LGBTQ Youth and Families in the Child Welfare System

Children's Cabinet of Orange County

December 5, 2014

Florida Bar Foundation Children's Legal Services Grantees

Americans for Immigrant Justice – Children's Legal Project	**Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida** – Child Advocacy Project	**Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society, Inc.** – Teen Legal Collaborative	**Florida Legal Services, Inc.** (Tallahassee) – Children's Statewide Litigation and Policy Advocacy Project
Florida Legal Services (Newberry) – FILS Children in Custody Project	**FSU College of Law, Public Interest Law Center** – Health Care Project / Special Education Access	**Florida's Children First** – Children's Systemic Initiative	**Gulfcoast Legal Services** – GLS Child (Children's Immigration Defense)
Lawyers for Children America – Teen Legal Collaborative Project	**Legal Aid Society of Broward County** – Educational Legal Rights Project (ELRP)	**Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County** – Education Advocacy Law Project	**Legal Aid Society of Orange County Bar Association** – Guardian ad Litem Project
Legal Services of Greater Miami – Children's Advocacy Project	**Legal Services of North Florida** – Children's Legal Representation Project (CLRP)	**Southern Legal Counsel** – Education Advocacy Project	**University of Miami Children & Youth Law Clinic** – Statewide Foster Children's Advocacy Project
Florida Equal Justice Center – Opportunities Only			

Lambda Legal

making the case for equality

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

LGBTQ Child Welfare Workgroup – Local Groups

Pensacola
Families First Network
United Methodist Children's Home
Lakeview Center
Legal Services of North Florida*
Gulf Coast Kids House
ACLU
Guardian ad Litem Program
Children's Legal Services
DCF

Tampa
Judge Katherine Essrig
Guardian ad Litem Program
Eckerd Community Alternatives
Children's Board Hillsborough County
Hillsborough County School Board
Office of Regional Counsel
Federation of Families
Florida's Children First*
University of South Florida

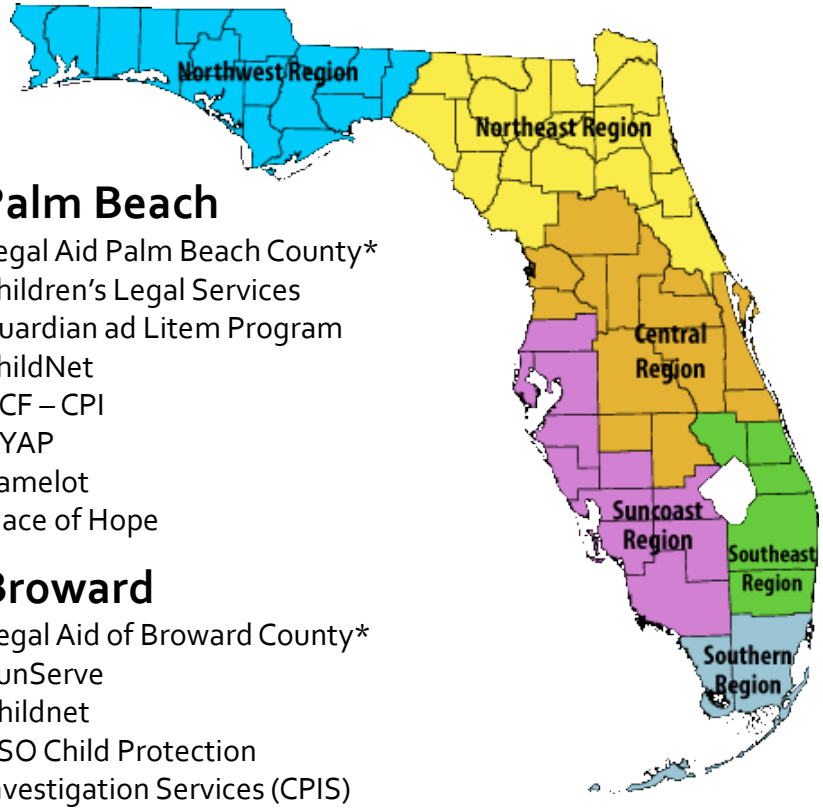
St. Petersburg
Guardian ad Litem Program
Eckerd Community Alternatives
Office of the Public Defender*
Pinellas County School Board
(meeting TBA)

