

2012 California Parent  
Leadership Conference

**Welcome!**

**Strategies for Reducing  
the Long-Term  
Foster Care Population**

California Administrative Office of the Courts

# Panelists:

- Angel Rodriguez, MSSA, LA County CAPP Project Manager
- Lisa Parrish, L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
- Don Pickens, CA State Parent Team
- Moderator: JoAnne Garibay, CA State Parent Team

# Overview

- CAPP
- RISE
- Voice of Parents and Youth

Federal, state, and local efforts  
focused on  
**SYSTEM CHANGE**

# Federal Efforts:

- PII: Permanency Innovations Initiative
  - CAPP: California Partners for Permanency
  - RISE: Recognize Intervene Support Empower

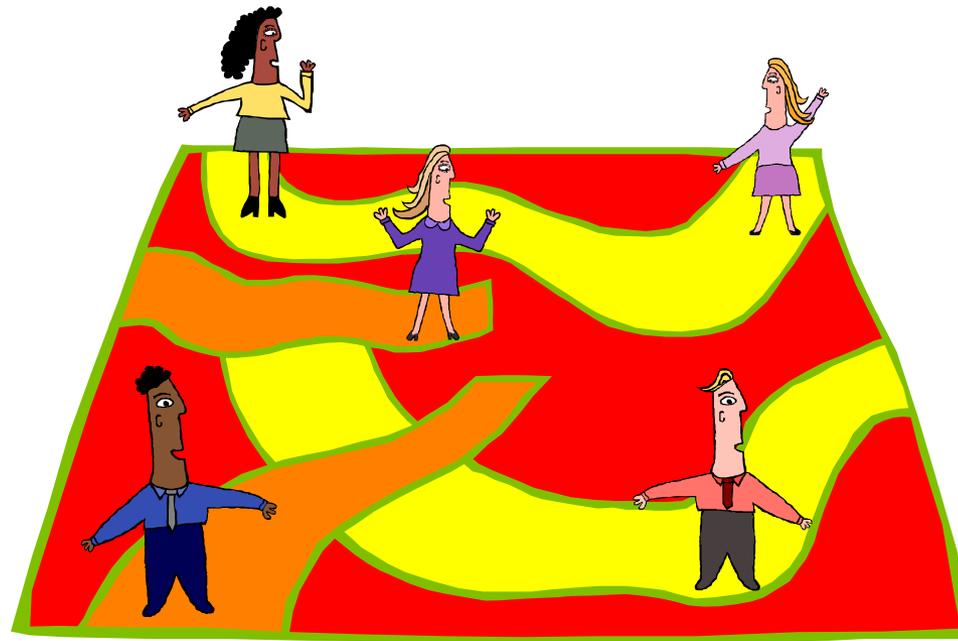


Message from  
**Commissioner Bryan Samuels**  
(Administration on Children, Youth and Families)

*“We’re connecting science to programs, data to decisions, and research to practice.*

*And more importantly, we’re connecting children in care to the resources and relationships they need to be successful.”*

# CAPP: The Journey



# Implementation Science



# Formula for Success

Effective intervention practices

X

Effective implementation practices

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= Good outcomes

# Degrees of Implementation

## PAPER

### **Paper Implementation**

putting into place new policies and procedures with the adoption of an innovation as the rationale.

## PROCESS

### **Process Implementation**

putting new operating procedures in place to conduct training workshops, provide supervision, change information reporting forms, and so on with the adoption of an innovation as the rationale.

## PERFORMANCE

### **Performance Implementation**

putting procedures and processes in place in such a way that the identified functional components of change are used with good effect for children and families.

