

LGBT Services

June 20, 2017
2:00–3:30 p.m. (eastern time)

Presenters:

Nadia Swanson, LMSW, Coordinator of Training and Advocacy,
Ali Forney Center
Melissa Brockie, MSW, New Day Center Director, UMOM

The material presented during today's webinar session will be available on the Human Trafficking Learning Community.

The session will be recorded and will begin shortly.

As with all technology, we may experience a momentary lapse in the webinar session. In the event of a problem, please be patient and remain on the line. If the problem persists, please contact dmclean@ovcttac.org for technical assistance.



Objectives

As a result of this webinar, participants will be equipped to:

- Build partnerships with stakeholders connected to the LGBTQ community.
- Identify training resources for staff on best practices for working with LGBTQ clients.
- Identify opportunities to refine practices and procedures related to intake and confidentiality.
- Incorporate specific safety planning strategies for LGBTQ clients into service provision.



Addressing Questions

- Please share your questions for the presenters in the chat box, or email questions to us at humantrafficking@ovcttac.org.
- We will either respond directly to your question in the chat box, or the speakers will address the question during the 20 minute Q&A at the end of the webinar, time permitting. If we are unable to get to your question during the presentation, we will post responses to unanswered questions in the HT Learning Community.
- This webinar is being recorded, and you will be able to view the recording and download the slides from www.ovcttac.gov/humantrafficking.
 - View previous HT Grantee TA Webinars archived [here](#), or by logging into the [Human Trafficking Grantee Learning Community](#).
 - Please allow up to 2 weeks for posting.



Today's Presenters

Nadia Swanson

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Melissa Brockie

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The Ali Forney Center

- **Mission:** Our mission is to protect LGBTQ+ youth from the harms of homelessness and empower them with the tools needed to live independently.
- **Grant Type:** Specialized Services for Victims of Human Trafficking
- **Population Served:** LGBTQ+ youth, ages 16-24, experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- **Scope of Services:** comprehensive, wraparound services, including:
 - Case Management/Intensive Case Management
 - Therapy and Psychiatric Services
 - Medical
 - Housing (Drop In, Emergency, Transitional, Transgender)
 - Drop In 24/7
 - Meals
 - Clothing
 - Vocational/Educational
 - Outreach
 - Advocacy



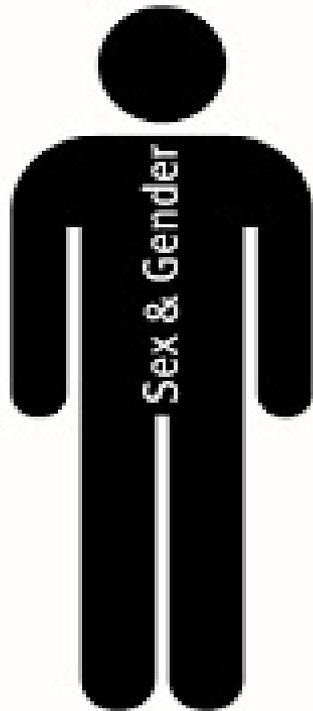
LGBTQ+ 101

L	• Lesbian
G	• Gay
B	• Bisexual
T	• Transgender
Q	• Queer
I	• Intersex
A	• Asexual



Gender vs. Sexuality

Cisgender



Transgender



Working with LGBTQ+ Youth

•Gender and Sexuality

- Gender and sexuality are NOT binary, they exist on a spectrum
- Gender Nonconforming
- Gender Queer
- A-Gender
- TGNC – Transgender and Gender Nonconforming

•Pronouns – ASK!

- She/Her
- He/Him
- They/Them
- Ze/Zer



Working with LGBTQ+ Youth

- Chosen name and gender can change often for persons who identify as LGBTQ+, especially youth.
- Changing OUR Language:
 - When asking about bodies, ask them what words they use to describe their body parts and use those words.
 - Who someone dates – Say “are you dating someone?” or “do you have a partner?” not “do you have a boyfriend?” or “do you have a girlfriend?”
- Key Concept: Personal Gender Pronoun (PGP)



Common Misconceptions

“They are young - it's a phase.”