Gainesville
(meeting January 9, 2015)

Ocala
Kid's Central
(training January 7-8, 2015)

Orlando
Legal Aid of Orange County
Guardian ad Litem Project*
(training January 12-13, 2015)

Miami
Children & Youth Law Clinic*
Our Kids
Guardian ad Litem Program
Survivors Pathway
Kristi House
DJJ
South Florida Behavorial
The Children's Trust
Educate Tomorrow
Alliance for GLBTQ Youth
Children's Home Society
Family Resource Center
Drug Court



Palm Beach
Legal Aid Palm Beach County*
Children's Legal Services
Guardian ad Litem Program
ChildNet
DCF – CPI
NYAP
Camelot
Place of Hope

Broward
Legal Aid of Broward County*
SunServe
Childnet
BSO Child Protection
Investigation Services (CPIS)
DJJ Department of Juvenile Justice
Children's Services Council
United Way
FLITE Center
Starting Place
Memorial Health Care Systems
The Mentor Network
District 17 Courts

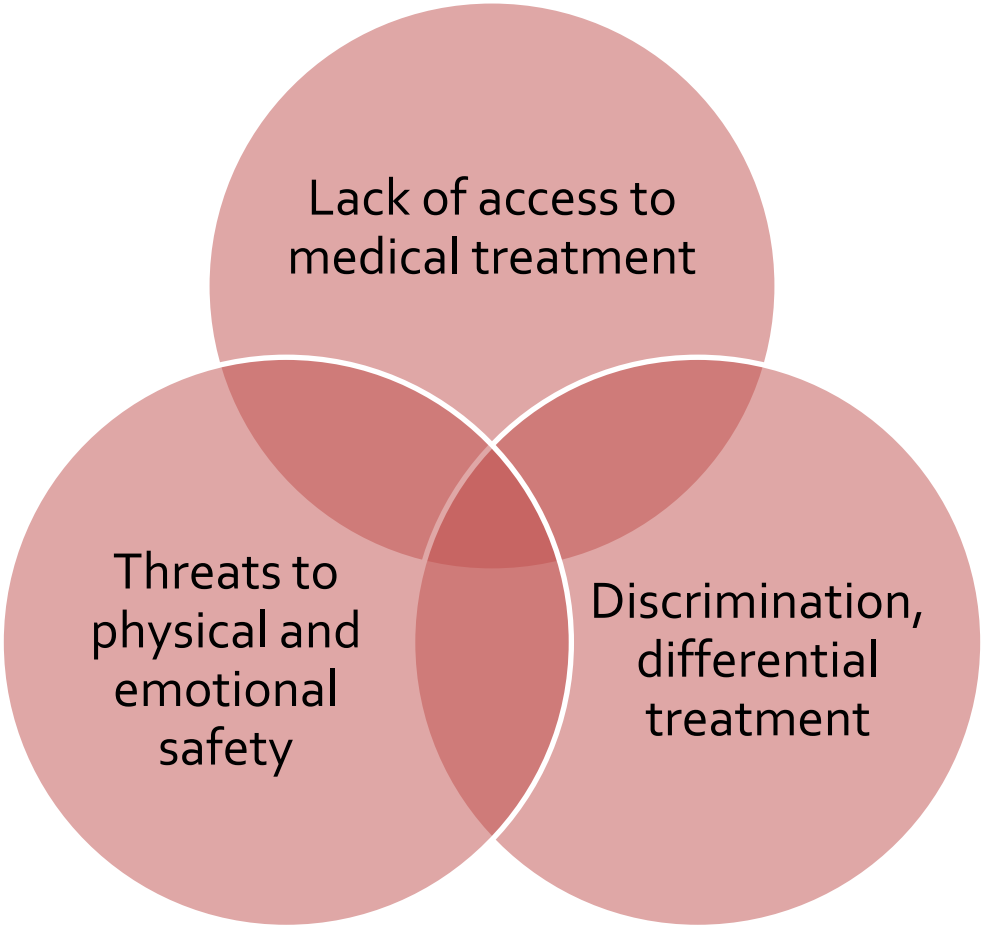
* Indicates a FBF grantee

Workgroup Strategy

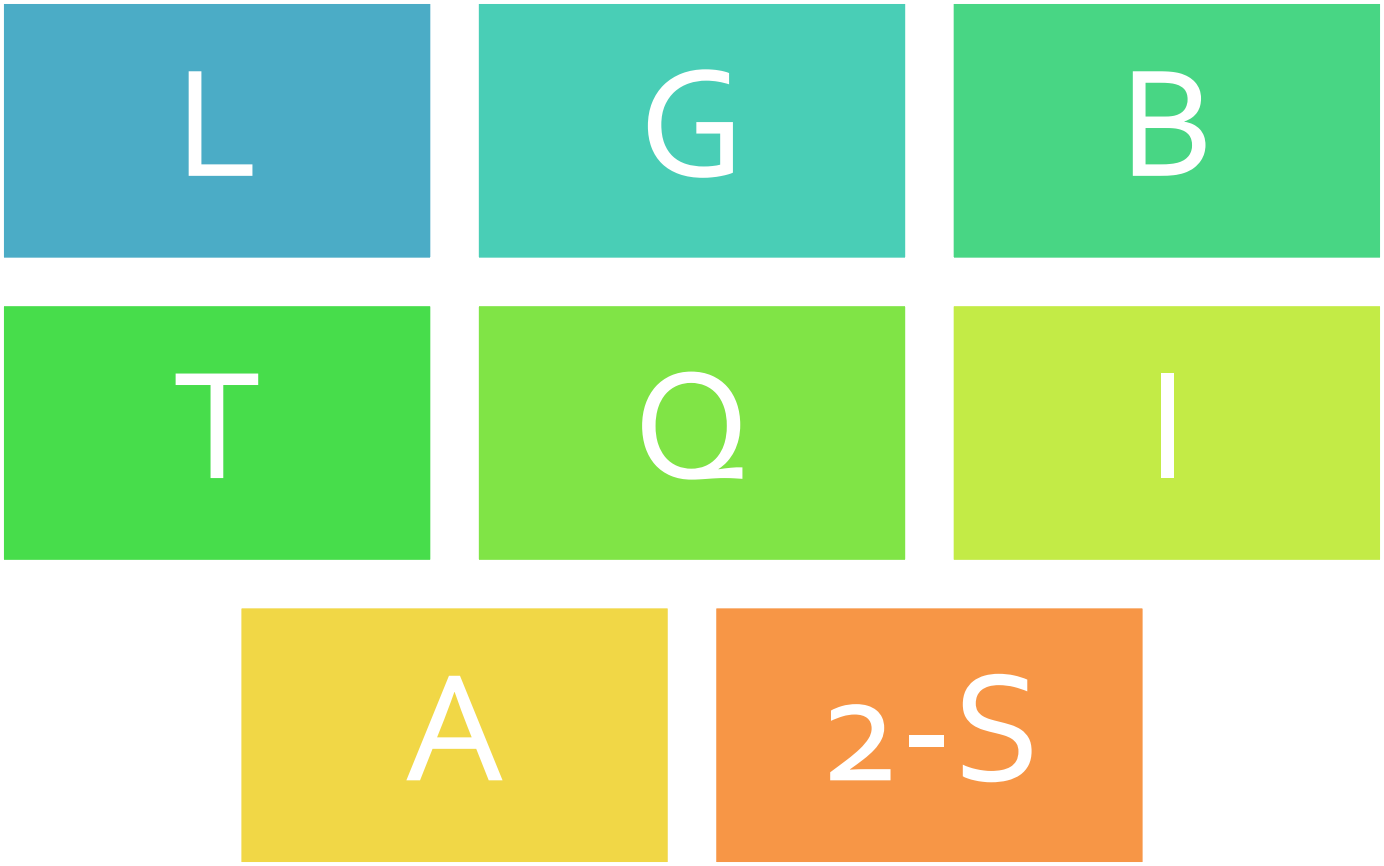
Overrepresentation Cycle

- Higher number of placements
- More psychiatric hospitalizations
- Increased reliance on congregate care

