

AGLBIC News

Association of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Counseling
A Division of the American Counseling Association

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Fall 2002



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Governing Council: Fall Mtg

Bob Barret

After my somewhat impassioned "farewell address" in the last issue, maybe you are surprised to be hearing from me again. Colleen Logan, our new Governing Council Rep, was unable to attend the fall Governing Council meeting (due to the birth of her son), and Ned asked that I step back into the role for AGLBIC.

I was privileged to lead the Governing Council in training on GLBT issues at the fall meeting (the GC is required to have diversity/multicultural training at each meeting). This 75 minute training included AGLBIC history, a review of several counseling issues (drawn mostly from the book Colleen Logan and I have written) and the AGLBIC competencies. Each aspect of the training was very well received, and many members (as well as ACA staff) commented on their new awareness of how much they have to learn about our community. I am grateful to ACA president David Kaplan for choosing this topic and for the opportunity to represent AGLBIC in this role.

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AWARD NOMINATIONS

AGLBIC is seeking nominations for its annual Joe Norton and AGLBIC Service Awards to be presented at the March 2003 ACA meeting in Anaheim, CA. The Joe Norton Award is for a NON-AGLBIC member who has made a significant contribution to the GLBT community. The AGLBIC Service Award is for an AGLBIC member who has made a significant contribution to the GLBT community. Please send nomination packets (February 1, 2003 deadline) outlining the individual's contribution to: Sue Strong, Ph.D., AGLBIC Past President, Chair Nominations and Elections, SUE.STRONG@EKU.EDU

Reflecting Back, Looking Forward

Ned Farley, AGLBIC President

I am sitting here in my hotel room in Park City, Utah on the first day of the ACES conference. As a counselor educator, this is one of the conferences I look forward to, along with the ACA conference each year. This year, we decided to hold our AGLBIC fall board meeting here, the day and a half prior to the start of ACES, as many of us were planning on attending this conference anyway. This was a cost savings step for many of us, who would have had to plan travel and expenses for both the AGLBIC meeting and the ACES conference in a very short period of time. Besides, ACES was gracious enough to offer to provide the meeting room to us at no cost, and they had scored a great price on hotel rooms. Ultimately, the convenience, beautiful mountain setting, and great weather proved to be fertile ground for an excellent board meeting. I am so impressed with the collaborative and creative energy that moved us along our agenda, and helped us formalize a strategy for the on-going work of this division.

The title of this article reflects the work we have just accomplished. We spent time reflecting on our history and the work and dedication that previous leaders and members have contributed to bring us to where we are today. We took time to review our mission statement, both to consider the work that has been done in our stated goals, as well as work we still want to see done as these next years unfold. Most importantly, we took these experiences and successes and coalesced them into a future that sees AGLBIC as growing and evolving. It was humbling, daunting, and exciting. I'd like to share a bit with you of what is already in place, and the plans we have for the next year and beyond. Suffice it to say, that many of our ideas will take more than my term as president to implement, but sitting at the table with board members who will carry on

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AGLBIC News

K.R. Hartman
1110 Fairlane Drive
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Counselor Education

NEW Program

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is now offering a PhD with an emphasis on multicultural counseling. Entering its third year, the program is designed to provide doctoral-level preparation for professionals who seek advanced clinical training and leadership positions in the counseling field. A unique feature of this program is its emphasis on increasing knowledge, awareness, and skills in interacting with socially and culturally diverse populations.

UNCC and the Counselor Education Program is committed to providing a gay affirmative environment.

