

Administration on

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Fostering Equality: Justice for All Youth and Families

September 1, 2016

Rafael López

Commissioner, Administration on Children,
Youth and Families



ACYF Priority: Shape policy/practice to support LGBTQ youth & families

Jenny Wood

Chief Deputy, Administration on Children, Youth
and Families

Supporting LGBTQ Youth & Families



Policy & Practice

Policy Announcement Preview

Required Non-Discrimination & Supports for all

- Youth in foster care
- Prospective foster & adoptive parents & guardians
- Birth parents

Basis for Enforcement

- Existing statute
- Recent federal court decisions
- U.S. Constitution



Sixto Cancel

Founder, Think of Us
Alumni of Foster Care

Emily Hecht-McGowan

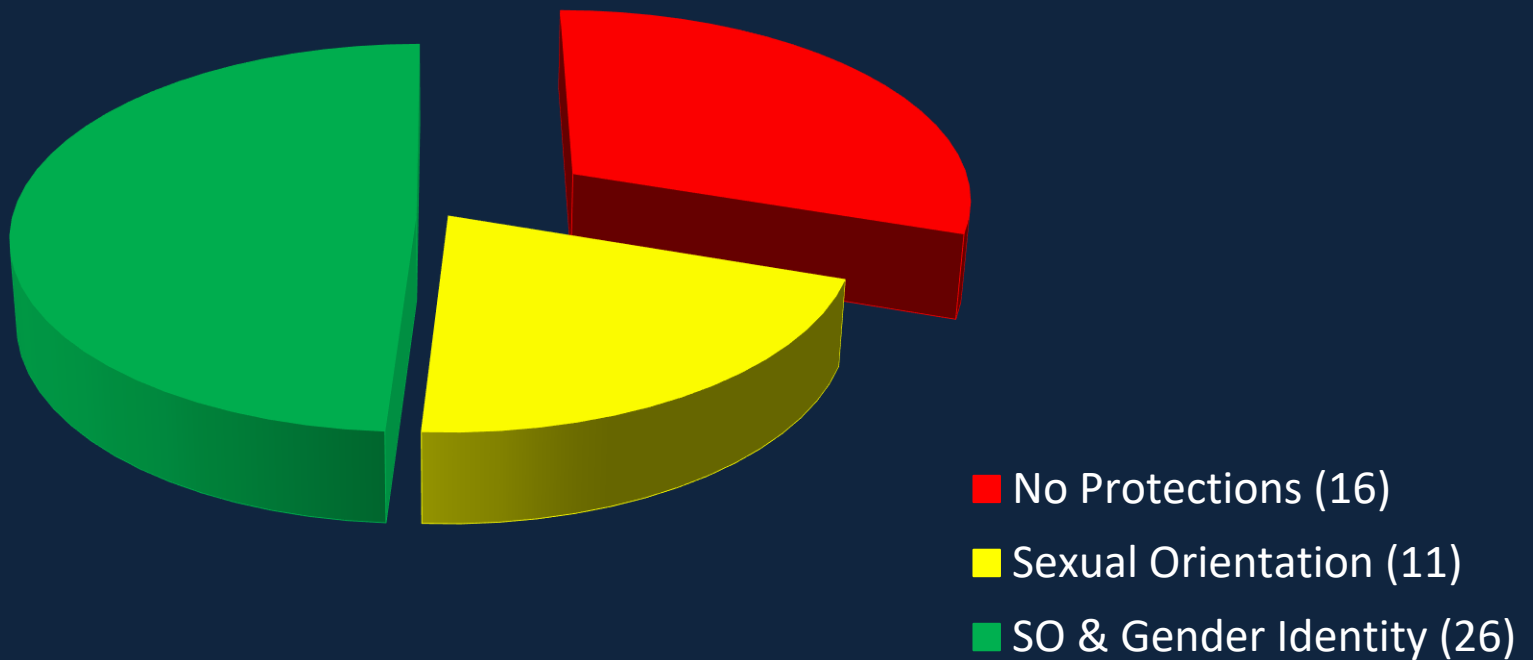
Director of Public Policy, Family Equality Council