**IMPROVED OUTCOMES**

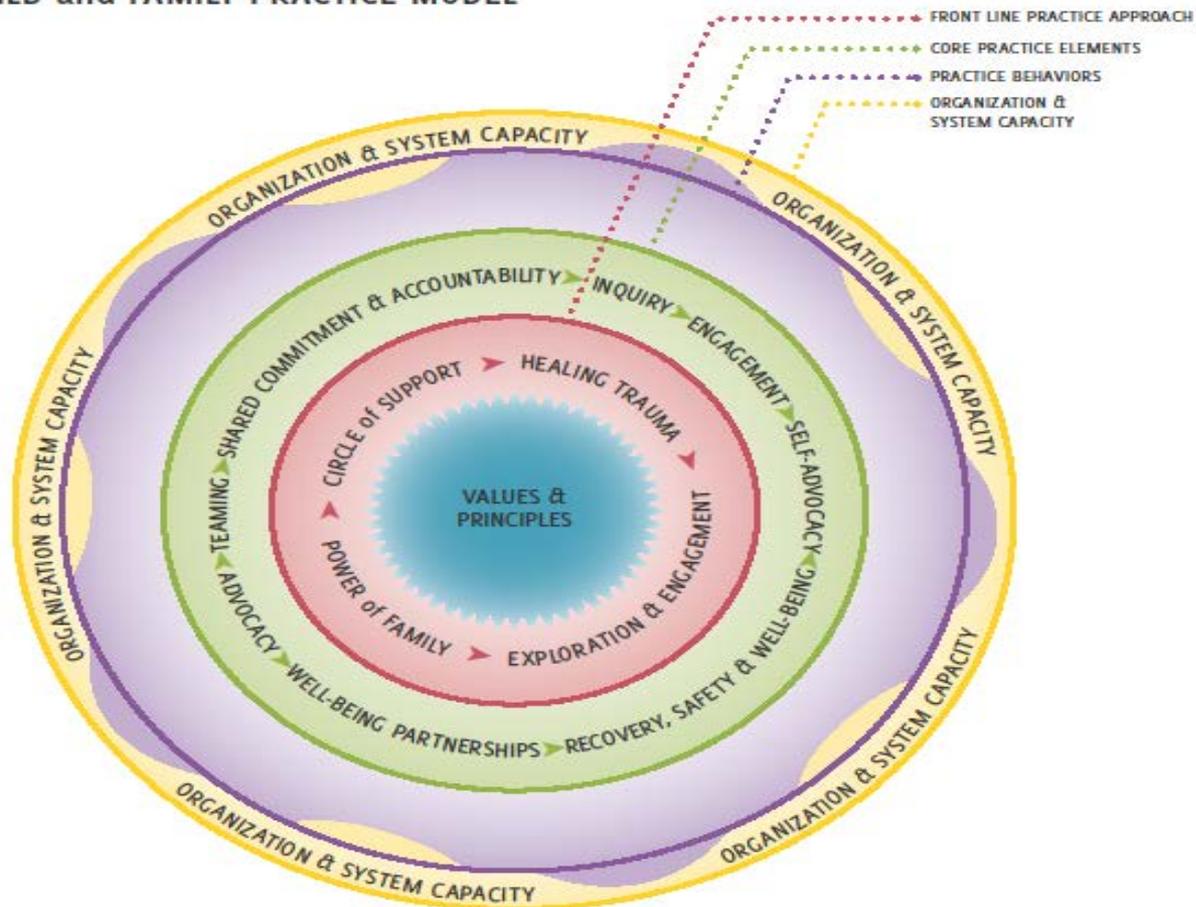


**CONSISTENT USE of INTERVENTION**





CHILD and FAMILY PRACTICE MODEL



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



# The RISE Project

## Recognize Intervene Support Empower

- The theory of change espoused by the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's (LAGLC) RISE Initiative is that:

*When lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) foster youth and their families are competently identified and appropriately served, then they can achieve safe and stable permanency.*

# RISE

## Emphasis: Research & Evaluation

- RISE is a Permanency Innovations Initiative 5-year demonstration project aimed at:
  - Competently and safely identifying LGBTQ children and youth,
  - Creating a climate/ecology of acceptance for them
  - Coordinating their care, and
  - Producing trained, competent professionals to serve them.