Further information can be obtained by contacting: Bob Barret, PhD, Doctoral Program Coordinator, Counseling Program, College of Education, UNC Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223-0001 (704) 687-4726
rlbarret@email.uncc.edu
 or visit our website at <http://education/uncc.edu/counseling>

AGLBIC Board

Call for applications-Consultant

As a response to the need for AGLBIC to better represent all current and future members, the AGLBIC Board is seeking applications for a volunteer position as consultant to the board for GLBT members of color. While recognizing that AGLBIC desires to be a division that reaches out to, and represents all GLBT people and our allies, we have historically not done an effective enough job of reaching out to multi-minorities within our community. While we understand that this should be extended to include a variety of under-represented communities who also identify as GLBT or an ally, in particular we want to reach out to our current and potential members of color who contribute daily to the counseling profession as well as to the GLBT communities we live in. In this vein, we are looking for someone who is willing to serve on a one year contract to consult with the board on strategies to make AGLBIC more inclusive and representative. While a volunteer position, that could be extended after the first year, AGLBIC will compensate this individual in some monetary ways to attend our spring and fall board meetings. To apply, please submit a letter stating how you see yourself as fitting this position, and why you are interested in helping AGLBIC in this way. This position requires AGLBIC membership. Please forward this letter of application to Ned Farley, AGLBIC President at: the following address, or by e-mail at his e-mail address.

Ned Farley, Ph.D.
 President, AGLBIC
 Chair, Mental Health Counseling Program
 Center for Programs in Psychology
 Antioch University Seattle
 2326 Sixth Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98121-1814
nfarley@antiochsea.edu

AGLBIC's Mentoring Program

Q: Who are the mentors?

A: They are professional counselors experienced in working with GLB issues and are members of AGLBIC.

Q: Who are the protégées?

A: Are verified graduate students, post-graduates or doctoral students, or novice counselors who are members of AGLBIC.

For more information please contact:

Joy S. Whitman: 219.989.2693 or
boydwhit@21stcentury.net or
 Melissa Lidderdale:
GLBTherapy@aol.com
 Web Address: <http://www.aglbic.org/>
Confidentiality Respected

Advice to Parents continued...

groups that can answer questions and provide stories by other parents about their experiences.

*Be aware that extended family members can play an integral role assisting parents to adapt to their new status. It is likely that some of these family members also have same-sex attractions and can thus offer a unique perspective about what the child needs.

*Encourage the child to share his or her history of same-sex attractions, the ways in which sexual orientation has influenced the child's life, who else knows and how they have reacted, and future expectations the youth has about his or her life as a gay person. Despite discomfort parents may feel with the subject, this conversation should be the first of many. If not initiated by the child, parents should encourage these discussions because they normalize the youth's sexuality and the parents' alliance with him or her.

Parents have been given an honor, a gift - the opportunity to know their child better, more completely than previously. Parents who adjust best give preeminence to the relationship they have with their child, preserve the child's integrity, and enhance family unity through unconditional love. In the XY Survival Guide, Benjie Nycum asks parents to "Thank your child for trusting you with such personal in-

formation." His 20 point ideal parental response list is a "cut-out" that should be given to all parents.

Savin-Williams, R.C. (2001). *Mom, Dad, I'm Gay: How families negotiate coming out*. Washington: American Psychological Association.

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Call for Papers

"Q" is the Journal of the Association of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Issues in Counseling (AGLBIC), a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). The intent of this journal is to publish articles relevant to working with sexual minorities and that will be of interest to counselors, counselor educators, and other counseling related professionals that work across a diversity of fields, including in schools, mental health settings, family agency's, and colleges and universities.

For further information please contact Ned Farley, Editor, "Q": The Journal of the Association of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Issues in Counseling at nfarley@antiochsea.edu.

Special Edition: Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development (MECD)

The Association for Assessment in Counseling (AAC) is planning to publish a special issue of its journal, Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development (MECD), in 2004 on issues related to the use of technology in the assessment process. MECD is the official journal of AAC, a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA).

The guest editors of this special issue, Drs. Janet Wall [jw4aac@earthlink.net], Harley Baker [harley.baker@csuci.edu], and James Sampson [jpsampso@garnet.acns.fsu.edu], and the MECD editor, Patricia B. Elmore [pbelmore@siu.edu], invite your ideas for manuscripts concerned with research, theoretical issues, and practical applications in assessment related to the topic of technology and assessment. All manuscripts must have clearly described implications for the counseling field and for practitioners, educators, administrators, researchers, or students. For more information please contact the editors.

