

FRIENDS Peer Learning Call:

There's Nothing Like Home The Youth Acceptance Project

May 15, 2024



There's Nothing Like Home: The Youth Acceptance Project



Vida Khavar, LMFT (she, her)



Why This Matters?

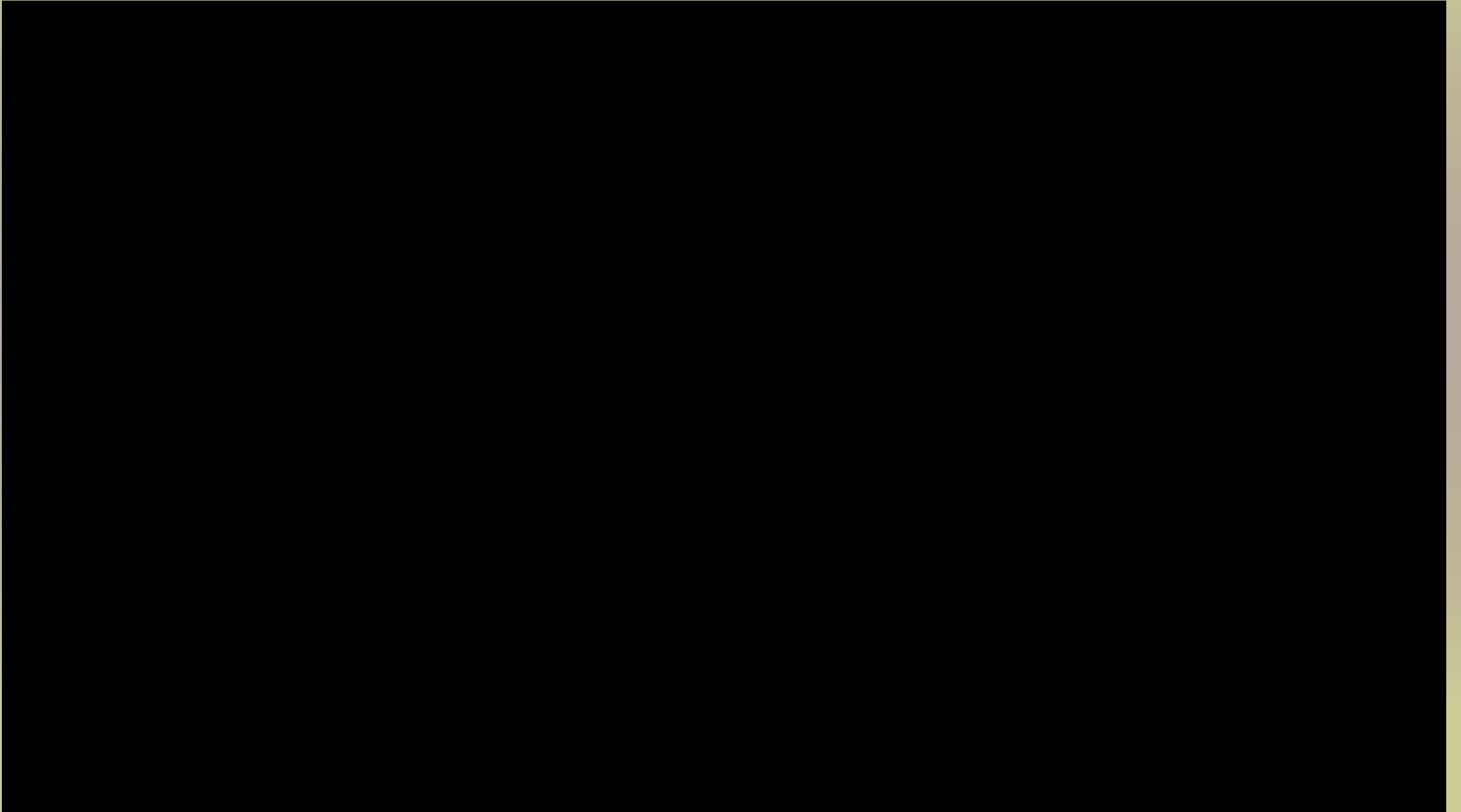
Nationwide: **34%** of youth in the child welfare system identify as LGBTQ+(1 in 3!).
And approx. **60% are youth of color.**

One in five young people in U.S. juvenile justice facilities identify as LGBTQ+.
And **85% are youth of color.**

Of the 1.6 million youth who are homeless in the US, 40%+ identify as LGBTQ+.

LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionally represented in the CSEC population due to high level of homelessness.

VIDEO: Hearing from LGBTQ+ and GE Foster Youth - Project Flare



The 2023 Trevor Project's National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health represents experiences of more than 28,524 LGBTQ youth across the U.S. Ages 13 to 24. The following data was taken directly from the survey:

14% of LGBTQ respondents attempted suicide in the past twelve months, including more than 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth.



