

# Beyond Matthew Shepard: Addressing and Meeting the Needs of our Rural LGBTQ Youth



The lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth go largely unnoticed by many professionals across the nation. Research consistently finds LGBTQ youth to be at high risk of harassment, school failure, suicide, homelessness, and substance abuse. Several school districts around the country have been dealt significant defeats in the courts for failing to provide services and a safe environment for this population. This workshop is designed to help educators understand, assess, and improve school climate and safety for all youth, especially those who identify as LGBTQ.

## Objectives

At the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Gain a working knowledge of the major health and educational risks faced by LGBTQ youth and how school climate can impact those risks;
- Identify and discuss current terminology related to sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Assess current school/agency safety and climate for LGBTQ youth;
- Practice skills for responding to and intervening with students, staff, and the broader school community to create a safer school environment for LGBTQ youth;
- Receive training in suicide prevention for at-risk youth, including (but not limited to); warning signs, facts about youth suicide, helpful resources for educators and allies when dealing with a suicide-risk situation;
- Formulate an action plan to address safety and climate issues for LGBTQ youth at the individual, collegial and the school/community levels.

## Who Should Attend?

This is a **community forum**. All community members can benefit from this discussion.

School Administrators; Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologists; Teachers; School Nurses; Youth-Serving Agencies & Community-Based Organizations; Interested individuals who want to make their community a safer and more welcoming place for all - are all welcome to attend the workshop.

## Please join us for this informative workshop

**Thursday, February 10** – Hilton Garden Inn, Casper – 9 am – 4 pm

Lunch and materials provided. PTSB credits and Mental Health CEUs will be available.

For more information, please contact Meaghan McClellan 307.777.3339 or

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**Register at:** [www.wyhc.org](http://www.wyhc.org)