AGLBIC Leadership 2002-2003

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Reflecting Back continued...

attendance to the ACA conventions. (3) Conversely, we are exploring the possibility of changing our journal "Q", to a paper publication to better reach and impact the larger counseling world. We will continue to publish this on-line as well. (4) In connection with the last two decisions, we plan on shifting funds to our website with the intent to make it even more professional. This will include the addition of a members only area, where with your password, only you can access the current editions of the newsletter, the journal, and other members only areas. You will be able to list your professional practice at no cost. Graduate student members will have free access to the graduate student forums. We will implement a fee for non-members to access certain areas of the website. We will also continue to update and post articles and other information that is current and relevant to the work we do and to our larger GLBT community. (5) We are planning on finding and appointing member liaisons to the other ACA divisions, with the sole responsibility to act as a conduit for two way communication and education. After all, we have members of AGLBIC who belong to all other divisions, and it is increasingly important that we build bridges for fostering dialogue and collaboration in current and future projects.


I know these and other ideas will take hard work and effort from our board, our committee members, and all of you who have joined with us to make AGLBIC a viable and healthy organization. I ask for your continued patience as we struggle through the steps necessary to allow us to better meet your current and future needs. I know it has not always been easy, and in fact, often frustrating. Even more, I ask for your support in any way you can. Reach out to your GLBT colleagues, peers, allies, and encourage them to join AGLBIC. Contact us and let us know how you can serve the division. We are always in need of members to take on the current and future tasks that are necessary for our healthy survival. Join a committee, become a division liaison, run for an office. You are our future leaders.

Finally, we are forging ahead with our plans for the convention in Anaheim in March. We are excited by the programs that will be offered. We look forward to our awards brunch, our reception, and the re-emergence of our AGLBIC Happy Hours. Look for these events

in our pre-conference edition. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I ask each and every one of you to please plan on attending this convention. Your attendance at our functions, our business meeting, and other AGLBIC sponsored programs truly provides us with the feedback necessary for future planning. Thank You! 

How old are you? continued...

our common cause. All of us are valuable to the direction our efforts go in making the world a safer and more accepting place for all GLBTQ peoples.

Let our community set the standard for care and respect of its elders. Let us celebrate aging as GLBT persons in a manner unique to us and show society that we value our history. Let us celebrate those who have in the past and who continue to in their daily lives make incredible contributions through their personal courage in living proudly as GLBT persons regardless of their age. 



March 2002: Sandra Paillet and Julie Thompson, President and Vice-President of New Orleans PFLAG, received the Joe Norton Award.



March 2002: Lynn Friedman received the charter for AGLBIC of Louisiana, presented by Past-President 2000-2002, Anthony Terndrup.

"Q"


A Call for Editorial Board Members

"Q", the Journal of AGLBIC (the Association of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling), is accepting applications for editorial board members. This refereed on-line journal focuses on publishing articles that address the important issues relevant to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered peoples and their significant others. Areas for submission include: (1) new research in the field of counseling, (2) a review of the literature that critically integrates previous work around a specific topic, (3) introduction of new techniques or innovation in service delivery within the counseling field, or (4) theoretical or conceptual pieces that reflect new ideas or new ways of integrating previously held ideas.

For more information please contact the editor, Ned Farley, Ph.D., Chair, Mental Health Counseling Program, Graduate Programs in Psychology, Antioch University Seattle, 2326 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-1814 nfarley@antiochsea.edu

Governing Counsel continued...

On the whole the meeting ran very smoothly. Once again Governing Council devoted much energy to the issue of declining division membership. While there is no easy solution to this dilemma, both ACA leadership and Governing Council continue to seek ways to increase the strength of the divisions. There were the usual resolutions that have to do with the business of an organization. We approved the new budget that projects a modest profit and learned that ACA did, in fact, have a small profit last year. We approved committee appointments, accepted Counselors of Social Justice as a new division, and worked on strategic planning. We also welcomed Mark Pope as president elect, the first openly gay person to head ACA.

