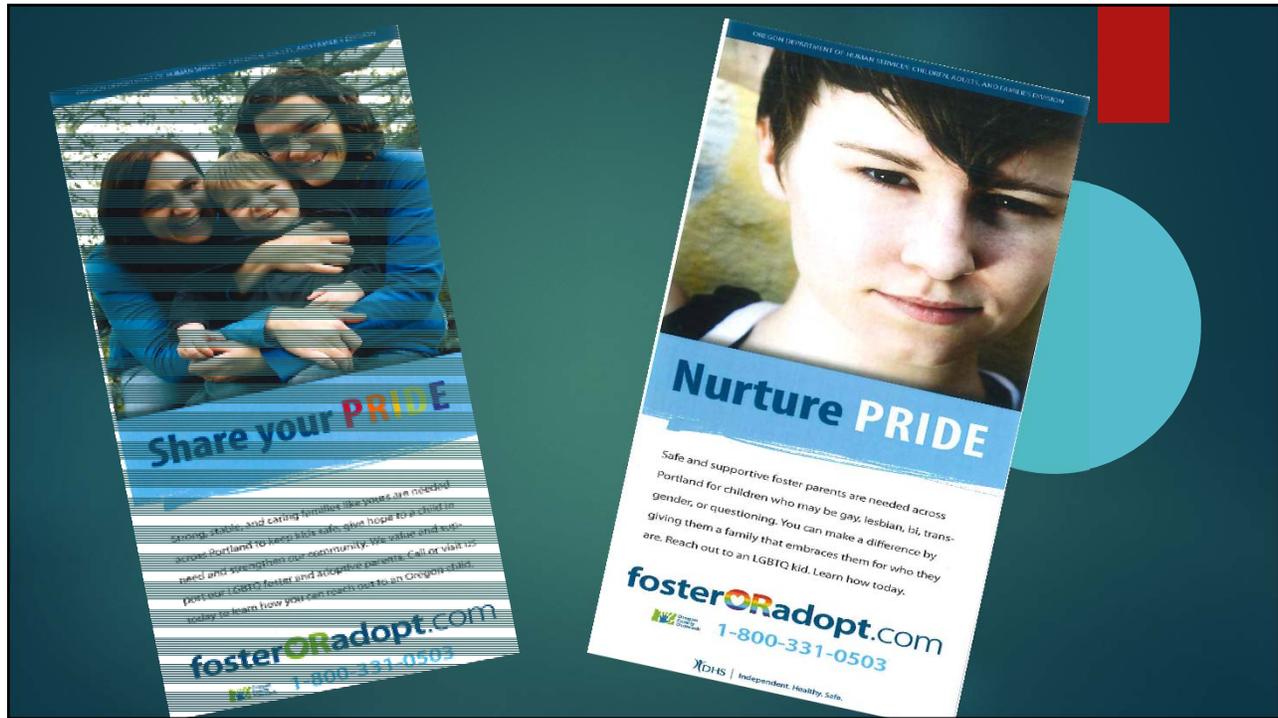


Department of Human Services

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS

- ▶ Williams Institute study with the LA County Child Welfare system:
http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LAFYS_report_final-aug-2014.pdf
- ▶ 13.6% of foster youth identify as LGBTQ, 13.2% reported some level of same sex attraction, and 5.6% identify as transgender. This means that **there are between 1.5 to 2 times as many LGBTQ youth living in foster care as LGBTQ youth estimated to be living outside foster care** (p6).
- ▶ LGBTQ youth have a **higher average number of foster care placements and are more likely to be living in a group home**. They also reported being **treated less well** by the child welfare system, were **more likely to have been hospitalized** for emotional reasons at some point in their lifetime, and were **more likely to have been homeless** at some point in their life (p6).
- ▶ In one study, LGB young adults who reported higher levels of **family rejection** during adolescence were **8.4 times** more likely to report having attempted suicide, **5.9 times** more likely to report high levels of depression, **3.4 times** more likely to use illegal drugs, and **3.4 times** more likely to report having engaged in unprotected sexual intercourse, compared to their peers who reported no or low levels of family rejection (p11).



- ▶ **Caring for Sexual & Gender Minority Youth:** This training is designed to help caregivers understand the experiences and culture of sexual minority youth. The workshop will serve as an introduction to issues including identification of internal and external bias, risk factors for sexual minority youth and strategies for being an ally
- ▶ **DHS Equity and Inclusion Statewide Collaboration Team:** As a collaboration team we also engage in advocacy, not only for clients, but for workers in order to ensure a safe, supportive and respectful workplace for all.

The bottom line is that, for the people doing the best work on LGBTQ competence, it's about a very intentional, very focused, holistic approach to this work throughout agency.