“Young people identify as TGNC as a result of trauma.”

“Someone's gender presentation must match their gender identity.”

“All TGNC people want to physically transition.”

“Cis/ straight girls are the main victims of trafficking.”

A Great Trans 101 Video: <https://youtu.be/-3ZzpTxjgRw>



Poll Question

Q: I can assume that if someone is wearing a dress and uses she/her pronouns that they identify as female?

- A. True
- B. False



LGBTQ+ Youth and Survival Sex

- **“Survival sex”** is defined in the 2013 study *Homelessness, Survival Sex and Human Trafficking: As Experienced by the Youth of Covenant House New York*
 - Survival Sex exists when individuals over the age of 18 “have traded sex acts (including prostitution, stripping, pornography, etc.) to meet the basic needs of survival (i.e., food, shelter, etc.) without the overt force, fraud, or coercion of a trafficker, but who felt that their circumstances left little or no other option” (Bigelsen, 2013).
 - When under 18, automatically included in the federal definition of trafficking.



Contributing Factors to Exploitation of LGBTQ+ Youth

- Statistics describing the prevalence of human trafficking are generally underreported, but for victims of human trafficking who identify as LGBTQ+, the prevalence is more staggering.

“Biases and discrimination severely complicate proper identification of, and provision of care to LGBT victims of human trafficking.”

- U.S. Department of State. (2014). Trafficking In Persons Report

- It is also very common for LGBTQ+ people who experience homelessness due to systemic and social bias/discrimination.
 - LGBTQ+ young people who experience homelessness are at higher risk for assault, violence, and stalking at alarming rates.



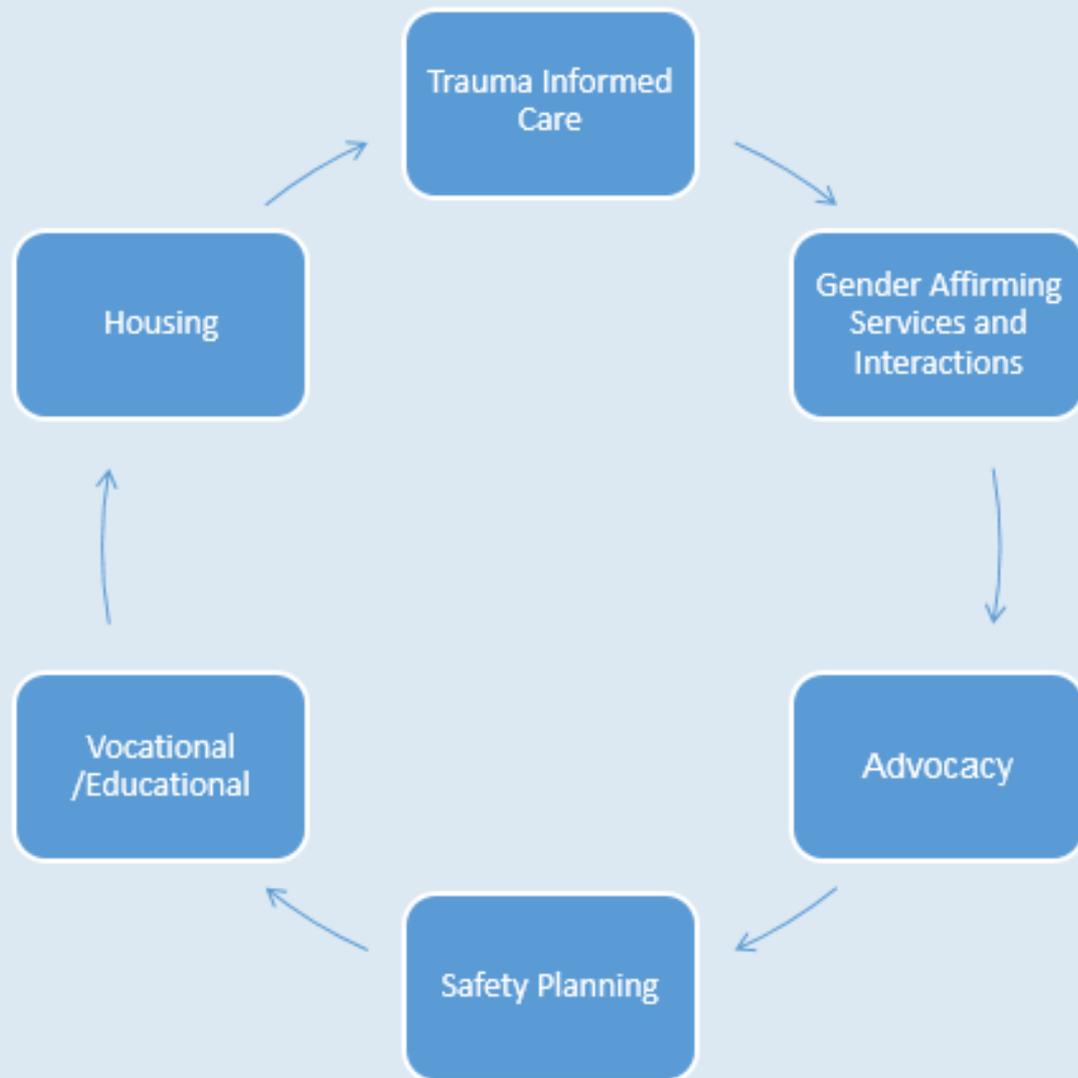
Contributing Factors to Exploitation of LGBTQ+ Youth