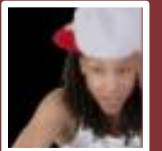
46% of LGBTQ youth report having seriously considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months.



28% of LGBTQ youth who experienced housing instability reported a suicide attempt in the past year.



Nearly 56% of transgender and nonbinary youth did not receive wanted mental health care due to concerns related to the lack of LGBTQ competence of providers.



LGBTQ+ Youth in Foster Care

LGBTQ+ youth in foster care are **3x** more likely to attempt suicide.

38% of LGBTQ+ foster youth of color reported a past-year suicide attempt.

45% of transgender and nonbinary foster youth reported a suicide attempt in the past year.

Nearly **1 in 4** Black LGBTQ+ youth in foster care reported a suicide attempt in the past year.

In Contrast

Transgender and nonbinary youth who report having their pronouns respected by all or most of the people in their lives attempted suicide at half the rate of those who did not have their pronouns respected.

Teens who perceived parental support regarding gender identity were 93% less likely to attempt suicide than youth who did not perceive parents as supportive.

Parents and Families who struggle with their child's sexual orientation or gender identity need support to become the parents that their LGBTQ+ children need them to be.

There's no
place like home:

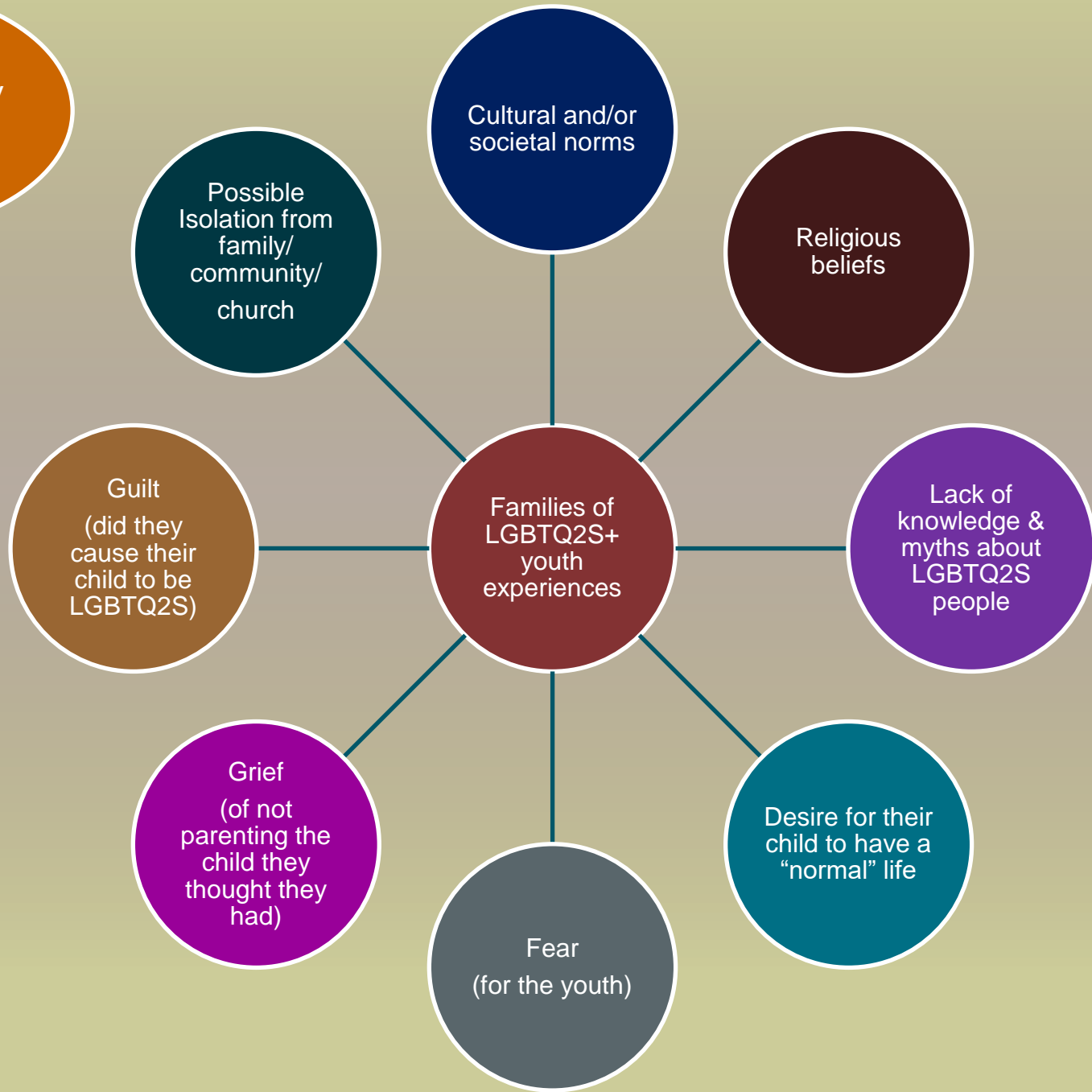
— The Youth Acceptance Project



The Parents' Journey is Different For Each Parent



What happens to families when they find out their child is LGBTQ2S+?