# RISE

## Key Partners

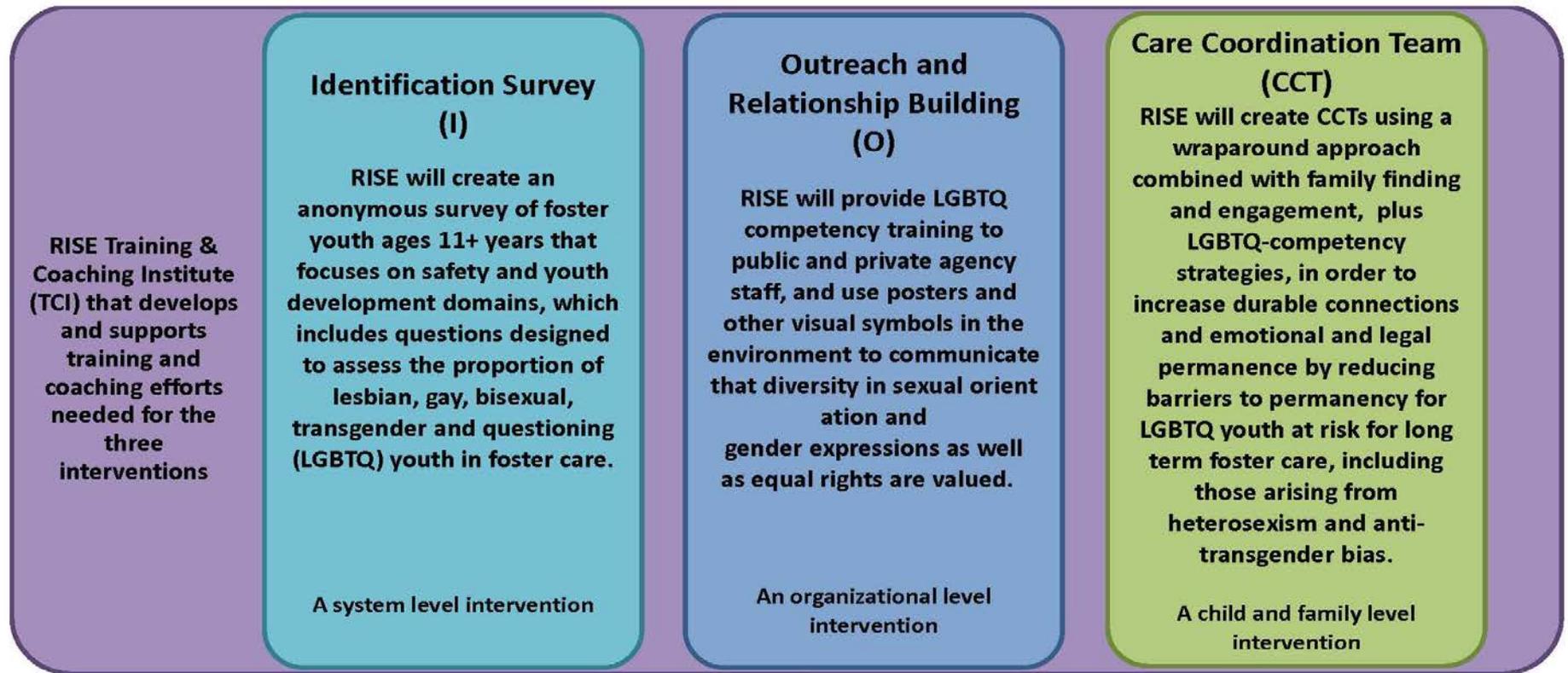
### **Foster Care Providers**

- Five Acres
- Hathaway-Sycamores Children & Family Services
- Penny Lane Centers
- Southern California Foster Family and Adoptions Agency
- Vista Del Mar
- Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership (HHYP)

