Safe Places. Safe Spaces:
Creating Welcoming & Inclusive Environments for Traumatized LGBTQ Youth
NCTSN LGBTQ Video Resource Guide

The video introduces the viewer to the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth who have experienced trauma. You may use the video as a training tool, for example, during a staff meeting or in supervision with staff. You can show the video in its entirety or in segments.

However you use this resource, be sure to allow time for discussion after viewing the video. Questions to facilitate growth, learning, and change follow.

Video Part 1:

Basic Concepts

- Did you learn any new terminology? What terms were used with which you weren't familiar?
- How do you determine what language to use when working with clients?
- How has this improved your awareness of all of the risk factors associated with LGBTQ youth?
- Is it possible that you currently have LGBTQ clients of whom you are unaware?
- How do you discuss aspects of your clients' identities, such as gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, language, culture, or ethnicity, without making assumptions?

Assessing Program Capacity

- What training or support have you received from your agency about serving traumatized LGBTQ youth?
- How and when does your program ask clients about their sexual orientation or gender identity as part of the intake or assessment process?
    - o Are you considering confidentiality and the youth's preferences about communicating their sexual orientation and gender identity to others?
    - o What is your agency's policy or practice concerning documenting this information?
- Do you think your agency is a safe and welcoming place for LGBTQ youth? Why or why not?
- What is your opinion of your agency's ability to adequately assess the needs of traumatized LGBTQ youth?
- What is your agency's current expertise in and capacity for effectively treating traumatized LGBTQ youth? What might you need in order to increase this expertise and capacity?
- How frequently does your agency provide training to the staff on issues relevant to LGBTQ youth?

Video Part 2:

Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment

• How does your agency do direct outreach to the LGBTQ community?

• What is your familiarity with LGBTQ -affirming programs and referral resources in your community?

• Are there LGBTQ books, resources, signs, or symbols present in your agency? How accessible are they to clients and staff?

• Where is there a safe space? When are there opportunities for your professional staff to ask questions and explore biases?

Taking Action

• After watching the video, what changes would you like to make in your practice? In your agency?

• What resources or tools do you think you will need to implement these changes?

• What barriers or challenges do you anticipate making these changes?

• Who are the allies or supporters within your agency who could help implement these changes?

• How supported do you feel by your agency or organization in making these changes?

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