DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DSS CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS
DSS COUNTY SOCIAL WORKERS
FOSTER HOME LICENSING STAFF

SUBJECT: LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ)
YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

The Division of Social Services is encouraging county directors of social services and child welfare staff members to pay particular attention to the attached Information Memorandum issued by the Children’s Bureau. The Information Memorandum highlights the overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth served by child welfare as well as youth living on the street and their need for support and safety regardless of whether they live with their family of origin. It encourages child welfare agencies, foster and adoptive parents, and others working with youth in foster care to ensure their safety and provide support.

It also highlights resources from the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections and AdoptUsKids that include LGBTQ issues and child welfare print resources, training and technical assistance on engaging LGBTQ foster and adoptive families, facilitating all forms of permanency for LGBTQ youth, and support services for prospective LGBTQ families. These resources can be found at: http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/lgbtq-issues-and-child-welfare.html and http://adoptuskids.org/content.aspx?k=LGBT-Resources.

The Division plans to explore policy implications of this Information Memorandum and will provide additional guidance in the future.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kelley, Interim Section Chief
Child Welfare Services

Attachment: LGBTQ Information Memorandum.pdf

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Children’s Program Representatives
Jack Rogers

CWS- 09-11