### **Other Key Partners**

- L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services
- L.A. County Department of Mental Health
- The Williams Institute (UCLA School of Law)
- The Family Acceptance Project
- Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA)

# Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center RISE Interventions v.4



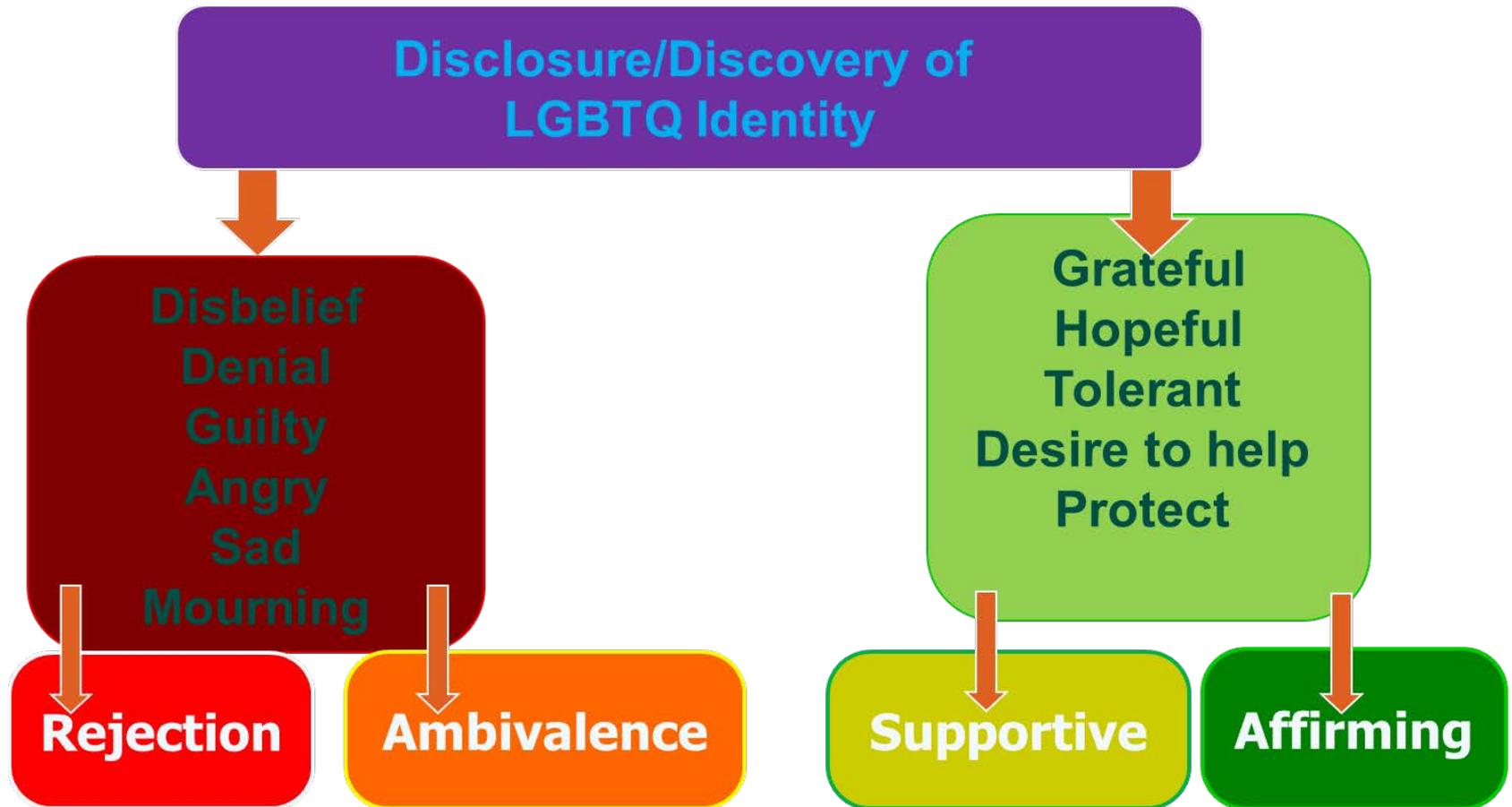
**Improve permanency for LGBTQ youth in the foster care system by reducing heterosexism and anti-transgender bias.**

