



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2408 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408  
Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director  
(919) 733-3055

May 2, 2011

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DSS CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS  
DSS COUNTY SOCIAL WORKERS  
FOSTER HOME LICENSING STAFF**

**SUBJECT: LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ)  
YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE**

The Division of Social Services is encouraging county directors of social services and child welfare staff members to pay particular attention to the attached Information Memorandum issued by the Children's Bureau. The Information Memorandum highlights the overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth served by child welfare as well as youth living on the street and their need for support and safety regardless of whether they live with their family of origin. It encourages child welfare agencies, foster and adoptive parents, and others working with youth in foster care to ensure their safety and provide support.

It also highlights resources from the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections and AdoptUsKids that include LGBTQ issues and child welfare print resources, training and technical assistance on engaging LGBTQ foster and adoptive families, facilitating all forms of permanency for LGBTQ youth, and support services for prospective LGBTQ families. These resources can be found at: [http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info\\_services/lgbtq-issues-and-child-welfare.html](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/lgbtq-issues-and-child-welfare.html) and <http://adoptuskids.org/content.aspx?k=LGBT-Resources>.

The Division plans to explore policy implications of this Information Memorandum and will provide additional guidance in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kelley".

Kevin Kelley, Interim Section Chief  
Child Welfare Services

Attachment: [LGBTQ Information Memorandum.pdf](#)

cc: Sherry Bradsher  
Children's Program Representatives  
Jack Rogers

**CWS- 09-11**