

# Children's Home staff, Lighthouse Youth Services conduct LGBTQ+ Competency Training

by Caroline Lembright, Advancement Intern

Staff at The Children's Home met for a voluntary LGBTQ+ competency training with Lighthouse Youth Services at the main campus on March 25.

When the initial email went out the spots went quickly; so quickly that a waiting list was created.

Kalyn Klontz is the manager of care coordinators and former volunteer with Lighthouse Youth Service's Safe and Supported program. Klontz was familiar with the competency training through her volunteer work and knew where to look when care coordinators were looking for resources to support their LGBTQ+ clients.

The training covered a lot of ground, but was focused on building empathy for the LGBTQ+ community. Klontz said, "They did an activity where they asked you to write down the top five things in your life, then partner with a person and have a five minute conversation without mentioning anything on the paper. It was to signify how hard it is for people who aren't 'out' to build meaningful relationships because you can't talk about the most important parts of your life." The training was met with positive feedback from attendees and was presented as a combined learning method from experienced professionals and coupled with engaging activities.



The training took specific focus on how to support transgender youth. While some care coordinators have had experience working with clients' needs based on their sexual orientation, care coordinators were asking for support on how to support their clients' gender identities. Klontz said, "If you're a[n LGBTQ] youth and if your family is not supportive, knowing that you have a competent mental health provider that you can trust to talk to about your sexual orientation, or gender identity, or gender expression can make a huge difference in your life."

For Klontz, this training was not only an opportunity to connect staff to the resources they need, but also served as a reminder of the quality of care at The Children's Home. "It was helpful for me to see that our staff wants to do the right thing," she said. "Our staff is really here for the right reasons, and that made me feel good about working here. "They want to know more; they want to make sure they are doing what's most effective," Klontz said.

Attending the training inspired Beth Beischel, a BHC therapist, to push for staff at The Children's Home to make a public show of support for LGBTQ+ clients by walking in the Cincinnati Pride Parade Saturday, June 22. If you are interested in walking in the parade with your friends and family, please fill out [\*\*this form.\*\*](#)