Currey Cook

National Director, Youth in Out-of-Home Care
Project, Lambda Legal

SOGIE Nondiscrimination Protection for Youth by State & Territory

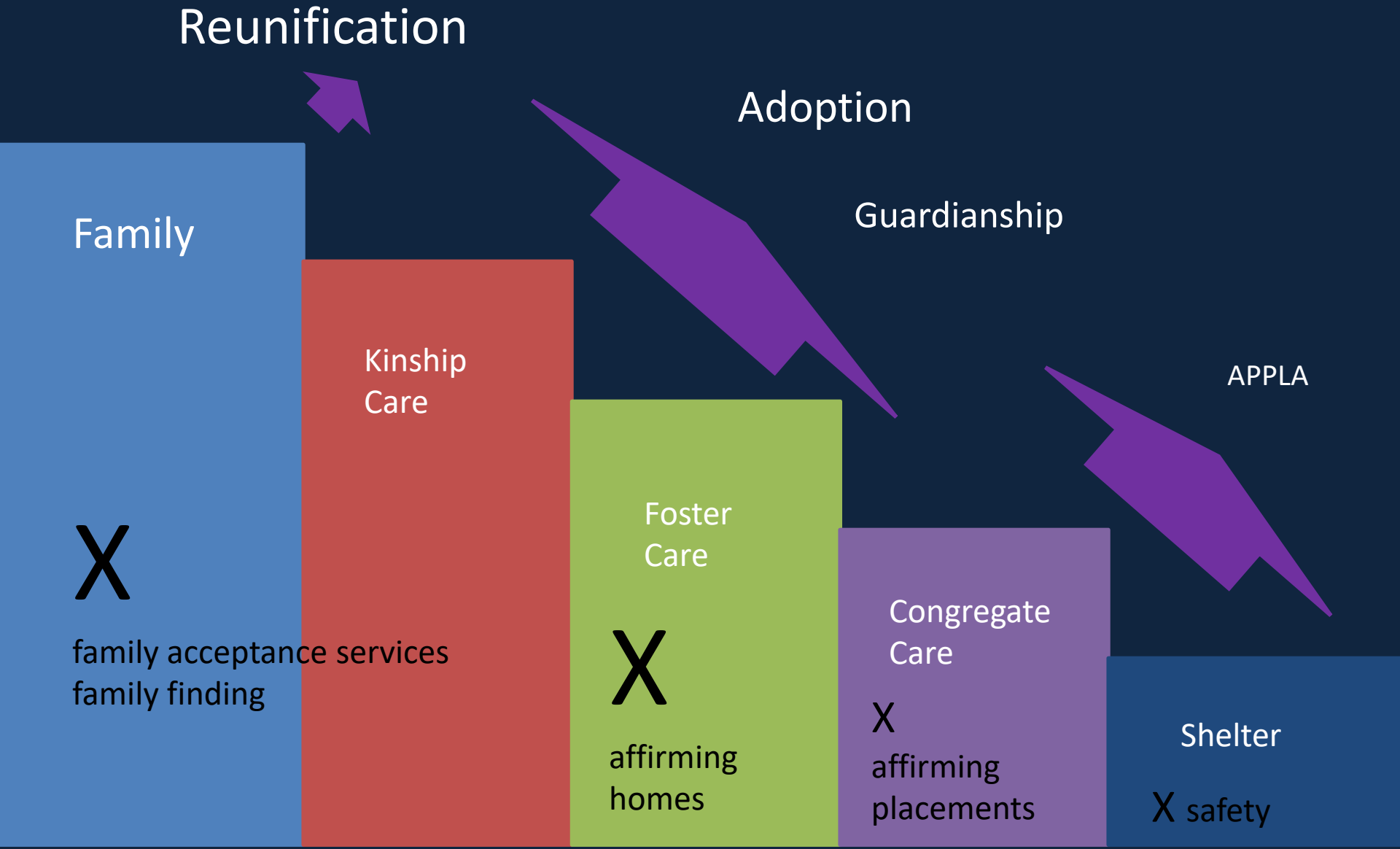
In Statute, Regulation or Agency Policy



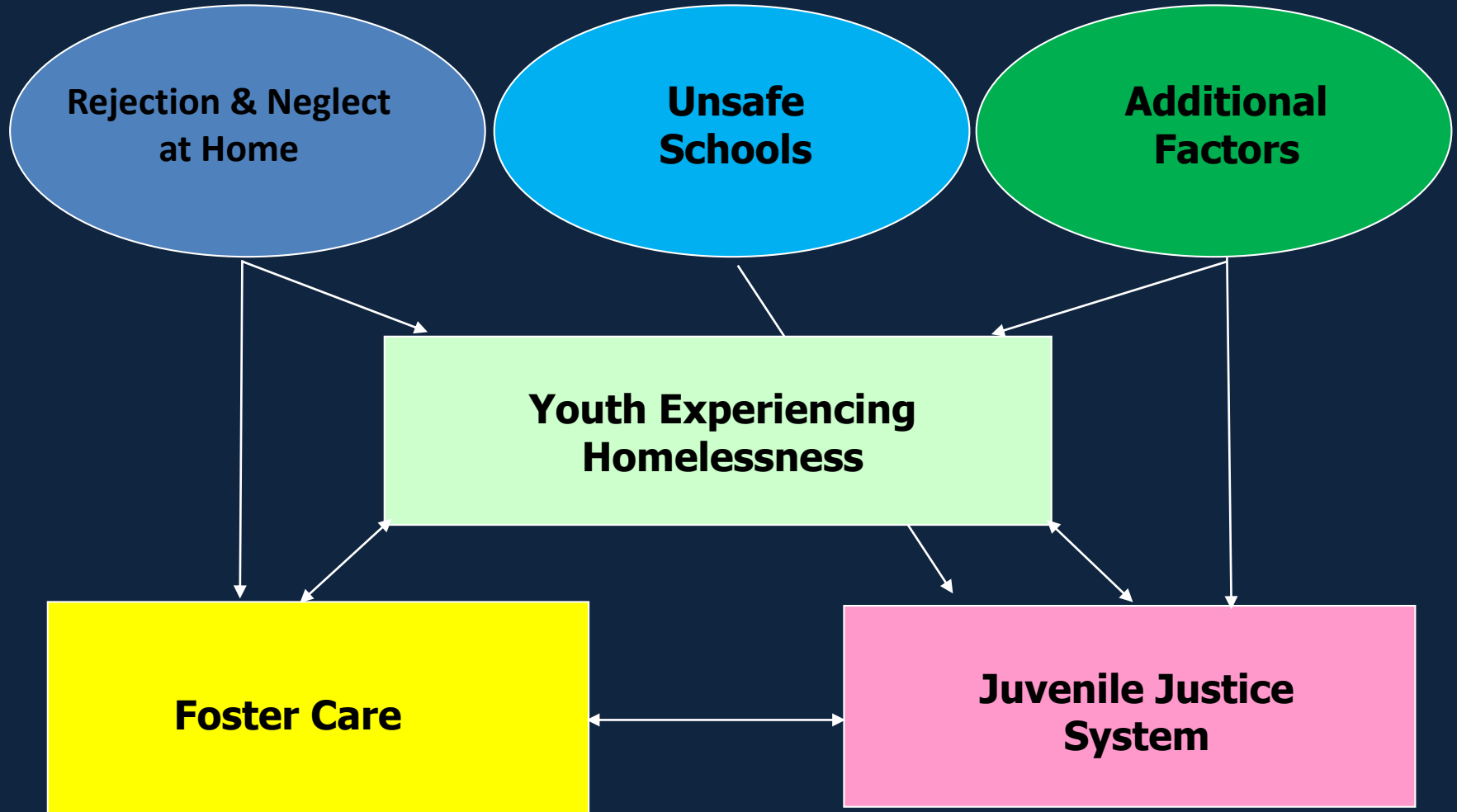
Issues for LGBTQ Youth in Care

- ❖ Isolation
- ❖ Victimization
- ❖ Differential Treatment
- ❖ Disclosure Dilemmas
- ❖ Confidentiality Violations
- ❖ Lack of Family-Centered Services
- ❖ Lack of Cultural Competence Among Providers

Child Welfare to Homelessness Pipeline – V. LGBTQ



LGBTQ Youth – Vicious Cycle





WAY too many PIPELINES

child placement court case worker plan
family happiness
heart
Foster care
support healing trauma
home hope
loved
safe



while . . .

Ellen Kahn

Director, Children, Youth, and Families Program,
Human Rights Campaign

Human Rights Campaign Foundation



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION

**all children
all families**

Achieving Safety, Permanency and Well-being by
Improving Practice with LGBTQ Youth and Families

Keys to Success

- Leadership buy-in and engagement
- Shared understanding of mission
- Team-based approach
- Agency-wide commitment

Building Internal Capacity

- Non-Discrimination Policies
- Staff Training
- “Rolling Out The Welcome Mat”
- Inclusive Practices
 - Recruitment
 - Home Studies
 - Family Training
 - Matching & Placement
 - Ongoing support

Diego Sanchez

Policy Director, PFLAG

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