



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Abstract

Presenter(s): Ellen Kahn

Presentation Title: Stepping Up to Support LGBTQ Youth and Families!

Topic Area: Promising practices that adoption exchanges, child welfare agencies, and others in the field are using to develop and support foster, adoptive, and kinship families;

Description:

Guidance from the Administration for Children, Youth & Families released in fall of 2016 requires agencies receiving federal funding to ensure they provide services free of discrimination for LGBTQ youth and families. This workshop will provide attendees with the necessary information in order to assess whether their agency is in compliance with this requirement and identify next steps in improving practice with LGBTQ youth and families.

Format: Interactive lecture and discussion

Presenter(s) Biography:

Ellen Kahn is the Director of the Children, Youth and Families Program at the Human Rights Campaign. In her role, Ellen provides national leadership and expertise in public education and advocacy efforts on behalf of LGBTQ youth and families. Ellen oversees a portfolio of highly successful projects that promote fair and inclusive policies and practices; All Children—All Families; Welcoming Schools; the HBCU Project, and Youth Well-Being, which includes the annual Time to Thrive conference. Ellen is sought out as an expert on topics related to LGBTQ youth and families, and frequently speaks at national and regional conferences and provides training and consultation for child welfare professionals, educators, and healthcare providers. Prior to joining HRC, Ellen spent 12 years at the Whitman-Walker Health in various roles; Director of the Lesbian Services Program, Associate Director of LGBT Health Promotion, and as supervisor of a behavioral health program for people with HIV. While at Whitman-Walker Health, Ellen established “Choosing Children,” a robust program for LGBT parents and prospective parents, including

“Maybe Baby” groups, an annual “Parenting Day,” and a range of support groups for LGBT parents. Ellen is a founding Board member of Rainbow Families DC, the capital area’s support and education organization for LGBT-headed families. She is currently in her tenth year and will officially leave the Board next June. She has facilitated “Maybe Baby” groups for over 15 years and consults with dozens of prospective LGBT parents each year. Ellen received her B.S. from Temple University and her M.S.S. from the Bryn Mawr College School of Social Work and Social Research. Ellen is the proud mom of two fabulous daughters, ages 17 and 13, and lives in Silver Spring, MD.