Negative Outcome Indicators for Transgender People



Terminology & Concepts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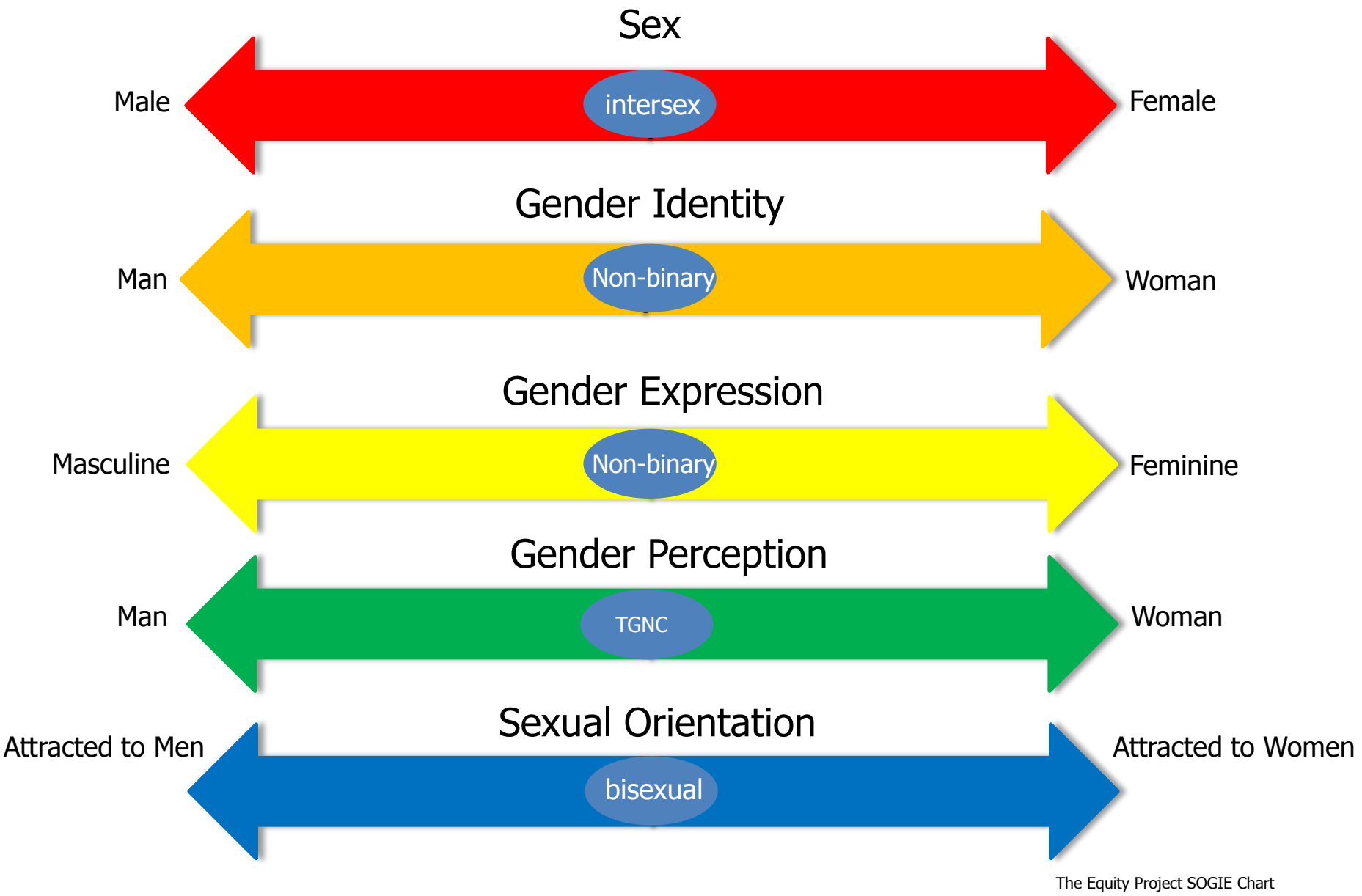


The Equity Project SOGIE Chart

SOGIE Terminology

- Sexual orientation
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual, Straight
- Questioning
- Queer
- Pansexual
- Homophobia
- Heterosexual Privilege
- Sex/Gender
- Intersex
- Gender Identity
- Transgender
- Cisgender
- Genderqueer
- Gender fluid
- Two-Spirit
- Gender expression
- Gender non-conforming
- Gender dysphoria
- Transphobia
- Cisgender privilege
- Outing

Values Clarification

Issues for LGBTQ Youth in Care

- Isolation
- Victimization
- Differential Treatment
- Disclosure Dilemmas
- Confidentiality Violations
- Lack of Family-Centered Services
- Lack of Cultural Competence Among Providers

LGBTQ Caregivers & Professionals

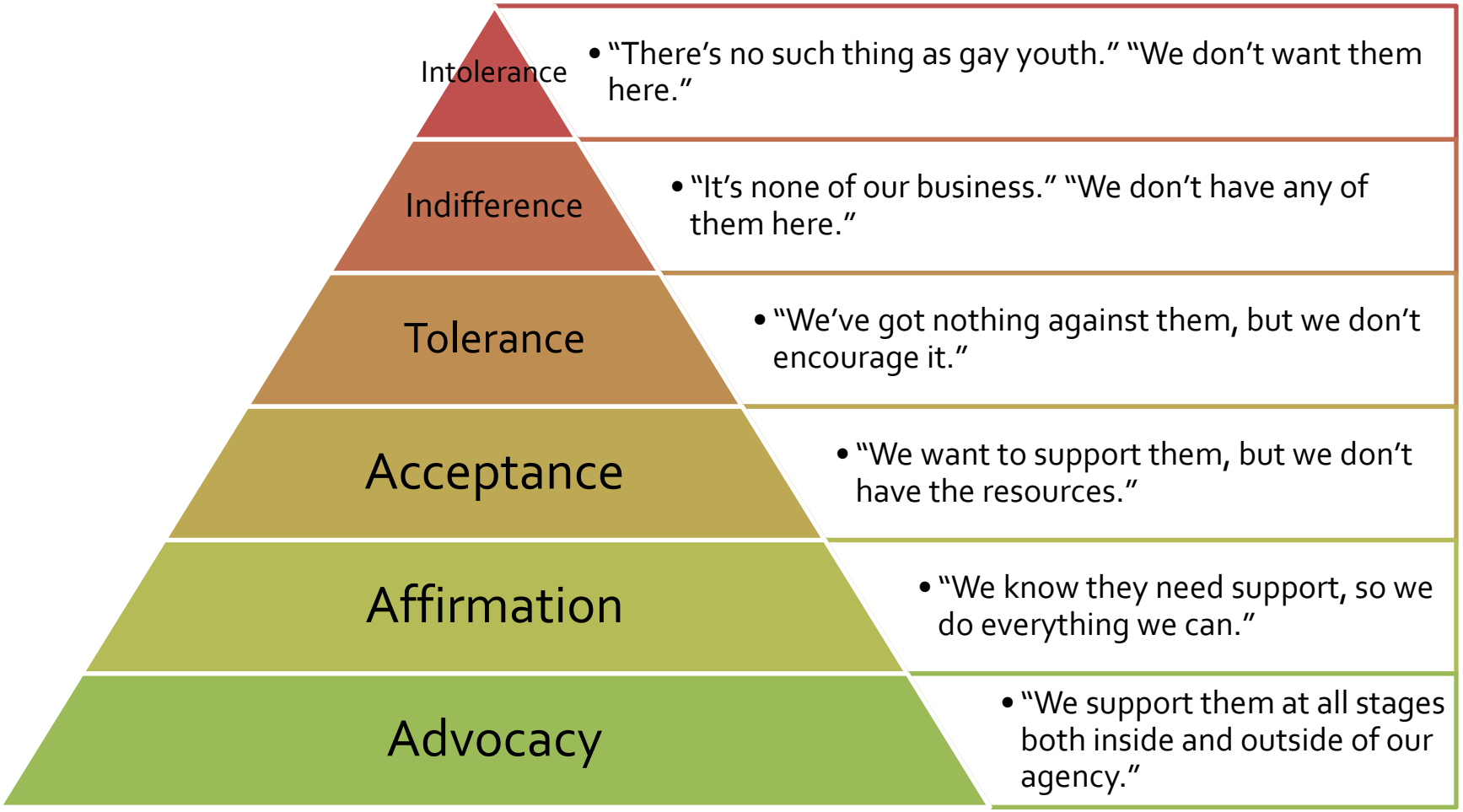
Prejudice Myths

- Sexual perpetrators
- More unstable than non-LGBTQ caregivers

Outcome myths

- Kids need a mother and a father
- Kids turn out worse if raised by LGBTQ parents
- They'll "turn" kids gay

Proxy discrimination

- Biological parents "may object"
- Kids "won't understand"

Organizational Attitude