Aaron L. Taliaferro, M.Ed.
Director of Youth Center and Wellness

Our vision

one•n•ten envisions a world where all LGBTQ youth and young adults are embraced for who they are, actively engaged in their communities, and empowered to lead.

Our mission

Our mission is to serve LGBTQ youth and young adults ages 11-24. We enhance their lives by providing empowering social and service programs that promote self-expression, self-acceptance, leadership development, and healthy life choices.

Youth Center, Satellites and more…

- **Fun and educational programs 5 days a week**

- **Free meals, snacks, showers, clothing, toiletries, & community resources**

- **Connection to services, such as medical & dental care, housing resources, and connection to care**

- **Identity based groups, such as Trans and Gender Non-Confirming group and Queer Youth of Color Group (QOC)**

- *The Zone* **program, focused on HIV/AIDS education, de-stigmatization and support of HIV+ youth**

- **10 Satellite locations, with the goal of 18 open by end of 2022**

Programs, Resources and more…

- **Parent Group**

- **POND Housing Program**

- **Workforce Program**

- **CampOUTdoors**

- **OUTscouts**

- **Trainings**

4

LGBTQ+ Youth (Middle and High School)

2019 National School Climate Survey by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network)

• 68.7% were verbally harassed in the past year because of their sexual orientation.

• The vast majority of transgender students (83.3%) reported being bullied based on their gender identity.

• 44.9% experienced cyberbullying.

• Nearly one-third (32.7 %) missed at least one day of school in the last month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable and 17.1% changed schools.

• Students of color commonly experience multiple forms of victimization—40.0% of both Black and Asian American/Pacific Islander students, 41.2% of Indigenous students, and 41.6% of Hispanic/Latin students reported bullying based on both their sexual orientation and their race.

Impact: Effects on Education

o Gay teens in U.S. schools are often subjected to such intense bullying that they're unable to receive an adequate education.

o LGBT youth identified bullying problems as the second most important problem in their lives, after non-accepting families, compared to non-LGBT youth identifying classes/exams/grades.

o LGBT youth who reported they were frequently harassed in school had lower grade point averages than students who were less often harassed.

o One survey revealed that more than one-third of gay respondents had missed an entire day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe there.

o LGBT youth feel they have nowhere to turn. Sixty percent of LGBT students did not report incidents to school staff. One-third who reported an incident said the staff did nothing in response. [6]

LGBTQ youth are nearly twice as likely to be called names, verbally harassed or physically assaulted at school compared to their non-LGBTQ peers. Their mental health and education, not to mention their physical well-being, are at-risk

(GLSEN 2019)

Impact: Common Risk Factors

Withdrawal/Drop out of school

Self-Harm: With each instance of verbal or physical harassment, the risk of self-harm among LGBT youth is 2 ½ times more likely.

Substance Use: Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth are more than twice as likely to experiment with drugs and alcohol.

Unstable/Unhealthy homes/Homelessness

Suicide: Gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth are 4 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual counterparts.

What can **we** do?

- **Train staff** on how to create safe and supportive environments for all youth and young adults, including LGBTQI+ youth. **Hire staff** and administrators that are culturally compenent and an advocate/ally.

- **Prohibit** bullying, harassment, and violence against all students.

- Conduct **social-emotional learning activities** in school to foster peer-relationships and help develop empathy.

- Identify **"strong spaces,"** such as counselors' offices or designated classrooms, where LGBTQI+ youth can receive support from administrators, teachers, or other staff.

- Encourage youth-led and youth-organized **clubs** that promote a safe, welcoming, and accepting school environment

- Use **inclusive language** and avoid making assumptions. The words we use can make help people feel acknowledged and create a sense of belonging. Use students' chosen **names and pronouns**.

- Refer to local community resources

Resources

Local

- Onenten.org

- PFLAG (Phoenix)

- Equality Arizona

- Greater Phoenix Equality Chamber of Commerce

National

- The Trevor Project

- GLSEN

- Everyone is Gay

- Stomp Out Bullying

- Stop Bullying

Resource Links

1. **Homepage | GLSEN**

2. **LGBTQ Bullying | STOMP Out Bullying**

3. **https://cyberbullying.org/bullying-cyberbullying-sexual-orientation-lgbtq.pdf**

4. **The Trevor Project | For Young LGBTQ Lives**

5. **BACK TO SCHOOL 2014 - Bullying and LGBT Youth.pdf (mhanational.org)**

<u>Resources</u>

1. Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA). (2019, September 24). *LGBTQ Youth*. StopBullying.gov; StopBullying.gov. https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/lgbtq

2. Kosciw, J. G., Clark, C. M., Truong, N. L., & Zongrone, A. D. (2020). The 2019 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth in our nation's schools. New York: GLSEN. https://www.glsen.org/research/2019-national-school-climate-survey

3. Hinduja, S., Justin, W., & Patchin. (2020). *Bullying, Cyberbullying, and LGBTQ Students*. https://cyberbullying.org/bullying-cyberbullying-sexual-orientation-lgbtq.pdf

4. 2021_SSIA org sign-on letter of support_v2.pdf (glsen.org)