On a personal level, I once again enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with the many ACA leaders who have become professional friends over the past several years. At each meeting I have a renewed awareness of our importance to the organization as a whole, and I also appreciate the opportunity that ACA offers us in influencing the training of all counselors around our unique issues. 

AGLBIC Membership Update:

NUMBERS ARE DOWN

Membership in AGLBIC as well as ACA is declining. While the rate of decline in membership for AGLBIC is slower than that of other associations, Board Members are concerned about how this will affect our division. As of August 31st, 2002, AGLBIC membership stands at 812 members, a 4.69% decrease from the same time last year. Continuing to represent gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals and their allies in the counseling profession is of the utmost importance to AGLBIC's board members. This can only happen with the support of a strong and active membership. AGLBIC must remain a passionate voice of representation within ACA advocating for all LGBT peoples and their allies.

Efforts to increase our membership are well underway. Increasing our members of color as well as our allies has been identified as one of the goals for our new President, Ned Farley. Our current members' assistance is needed. Encouraging those around you who are concerned about the issues facing sexual minority individuals to become members is just one way you can help. Those in the academic setting can help by making sure that graduate students are aware of AGLBIC and its mission as well as making sure they know that scholarships are available (see related article).

Membership is the key to keeping our mission alive and on the table within ACA and the counseling profession. We thank our current membership for their continued support and invite them to enlist new members for AGLBIC from among family, friends, and colleagues. Let's all work to keep AGLBIC a robust and viable association for LGBT issues in counseling. Contact your membership chair: Nicholas Di Carlo; dicarlon@aol.com

ACA Awards

Let's Recognize GLBT Folks

Each year ACA offers recognition their their annual awards. This deadline for the 2003 awards which will be given at the Anaheim conference is November 15, 2002. Complete information is available on the ACA website (www.counseling.org) under resources.



March 2002: Sari Dworkin was present the AGLBIC Service Award at the AGLBIC Brunch during the ACA Conference in New Orleans.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM AGLBIC

Because of the generous donation of the Hermes Foundation and several of AGLBIC's board members, there are over 20 scholarships available for graduate students and new professional members. Scholarships are available for a one-year period for those interested in the AGLBIC mission but unable to join due to financial constraints. AGLBIC continues to welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered individuals and our allies who are committed to the counseling profession and the issues faced by the sexual minority. The Hermes Foundation scholarships were made available by Trustees, S. Jeffrey Mostade and Eric J. Nilson.

Those interested in scholarships can contact Membership Chair, Nicholas Di Carlo at dicarlon@aol.com or at New Perspectives Counseling, 225 N. Fourth Street, Suite A, Lafayette, Indiana 47901; 765-429-5352.

The GLBT Community and Aging

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Edward A. Wierzalis, PhD

Aging is the great equalizer. We all get older and therefore we need to understand the many changes that will occur and be able to hold our place in society. GLBT peoples are no different in this matter than others in the general populace. However, getting older as a gay person can bring with it a new sense of isolation and rejection too familiar to many of us. Aging within gay culture forces us to reexamine our own processes of "coming out" and the acceptance we feel from others as well as our selves. Our age often becomes the measure of how we are perceived and accepted by a younger generation of GLBT persons. Gay persons that have been leaders within our communities are often forgotten by the next generation of GLBT individuals. Our younger GLBT members seem unaware that they can celebrate themselves as gay persons in a more open environment because of the efforts these older men and women made.

This attitude often leads to neglect of our elders and has a divisive and destructive effect on all of us in the GLBT community. The gay generation gap does exist and its impact on our continuing struggles for acceptance can prove very detrimental. The opportunity that exist today for GLBT individuals to express themselves more openly and live more freely was initiated through the sacrifices and struggles of those individuals we so frequently overlook.

We cannot perpetuate this attitude that ignores and even rejects a significant group of individuals among us. We can not take the hard won freedoms we enjoy for granted. We should acknowledge our elders for what they contributed to our culture in its rich history and for what they continue to offer through their presence among us.

We should not oppress and reject those among us based on age and demonstrate the very behaviors we protest from non-gay members of society.