What does it look like to support the families of LGBTQ2S+ youth to prevent separation?



Consider this intervention:
THE YOUTH ACCEPTANCE PROJECT

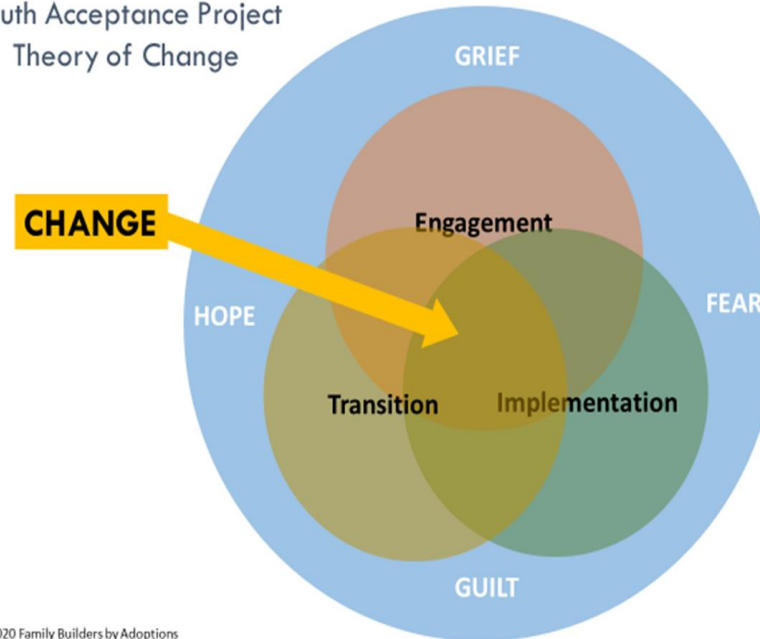
WHAT IS THE YOUTH ACCEPTANCE PROJECT?

- YAP is a clinical intervention that was developed by Family Builders in Oakland to meet the specific needs of LGBTQ+ youth and their families whether in out of home care or still with their families.
- It is a **kin-first**, distinct **solution-focused**, **strength-based** and **trauma informed** family-engagement intervention **seeped in cultural humility** for caregivers struggling to affirm their LGBTQ+ youth.
- The goal of YAP is family preservation, family reunification, and thus, improving permanency outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth. (Parental support is essential as a protective factor).

The Youth Acceptance Project (YAP) Theory of Change

Early, sensitive engagement and intervention with families can support change that make a significant impact on a family's functioning and a lasting impact on the overall wellness of LGBTQ+ and Gender Expansive youth.

Youth Acceptance Project
Theory of Change



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What Do YAP Social Workers do?

WORK

Work directly with caregivers and youth (separately) to provide emotional support and improve communication

LISTEN

We meet the family where they are at.

We listen, validate, and help process parents' feelings away from their children

LEAN IN

Families are their own experts, and we lean into religion, culture and race to build rapport and understand them

PROVIDE

Provide accurate information about SOGIE to family members to dispel myths and increase understanding

ATTEND

Attend LGBTQ+ community meetings with parents i.e., go to schools to support caregivers and youth, SOGIE related medical appointments, family gathering etc.

REFER

Refer parents and youth to appropriate resources for medical assessments (when applicable).

HELP

Help teams make decisions about permanency planning and maintaining healthy contact with first families.

When needed, we provide training on SOGIE to County staff, probation officers, foster homes or group home staff.

Caregiver Abaci



Youth Well-Being



What We Are Seeing

Increase in
Family
Stabilization

Increase in
Family
Reunification

Decrease in
Run-Aways

Decrease in
Self-Harm &
Suicide

Families are
feeling heard
and supported

LGBTQ+ youth
are feeling
supported and
loved by their
family

YAP SERVICES



- Family Builders provides direct services to 7 counties in the Bay Area in California. We also provide the YAP training and consultation model to jurisdictions outside the Bay Area to implement this program in their communities. As part of the Federal Quality Improvement Center, we were evaluated in other jurisdictions. We are currently in California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and two sites in Missouri.
- Through our intensive multi-day training, clinicians/social workers learn to deliver trauma informed LGBTQ+ competent services, seeped in cultural humility, to families of LGBTQ+ youth. The training is followed by ongoing bi-monthly follow up coaching/consultation. We are continuing our evaluation through Ceres Policy Research.

Q & A

Vida Khavar, LMFT

vkhavar@familybuilders.org
818.458.4050



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