



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

December 22, 2020

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTOR, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

The NC Division of Social Services has developed the attached Child Welfare Practice Guidance for LGBTQ+ Youth as a guide for best practices in supporting youth and providing them with access to affirming services.

This document is intended to be used by child welfare workers as a practice and resource guide to provide access to affirming supports that help LGBTQ+ youth and the families that care for them. The document will be posted online with the Child Welfare Manual at <https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/>.

The information in this document will be discussed in detail during the January LINK-Up call on Friday, January 8th from 10:00am to 11:30am. Child welfare workers and supervisors who wish to participate in this LINK-Up call can register here: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/rt/3346857731495409409>.

If you have any questions, please contact the state LINKS Program Coordinator, Erin Conner at 919-527-6351 or erin.conner@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Lisa T. Cauley

Senior Director of Child, Family, and Adult Services
Division of Social Services

Cc: Susan G. Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Interim Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing

Attachments: Child Welfare Practice Guidance for LGBTQ+ Youth

CWS-43-2020

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER