *A woman came to the nursing home after having a stroke. She was unable to communicate. The family decided that her partner of 50+ years had no rights to their property, or to see or make decisions for the patient. The family sold the home and got a restraining order against the partner. These ladies were retired schoolteachers in their 80's and had never considered being "out." They had no legal protections in place. The partner of the patient had severe health issues herself. She would call the nursing home occasionally on the night shift to see if a kind nurse would be willing to break the rules and tell her if her partner was still alive and how she was doing.*
- *...after his operation, my friend could no longer speak for himself. [...]In accordance with State law, his brother was assigned Power of Attorney. His brother was and is very homophobic and they had little to do with each other until this situation arose. For his own convenience, his brother moved my friend to a nursing home in southern New Jersey where he lives, far from gay friends in New York City. In the first year, we had phone contact and my friend was even brought to NYC by his gay synagogue for holiday events. All that seemed to anger his homophobic brother, who, as legal guardian, cut off phone service and prohibited all trips out of the facility.*
- *I have been haunted for years by what happened to two lesbian friends of mine. They had been "married" for more than 50 years, when they both fell ill. Their families sent them to separate nursing facilities despite all protests. They each shortly passed away.*

Experiences of LGBTQI+ Older Adults

- Discrimination
- Social Isolation
- Challenges with Caregiving
- Housing Instability
- HIV/AIDS
- Access to Healthcare

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- Working to ensure that people can live where they choose, with the people they choose, and participate fully in their communities.
- Aging Services Network
 - Meals on wheels
 - Senior centers across the country
 - Caregiver support programs
 - Adult protective services
 - Many, many more
- What kind of services do LGBTQI+ people need to survive and thrive in community?
 - Culturally competent
 - Trauma-informed
 - Embrace families of choice

Initiatives to Support LGBTQI+ Older Adults

- Supporting Services for LGBTQI+ Older Adults
 - National Resource Center on LGBT Aging - SAGE
- HIV and Aging
 - Coordination with Ryan White grantees and the ACL aging network
 - Implementation of National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan
- Civil Rights Protections
 - Executive Order 14075 – Non-discrimination protections for LGBTQI+ older adults in long-term care settings
 - Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act - **Submit comments on or before October 3, 2022**