

**FOURTH ANNUAL**

# eQuality Convening & PRIDE LEARNING SERIES

**June 7, 2022: 9:00 – 10:30 am PDT**

**June 14, 2022: 12:00 – 1:30 pm PDT**

**June 21, 2022: 9:00 am – 1:30 pm PDT**

**Virtual Events**

eQuality is creating safer and more affirming systems of care for LGBTQ+ youth.



# WELCOME

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## ABOUT CCYJ

At CCYJ, we are reimagining how the child welfare and youth justice systems can better support our children and young people regardless of their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or background. We are a diverse and multidisciplinary team, with team members personally touched by the child welfare and youth legal systems and staff with professional systems experience, working upstream to ensure that kids get equitable support.

Our vision is that all children, youth, and young adults are healthy, safe, and thriving; cared for by their community; valued as they are; and have a sense of belonging. This vision, which will be realized upon the fulfillment of our mission, guides our work, and moves us towards what is possible for our communities and our world.

For more information, please visit [www.ccyj.org](http://www.ccyj.org).

## ABOUT eQUALITY

eQuality creates safer and more affirming systems of care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) youth. Launched in 2013, it began as a research effort on the experiences of Washington's LGBTQ+ systems-involved youth. This research culminated in a report, [Listening to Their Voices: Enhancing Successful Outcomes for LGBTQ Youth in Washington State's Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems](#). Listening to Their Voices demonstrated that while LGBTQ+ youth involved in juvenile justice and child welfare have been overrepresented in these systems, they have experienced marginalization, mistreatment, and poor outcomes. To address these concerns and to improve the health, safety, and wellness of LGBTQ+ youth, eQuality engaged hundreds of stakeholders—youth-serving professionals, caregivers, and young people—in the development of the [Protocol for Safe & Affirming Care](#). eQuality has since implemented the Protocol—a comprehensive guide for building and sustaining safer and more affirming systems—in juvenile courts, child welfare offices, and community-based organizations serving youth experiencing homelessness across Washington.

For more information, please visit [www.ccyj.org/our-work/supporting-lgbtq-youth](http://www.ccyj.org/our-work/supporting-lgbtq-youth) and <http://ccyjresources.org/>



# CONVENING AGENDA

June 21, 2022

9:00 am - 9:15 am

## CCYJ WELCOME

**Morgan Silverman** (*she, her*), Director of Innovation, CCYJ

**Rachel Sottile** (*she, her*), President & CEO, CCYJ

9:15 am - 10:00 am

## KEYNOTE

**Nakiya Lynch** (*they, them*), Youth Well-Being Coordinator, Human Rights Campaign

10:00 am - 11:55 am

## PLENARY

**Engaging Families to Prevent Risk & Promote Well-Being for LGBTQ Children & Youth**

**Dr. Caitlin Ryan** (*she, her*), Director, Family Acceptance Project

12:05 pm - 12:15 pm

## RESOURCE FOCUS

**Coordinated Care**

**Jen Estroff** (*she, her*), Apple Health Care Core Connections Liaison, Coordinated Care

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

## PANEL: CENTERING YOUTH, SUPPORTING FAMILIES

**What We Need to Know About Engaging Caregivers and Empowering Young People**

**Dae Shogren, Moderator** (*she, they*), Equity & Community Partnerships Administrator, DCYF  
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

**Danny Cortez** (*he, him*), Founder, Director, Estuary Space

**Jacob Braxton** (*he, they*) Passion to Action

**Sabian Hart** (*he, she, they*), Passion to Action

**Trey Rabun** (*he, him*), Associate Director of Programs – Kinship Services, Amara

1:15 pm - 1:30 pm

## CLOSING

**Nicholas Oakley** (*he, him*), Director of Public Policy, Strategy, & Alignment, CCYJ



# SESSION INFO

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## KEYNOTE

### Keynote Address

**Nakiya Lynch** (*they, them*), Youth Well-Being Coordinator, Human Rights Campaign

## PLENARY

### Engaging Families to Prevent Risk & Promote Well-Being for LGBTQ Children & Youth

**Dr. Caitlin Ryan** (*she, her*), Director, Family Acceptance Project

This session will provide an overview of applying the Family Acceptance Project's family support framework with diverse families with LGBTQ children to decrease family rejection and strengthen and promote well-being.

