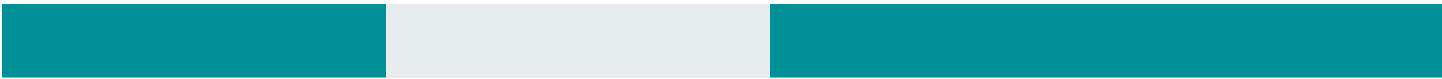




CENTER of EXCELLENCE

Language Guidance When Serving LGBTQ+ Populations

The Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity (CoE LGBTQ+ BHE) has created this language guidance related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (SOGIE) as a resource for behavioral health practitioners to better understand the most recent language used in LGBTQ+ communities. This list is not exhaustive, and we encourage professionals to gain a broader foundation on this knowledge by watching our foundational webinars Sexual Orientation & Behavioral Health 101 and Gender Identity, Expression & Behavioral Health 101, available at: <https://lgbtqequity.org/learn/>. It should be noted that people use language in different ways, and the best practice is always to honor language an individual uses to identify themselves.



Updated Language	Outdated Language	Why It Matters
Rejecting or affirming behaviors	Rejecting or affirming families	<p>The outdated language stigmatizes families by characterizing them as wholly accepting or wholly rejecting, when in fact, many families move across a spectrum of showing accepting and rejecting behaviors. Additionally, families may be struggling to learn what is supportive to their LGBTQ+ child. Family support is incredibly beneficial to LGBTQ+ young people, so language should focus on changing the behaviors, not the family.</p> <p>Also note that speaking about family in the LGBTQ+ community might also include “chosen family,” which is a term used to</p>