



Standards of Care for GLBT Youth

Compiled by the GLBT Youth Support Project

American Academy of Pediatrics

"Pediatricians... should create a clinical environment where adolescents feel safe to discuss sensitive personal issues, including sexuality and sexual orientation... The overall goal in caring for all youth, including those who are, or think they might be gay, lesbian, or bisexual is the same: to promote normal adolescent development, social and emotional well-being, and physical health."

Adolescents Should Feel Safe Discussing Sexual Orientation with Their Pediatrician. Pediatrics, The Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics; June 2004.

American Psychological Association

"People of diverse gender expression and identity should be afforded the same respect and rights as those whose gender identity and expression conform to societal expectations."

Social Work Embraces Transgender, by Arlene Istar Lev and Barry Moore. APA Newsletter, Volume 16, #1, Spring 2000.

American Psychological Association and National Association of School Psychologists

"It is a presumption that all persons, including those who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual, have the right to equal opportunity within all public educational institutions... The American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists support providing a safe and secure educational atmosphere in which all youths, including lesbian, gay and bisexual youths, may obtain an education free from discrimination, harassment, violence, and abuse, and promotes an understanding and acceptance of self. "

Resolution on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth in The Schools. Resolutions Related to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues; American Psychological Association.1993.

The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc.

"The general goal of psychotherapeutic, endocrine, or surgical therapy for persons with gender identity disorders is lasting personal comfort with the gendered self in order to maximize overall psychological well-being and self-fulfillment."

Statement on website: <http://www.hbigda.org/socv6.cfm>. Additional details about the Benjamin Standards of Care are outlined on this page.

(continued...)

Standards of Care for GLBT Youth, continued

National Association of Social Workers

“NASW supports the right of the individual to self-disclose, or not disclose, sexual orientation and encourages the development of supportive practice environments for lesbian, gay, and bisexual clients and colleagues... NASW strongly advocates for the availability of culturally appropriate comprehensive health and mental health services for LGB people across their life span...”

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues Policy Statement. The National Association of Social Workers; Revised June 2005.

“NASW believes that people of diverse gender – including those sometimes called ‘transgender’ – should be afforded the same rights and respect as any other person... NASW believes that a non-judgemental attitude towards gender diversity enables social workers to provide maximum support and services to those whose gender departs from the expected norm... Social workers must encourage the development of supportive practice environments for those struggling with gender expression and identity issues (both clients and colleagues).”

Transgender and Gender Identity Issues Policy Statement. The National Association of Social Workers; Approved August 1999.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

This statement was also endorsed by: Lawyers for Children, National Center for Youth Law, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Parents, Friends, and Families of Lesbians and Gays, and The Youth Law Center.

“The best interests of LGBT youth are... served by protection against discrimination and harassment, and support for them to develop to their fullest potential... To meet the needs of these adolescents, state foster care systems should acknowledge the LGBT youth in their midst and implement... basic, yet vital, reforms...”

Youth in The Margins: A Report on The Unmet Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Adolescents in Foster Care. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; Summer 2001.