According to The Urban Institute's *Surviving the Streets*, by Meredith Dank:

- Of the entire sample of youth engaging in survival sex in NYC, 87% of the youth identified as LGBTQ+, Questioning, or Other.
 - 6 out of 10 of youth were street homeless and engaged in survival sex due to housing instability, which greatly exacerbates the risk for sex trafficking.
- Sexually exploited minors disproportionately identify as LGBTQ+:
 - Of roughly 4,000 homeless youth in NYC, 40% identify as LGBTQ+, much higher than the 7% of all youth who identify as LGBTQ+.
 - LGBTQ+ youth are 8x more likely to experience homelessness than straight/cis youth. Most reported that was due to family rejection or violence.



Creating a Safe Space



Training Staff to Support and Identify Trafficking

Identified at Intake

“Have you ever exchanged sex for money, drugs, or a place to stay?”

- When staff expanded on this question during intake, clients began revealing more indicators of trafficking.
- Staff receive training from outside partners such as Safe Horizon and Urban Justice Center (legal services for victims of trafficking).
- OVC-funded intensive case managers (ICM) regularly attend outside trainings to strengthen skills.



Client Examples

“M”

- 19-year-old Latinx trans-feminine person.
- Referred to AFC from Seattle in order to escape her trafficker and family, that also trafficked her.
- She arrived at AFC’s drop-in center and was assigned to an OVC-funded ICM.
- She struggled with substance use while here and participated in outpatient treatment.
- She relied on survival sex for income, but was eventually able to get a job off-and-on doing street outreach for a large human rights organization.
- She chose to return to Seattle eventually and was able to receive a free bus ticket from a partnering organization.

Lessons Learned

- The relationship between her experience of complex trauma, ongoing substance use, and homelessness required a variety of services to meet her different needs.
- AFC leveraged the resources and services of partner organizations to ensure her basic needs were met.
- AFC focused on tackling each barrier individually to reduce her need for survival sex.
- Partnerships with substance treatment programs aided in ensuring her safety.