We all need to see that regardless of age we are one community, ageless in our embracing

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Reflecting Back continued...

after I have completed my term I have faith in the future of this organization.

Our historical successes include the struggles of our predecessors in making AGLBIC a reality, from the early years of marginalization and the silencing of our voices and needs, to tolerance, and our slow movement towards acceptance as a viable voice at the ACA table. We must always honor and thank those whose roles in our early development took great courage and effort. We are still in this developmental process. While at the table, there are still pockets of resistance and ignorance. We must never become too complacent. We have provided many, many hours of education and training to ACA membership, to ACA leadership, and to the community at large. We have contributed to the growing body of research in the areas of counseling that affect the GLBT community. We have seen a growing trend in these areas of research being seen as acceptable in many colleges and universities where counselors are trained. We have seen a growing body of openly GLBT students, faculty, and practitioners as well as our allies. We have members of AGLBIC who belong to all other divisions, and it is increasingly important that we build bridges for fostering dialogue and collaboration in current and future projects.

While we champion the banner of cultural inclusion, we have notoriously done a weak job of providing an environment where GLBT counselors of color (and potential allies) feel comfortable and inviting. It is time to move forward in this arena, and we see it as an opportunity to diversify and grow our membership. In this light, we are putting out a call for a one year contracted position as a consultant to the board to help us strategize and implement a way to encourage more counselors of color to join us as members and leaders (please see adjoining position announcement). (2) We have made a decision to move our newsletter from paper to primarily an on-line format. This will allow us to re-distribute funds to other areas of our budget that we believe will better allow us to serve you, our members, in a timely and efficient fashion. We realize that we have not been successful in meeting your needs in ways that you deserve. We will continue to print and mail a hard copy of our pre-conference edition, as we realize that this allows folks to utilize the information as you plan your

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AGLBIC News

Web Resources

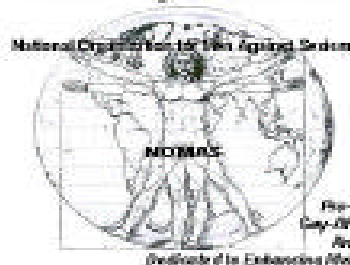
Organization to help prevent harassment and bullying in our schools. A coalition of individuals who work together to form groups and educate on behalf of GLBTQ youth.

www.safeschoolscoalition.org



Psychologists affirming their Gay, lesbian, and Bisexual Family Recognizing the very important role family plays in the lives of gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals, a number of psychologists have formed AFFIRM. <http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/CAS/affirm.nsf>

National Organization for Men Against Sexism



In support of its mission to be pro-feminist, gay-affirmative, anti-racist, and dedicated to enhancing men's lives, NOMAS provides a number of resources for members and interested friends of the pro-feminists men's movement.

www.nomas.org

Bisexual Resource Center: An organization that educates the general public about bisexuality, provides a public forum for the discussion of bisexuality, and provides a support network for individuals and interested organizations to discuss and obtain information about bisexuality.

www.biresource.org



Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons

GLARP, INC. was created to enhance the aging experience of gays and lesbians. It fills a void in the gay and lesbian community for retirement-related information and services, as well as, providing an ideal environment in which to further research, study, and provide for its memberships unique needs. www.gaylesbianretiring.org

(Editor note: This column will be a regular feature of our newsletter and we invite input and submissions of websites that you have found to be useful. If you have websites that could be useful to others, please email the editors.)

Tales of Discovery

My religious experience and coming out

by John Nance

Until recently, I would have never considered disclosing the fact that I am gay. However, at 38 years of age, my world has broadened and I am experiencing the freedom that comes along with a positive self-image. As so many GLBT people know, this personal freedom has not come without a story of struggle. Developing a sense of identity might often involve a religious struggle as well as coming out to self and others.

Religion always played an integral part in my understanding of what was right and wrong. I followed many literal biblical interpretations and accepted them as my own. Taking on these teachings ensured that I would struggle as a gay person to reconcile my personal struggle and my beliefs. Throughout my childhood, adolescence, and young adult life I struggled with being both spiritual and gay. I remained closeted, never discussing my orientation because I found it difficult to imagine how I might integrate my belief system and my sexual orientation.