## PANEL

### Centering Youth, Supporting Families: What We Need to Know About Engaging Caregivers and Empowering Young People

**Dae Shogren, Moderator** (*she, they*), Equity & Community Partnerships Administrator, DCYF Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

**Danny Cortez** (*he, him*), Founder, Director, Estuary Space

**Jacob Braxton** (*he, they*), Passion to Action

**Sabian Hart** (*he, she, they*), Passion to Action

**Trey Rabun** (*he, him*), Associate Director of Programs – Kinship Services, Amara

The panel will include young people with lived experience in the child welfare system, experienced service providers, and a parent, all of whom have valuable insight to share related to how we can best support and engage LGBTQ+ youth and their families.

# KEYNOTE



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Nakiya  
Lynch**  
*(they, them)*

Nakiya Lynch, Youth Well-Being Coordinator at Human Rights Campaign, is an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, intersectional feminism, foster youth rights/child welfare systemic reform, and racial equity from Prince George's County Maryland. When they aren't attending conferences, speaking on panels, or teaching others about the importance of intersectional work, they can be found spending time with their friends, reading, or scrolling through Twitter.

# PLENARY



PLENARY SPEAKER

**Caitlin  
Ryan**

*(she, her)*

Caitlin Ryan, PhD, ACSW, is a clinical social worker, researcher, and the Director of the Family Acceptance Project (FAP) who has worked on LGBTQ health and mental health for more than 40 years. She conducted the first research on LGBTQ youth and families and developed the first evidence-based family support model to reduce risk and promote well-being for LGBTQ children and youth. FAP's family support model helps ethnically, racially, and religiously diverse families to support their LGBTQ children to prevent risk and promote well-being in the context of their families, cultures, and faith communities. FAP's approach to increasing family support for LGBTQ children and youth was designed to be implemented across systems, including behavioral health, school-based services, primary care, out-of-home care, and pastoral care. She collaborated with Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) to integrate FAP's family support model and TF-CBT to create a new integrated family-based treatment model for care of LGBTQ children and youth who have experienced trauma. Dr. Ryan trains on her work across the U.S. and in other countries.



# PANELIST BIOS



**Dae Shogren, Moderator** *(she, they)*

Dae Shogren, MPA, is the Equity & Community Partnerships Administrator at the DCYF Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. Prior to this position, they were the LGBTQ+, Disproportionality, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Program Manager for Child Welfare Programs. Dismantling systematic oppression as it relates to racial inequity, supports homophobia and transphobia continues to be at the core of their work. Ms. Shogren firmly believes that when our children and young people are supported and nurtured, we all move towards healing and thriving.



**Danny Cortez** *(he, him)*

Danny Cortez founded and directs Estuary Space, a non-profit that provides consultation to faith communities as well as pastoral support to LGBTQ people and their families. He also serves part time as a co-pastor at Long Beach Christian Fellowship, in Long Beach, CA. Originally, he served as the pastor of New Heart Community Church, a Southern Baptist Church that was dismissed from the denomination as a result of becoming inclusive of LGBTQ people. He is a graduate of Talbot Theological Seminary and Arrow Leadership. He also serves as a board member of Q Christian Fellowship and PFLAG API San Gabriel Valley. Danny was born in the Philippines but moved to Los Angeles at an early age where he resides with his family.



**Jacob Braxton** *(he, they)*

Jacob Braxton is a member of Passion to Action and experienced 8 years of the foster care system. Jacob has experienced different types of placements such as foster care, kinship care and group home placement. He aspires to open a clothing shop one day after graduating from Seattle Central with his AA in Fashion Design.



# PANELIST BIOS



**Sabian Hart** (*he, she, they*)

My name is Sabian. I am 25 years old and have been working with young people since I was 17. Growing up I cumulatively spent 6 years in foster/kinship care. When I'm not working, I enjoy all kinds of nerdy activities, anime, games, puzzles, comics, etc. Although I have experienced an enormous amount of trauma, I am thankful for my life and those who love and support me. I work to assure that young people can have as positive an experience in foster care as I did.



