

# Building LGBTQ Awareness and Acceptance: A Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Family Sensitivity Training



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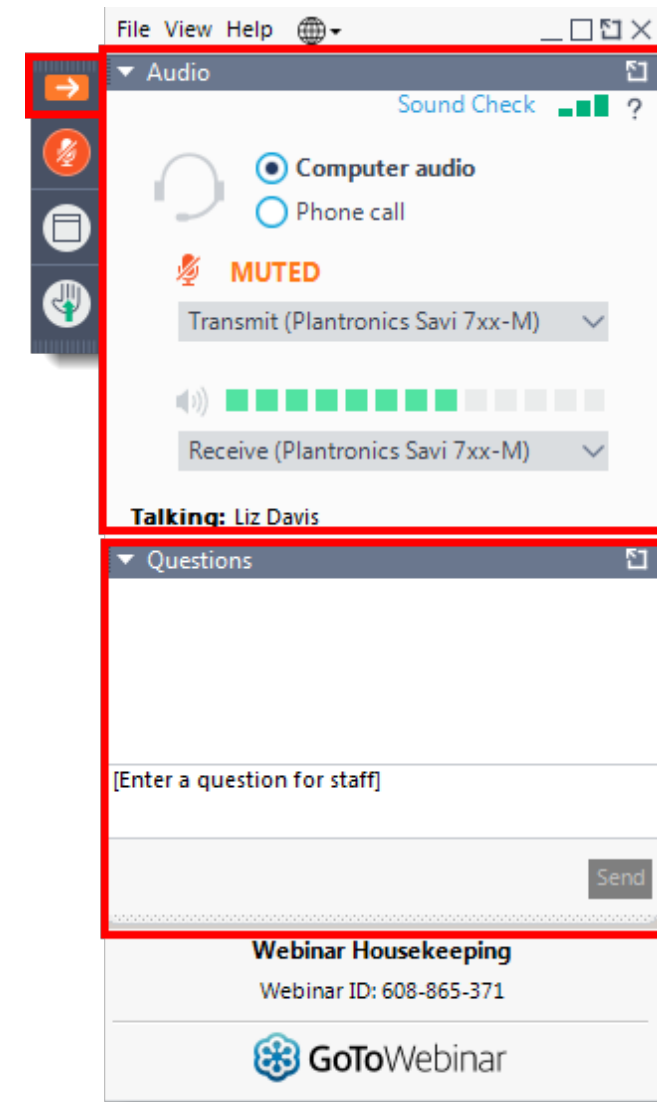
Part 1: February 22, 2021

**Part 2: March 1, 2021**

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# Housekeeping

- Use **Questions** pod to pose questions and comment; others will not see your questions/comments.
- Download handouts from HANDOUTS pod.
- All recordings, slides and handouts will be on FFF website under RESOURCES: WEBINARS by Thursday.
- Email [info@formedfamiliesforward.org](mailto:info@formedfamiliesforward.org) if you need certificate of attendance



# Tonight's Plan

- Review some reasons why families formed through adoption, kinship and foster care need to be aware of the challenges encountered by LGBTQ youth
- Part 2 of Safe Zone Training
- Scenarios
- Q&A

# A Review of the Issues Facing LGBTQ Youth

- Disproportionately exposed to violence at school resulting in lower high school graduation rates and post secondary aspirations
- LGBTQ youth are at a higher risk of being put in school-to-prison pipeline
- 29% experienced homelessness, been kicked out, or run away
- 40% seriously considered attempting suicide in the last month
- 55% reported symptoms of major depressive
- 48% reported engaging in self-harm

Sources: Human Rights Campaign, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, The Trevor Project, GLSEN

# Why are LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care?

LGBTQ youth enter the foster care system for many of the same reasons as non-LGBTQ youth in care, such as abuse, neglect, and parental substance abuse. Many LGBTQ youth have the added layer of trauma that comes with being rejected or mistreated because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Source: Human Rights Campaign

# Disparities in the Experiences of LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care

- A study of the average number of placements of LGBTQ youth in foster was 6.35 compared to non-LGBTQ youth which was around three placements
- The disparities are directly related to the non-affirming nature of foster placements for LGBTQ youth and the high level of bias and discrimination LGBTQ youth face

Source: Human Rights Campaign

## Steps to Improving Outcomes for LGBTQ Youth

- Work to increase levels of acceptance among family members and other supportive adults in the lives of LGBTQ youth
- Educate the foster parent community about the experiences and needs of LGBTQ youth
- Work to ensure that LGBTQ students are able to learn and grow in a school environment free from bullying and harassment
- Child welfare professionals should educate themselves and work to increase acceptance amount family members and supportive adults

Source: Human Rights Campaign and GLSEN



# Formed Families Forward – Stay in Touch!

Please complete the evaluation (stay in meeting when we close)!!!

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