# RISE

## *Care Coordination Teams (CCT) Intervention*

- RISE will use a Wraparound collaborative teaming approach, combining family search and engagement strategies along with education and support strategies to increase the LGBTQ competency of family members, caregivers and staff
- RISE staff on the CCTs will include a Facilitator, a Parent Partner and a Youth Specialist
- RISE will focus on reducing barriers to permanency including those arising from family rejection, increasing family support, and improving the support system around a youth by reducing heterosexism and anti-transgender bias.

# Coming Out: Family Member Reactions



# Rejecting Behaviors

- Saying you must leave my home
- Saying if you want to stay living here, then you must change
- Saying God will punish you for being LGBTQ
- Name calling or verbal harassment
- Physically hurting your child in an effort to get them to change
- Forbidding any discussion of their LGBTQ identity
- Forbidding any expression of their LGBTQ identity

# Ambivalent Behaviors

- Switching subject when topics of sexual orientation or gender expression/identity come up
- Not acknowledging what was said
- Pressuring to be more masculine or feminine
- Blocking access to supportive friends
- Blocking access to the LGBTQ community

Adapted from "Creating Inclusive Systems of Care for LGBT Youth" & Family Acceptance Project

# Tolerant Behaviors

- Tolerance – not being negative about LGBTQ identity, keeping negative beliefs to yourself
- Allowing for youth to express LGBTQ identity with conditions
  - i.e. *“You can be a lesbian but you cannot bring any of your lesbian friends to the house.”*
  - “You can express your gender the way you want while you are in my house but you cannot leave the house dressed this way.”*
- Not engaging LGBTQ youth on their resiliency and/or ask what they’re struggling with
- Stating acceptance but perhaps offering no supportive words, actions and/or behaviors

# Supportive/Affirming Behaviors

- Genuine and sincere engagement about what is going on in your LGBTQ child's life
- Wanting to learn how to best support your child
- Helping to promote a safe support system around them
  - *“I will correct family members when they use the incorrect pronoun to refer to you.”*
  - *“I want to meet my child's girlfriend/boyfriend when they first start dating to show them that I support them.”*
- Welcoming their LGBTQ friends to your home
- Believing your child can have a happy future as an LGBT adult

# Realities of Family Rejection

- LGBTQ youth who are rejected by their parents and caregivers were:
  - More than 8 times as likely to have attempted suicide
  - Nearly 6 times as likely to report high levels of depression
  - More than 3 times as likely to use illegal drugs, and
  - More than 3 times as likely to be at high risk for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases

# For more information contact:

RISE:                   rise@lagaycenter.org

Family Acceptance Project:   <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu>

PFLAG: <http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=803>

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Once you get to this PFLAG page, just type in California and it gives you all the locations.

Family Builders' Putting Pride into Practice Project (P-4) was created to provide California county child welfare agencies and their community partners the support, resources, training, and technical assistance necessary to implement the recommendations contained in the CWLA Best Practice Guidelines for Serving LGBTQ Youth in Out-of-Home Care as well as the mandates stipulated in California's Foster Care Nondiscrimination Act. P-4 is working with Fresno, Orange, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties. For more information, please visit the P4 page on the Family Builders website at <http://www.familybuilders.org/p4>

# Voice of Parents and Youth

- Building trust is a process
- Shared responsibility and commitment
- Barriers, apprehensions are natural
- Ask: who is **not** at the table?

Questions?

Comments?

What's Next?