**Trey Rabun** (*he, him*)

Trey Rabun, MSW, is the Associate Director of Programs for Kinship Care at Amara. He holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Hampton University, a master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Illinois, and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Washington. Trey has held several positions at Amara over the past 10 years including doing direct service work supporting youth in foster care and their caregivers, foster parent recruitment and outreach, and currently is leading Amara's efforts to create programming focused on supporting kinship families in the child welfare system. He also manages Amara's various LGBTQ+ programs including a support group for queer caregivers and a partnership with Gays with Kids. Personally, Trey and his husband were foster parents for four years and have a 7-year-old adopted son.



# PRIDE LEARNING SERIES

## PRIDE LEARNING SESSION I



TOPIC

### Implementing the Protocol for Safe & Affirming Care: Strategies, Overcoming Challenges, & Lessons Learned

**Nicholas Oakley** (*he, him*), *Director of Public Policy, Strategy, & Alignment, Center for Children & Youth Justice*



WHEN

**Tuesday, June 7th**

**9:00 am – 10:30 am**



ABOUT

This session is both for those who have already undertaken efforts to build safer and more affirming systems of care for LGBTQ+ young people and for those who are interested in doing so in a juvenile court, child welfare agency, or community-based organization. Interactive and participant driven, this will be a space to share experiences with each other and collectively problem solve. We will address the purpose behind this work, talking to young people about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, sustainability, and more.



## PRIDE LEARNING SESSION II



TOPIC

### Supporting Today's Gender Diverse Youth

Aidan Key (*he, him*), Founder and CEO, Gender Diversity



WHEN

Tuesday, June 14th

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm



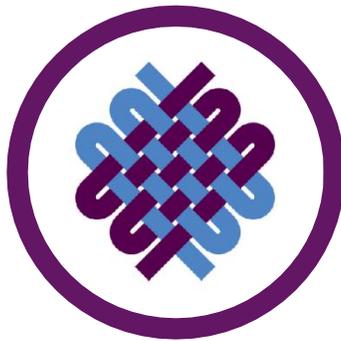
ABOUT

While societal awareness is increasing, many people are understandably wondering how to best address the needs of transgender and nonbinary children and their families. Beyond these child-specific needs, it can certainly feel like uncharted terrain when considering how to address the questions or concerns so often raised. When faith, political, cultural, and legislative variables crowd in, it can be even more challenging to find a way through that is respectful, rational, and considering the best interests of the child.

- How can a child be transgender? Aren't they too young to know? Shouldn't they wait until adulthood?
- What if this is a phase? They seem pretty confused. Are they just trying to get attention?
- What does advocacy for a gender diverse child entail? How does medical treatment come into the equation or does it?
- What if a parent(s) has concerns or objections? How do differences of perspective or experience – cultural, religious, political, and generational – peacefully and respectfully co-exist?
- What are our legal obligations?
- How do I best support the caregiver(s) of a gender-diverse child if they are struggling?

Join gender education specialist Aidan Key in examining the topic of gender diversity in children and teens, the challenges faced by these children and their families, exploring current research, and identifying the best approaches for creating an inclusive, supportive environment for the entire community.

# SPEAKER BIOS



## Nicholas Oakley *(he, him)*

Nicholas Oakley, JD, is Director of Public Policy, Strategy, & Alignment at the Center for Children & Youth Justice. Prior to this position, he oversaw CCYJ's efforts to build safer and more affirming systems of care for LGBTQ+ young people and to build and sustain a statewide, coordinated, and victim/survivor-centered response to the commercial sexual exploitation of young people in Washington. Nicholas frequently trains and provides technical assistance on these issues.



## Aidan Key *(he, him)*

Aidan Key is the Founder and CEO of Gender Diversity, an organization dedicated to providing support and educational services with respect to the inclusion of transgender and gender-diverse children. He has served as a consultant to hundreds of school districts, agencies, and organizations across the United States navigating the questions and concerns regarding transgender children. Key is the co-author of *Gender Cognition in Transgender Children* (Psychological Science 2015), co-author of *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: Children* (Oxford University Press, 1st edition 2014; 2nd edition 2022) and is currently writing *Trans Children in Today's Schools* (Oxford University, available for preorder). Schools and districts across the U.S. have regularly engaged his expertise for over 15 years, including his partnership with the Washington State Interscholastic Activities Association, to develop the nation's first K-12 Gender Inclusive Sports Toolkit.



# SPONSORS

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## Presenting



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