Client Example

“T”

- 24-year-old, trans-masculine, femme presenting, white, PGP he/him.
- He temporarily stayed in AFC’s emergency housing site, which can only house clients up to age 25. While receiving services, he was in college and working at an internet cafe. “T” was compelled to work against his will through force and coercion to pay off a debt.
- He was approved for a supportive housing unit, but due to construction delays with the supportive housing program, he waited more than 6 months from being accepted to being placed in his own apartment.
- During that 6-month period, he aged out of AFC’s program.

Lessons Learned

- Gender presentation does not always match gender identity. In this case, it served him to present as socially feminine to survive and get money.
- His situation was not immediately identified as trafficking by staff.
- We must expand the narrative of what trafficking looks like.
- Housing is an extremely important intervention that promotes safety, especially for young people who experience trafficking.



UMOM New Day Center

- **Program:** Tumbleweed, a service of UMOM.
- **Mission:** Prevent and end homelessness with innovative strategies and housing solutions that meet the unique needs of each family and individual.
- **Population Served:** Tumbleweed programs service vulnerable and homeless youth ages 12-25.
- **Scope of Services:**
 - Youth shelter (12-17)
 - Independent living programs (16-21)
 - Youth resource center
 - Mobile and street outreach
 - Trafficking and victim services, available to all programs



Creating an Inclusive Space

- Call on your community partners for training, education, and tools.
- Observe LGBTQ+ agency spaces.
- Ongoing trainings, in-service training.
- Evaluate policy and procedures regarding anti-discrimination, client files, and housing.



Safety Planning Strategies

- Complete safety planning, regardless of any “active safety concerns,” acknowledging that for LGBTQ+ youth, *safety is an ongoing issue*.
- Consider using a person-centered, harm-reduction model for those identified as victims of trafficking who are still in the life.
- Treat a safety plan as a live document, encourage staff to modify, change, and update as rapport grows and situations may change.
- **Safety planning should focus on:**
 - How an individual defines safety.
 - Identifying potential areas of danger (people, places, situations).
 - Outline prevention and intervention techniques.



Safety Planning

- For both trafficking victims and LGBTQ+ individuals, safety planning should also address potential safety concerns in the community.
- LGBTQ+ youth are at a greater risk for discrimination, abuse, and victimization, so preventive conversations should be identified.
- Safety planning should identify these risks and seek to inform individuals of their rights, safe spaces for reporting, and how to report a crime.
- **Clients should be aware of local and state laws.**
 - Rights as victims.
 - Discrimination protection within the workplace.
 - Housing laws.



Partnerships with LGBTQ+ Stakeholders

- Partnerships create:
 - Opportunities for cross-training.
 - Ability to leverage both agencies' services.
- To provide a greater impact on training and service delivery, encourage LGBTQ+ agency participation in:
 - Task forces.
 - Victim service communities.
 - Large-scale trainings.



Poll Question

I want more information on...

- Building partnerships with stakeholders connected to the LGBTQ+ community.
- Identifying training resources for staff on best practices for working with LGBTQ+ clients.
- Identifying opportunities to refine practices and procedures related to intake and confidentiality.
- Incorporating specific safety planning strategies for LGBTQ+ clients into service provision.



Resources for LGBTQ+ Trafficking Survivors

- No curricula that are specific for LGBTQ+ survivors.
- Use curricula such as My Life, My Choice and the Dibble Institute and have team review it prior to implementation.
 - Identify opportunities where facilitator can use LGBTQ+ language and handouts (such as conversations around sex, relationships, family experiences).
 - Ensure that conversations are inclusive and include appropriate language in group rules.
 - “Girls only” groups should include anyone identifying as a female.
- Case Study: Transgender Female Empowerment Group



Training Resources

True Colors Fund

www.truecolorsfund.org

Similar to the Human Trafficking Hotline that maps service providers in the area, or you can search by services needed.

GLSEN

www.glsen.org

Safe Space Kit

National Coalition for Homeless

<http://nationalhomeless.org/issues/lgbt/>

Resources and research around homeless youth.



Questions?



oVC

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