This private struggle and confusion led me into destructive patterns of behavior while I remained anonymous in the gay community yet functioned within the structure of the church. Following a call to ministry, I tried to put my religion and beliefs in front of the nagging desires I experienced. I became a minister because of an inner desire to help others in times

Final Excerpt from Dr. Savin

Advice to Parents: How to Move Toward Acceptance

If parents desire to show their acceptance of their children, they should first listen, ask questions, and then

*Give unconditional love and reassure their child that they love and support her or him regardless of the child's sexuality.

*Continue to meet their child's basic needs, such as safety, structure, and affection.

of need.

I first disclosed my sexual orientation at the age of 23 to a ministerial counselor. He encouraged me to distance myself from the orientation which he explained conflicted with the moral belief system of the church. Torn between church teachings and a continuous pull toward my natural orientation, the wrestling left me frustrated, confused and defeated. After several years of counseling and wrangling with the opinions of my mentor, he revealed his sexual orientation to me. He was also gay. Shocked and confused, I found myself wondering how to reconcile his opinions, my struggle, my faith, and this information. The trust I placed in the therapeutic relationship seemed to crumble as this new understanding complicated my fight against my instinctual drives that I perceived as temptations. Over time I came to believe that our journey would last a lifetime. I accepted his role in my struggle as a mentor and believed he alone would be there to know my struggle and help me through it. Suddenly, however, I was faced with the disturbing news of the untimely death of my counselor, the only person who knew of my dilemma. This left me on my own even more confused.

This experience forced me to evaluate my belief system even more deeply. Determined to understand how to live as a "gay" Christian man, I sought out another counselor who could empathize with my struggle. Again, I had to make known my sexual orientation. This time, however, as I disclosed my sexuality it seemed to be easier. I had a person sitting across from me who did not judge me or place personal values into the relationship. She was accepting of my questions. I found myself utilizing the logic I was taught while in the

*Help their child enjoy childhood and adolescence. Let their child be a kid and provide her or him space to be herself or himself. Give the child tools to take back power the child might have lost because of her or his sexual orientation (e.g., connect physical and emotional intimacy).

*Realize that integrating a new identity as a parent of a sexual-minority child requires time and stamina. The child has had years to reflect on his or her sexual feelings before self-identifying; parents should give themselves some slack and time to adjust to this new status: the parent of a sexual-minority child.

*Seek educational information for parents

seminary to wrestle with the concept of a god who created me to be a loving creature yet who seemingly would not allow me to love as I so desired. The healthier therapeutic relationship enabled me to finally begin integrating my sexuality and spiritual self.

In 1998, I was removed from ministry because of my sexual orientation. The question finally came; "Are you homosexual and/or have you been involved in a homosexual relationship?" By now my positive self identity allowed me to stand for what I believed. This freedom to control the situation was incredible. I did not have to allow this question to shame me or intimidate me. I just had to be true to myself and be confident that my struggles were beneficial. Of course I lost my job but I found new light as a man living out of the closet.

I am now studying to become a licensed professional counselor. Already, I have come in contact with GLBT clients and have had to decide whether disclosing my sexual orientation would be of benefit to them. Each occasion has been unique leaving me to question the necessity of disclosure. My past negative experiences and recent professional interactions place focus on client welfare. Therefore, I am cautious with my personal information while hoping to be a catalyst for personal development and in no way hinder my clients as they explore their sexual orientation.

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(e.g., literature from P-FLAG, or Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) that will help in coping with the sexual status of their child. Without such resources, acceptance or even tolerance is an arduous task. In coming to terms with their son's or daughter's same-sex attractions, it is critical that parents modify previous beliefs regarding the consequences of a nonheterosexual identity.

*Talk with others parents in similar situations to gain information and support. Groups such as P-FLAG and We Are Family provide opportunities to openly discuss fears and concerns about having a gay, bisexual, or lesbian child. Also available are therapy and support

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