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*For more
information on
support services for
LGBTQ youth in
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Rainbow
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925-692-2056*

Contact us...

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Contra Costa LGBTQ Youth Advocacy Collaborative



Helping families &
communities accept
& support our
LGBTQ children

Contra Costa LGBTQ Youth Advocacy Collaborative: promoting healthy support networks for LGBTQ youth

The Collaborative is a joint community effort to reach & engage families, peers, schools, faith groups & other community members to raise awareness of the harmful effects of rejection on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth.

Our primary goal is to improve the health of LGBTQ youth by reducing rejecting behaviors & increasing accepting behaviors in Contra Costa families & service networks.

Ground-breaking research by the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University shows that families & caregivers have a major impact on LGBTQ children's risk & well-being. LGBTQ youth who experience high rates of family rejection related to their sexual orientation or gender identity, whether intentional or not, report:

Risks From Rejection

- ⇒ 8.4 times higher risk of suicide attempts
- ⇒ 5.9 times higher risk of depression
- ⇒ 3.4 times higher risk of illicit drug use
- ⇒ 3.4 times higher risk of unprotected sex

With increased knowledge & understanding, families and caregivers of LGBTQ youth can learn to modify rejecting behaviors & be more supportive of LGBTQ youth which decreases risks and promotes well-being.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LGBTQ YOUTH & FAMILIES

- Peer support groups engaging youth in East, West & Central County
- Counseling for youth & families
- Parent & family support
- Education & support regarding gender identity & expression
- Consultation & support regarding bullying & rejection in school
- Youth leadership development & training opportunities

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Networking & collaborative opportunities to work with LGBTQ youth & families
- Training & education for schools
- Workshops & education for faith-based groups
- LGBTQ cultural competency training for organizations that seek to engage youth & families

*Ryan, C., Huebner, D., Dias, R. M., & Sanchez, J. (2009). Family rejection as a predictor of negative health outcomes in white & Latino lesbian, gay & bisexual young adults. *Pediatrics*, 123(1): 346-352.

*Ryan, C. (2009). *Supportive Families, healthy children: Helping families with lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender children*. San Francisco, CA: Marian Wright Edelman Institute, San Francisco State University.

In response to the often unintended consequences of rejection, **The Contra Costa LGBTQ Youth Advocacy Collaborative** was formed to assist our community by:

Effectively engaging people from key support networks that influence health outcomes for LGBTQ youth – Including their family members, peers, community members & social systems; faith groups, schools, health providers, juvenile justice, social welfare, foster care & others.

Supporting positive health outcomes for LGBTQ youth including:

- Improved physical & mental health outcomes
- Increased positive connection & participation in social networks
- Improved access to culturally competent services
- Stronger policies & practices that support positive identity development

With appreciation...

The Contra Costa LGBTQ Youth Advocacy Collaborative is funded by the Mental Health Services Act in partnership with Contra Costa County Division of Mental Health