



Teens Like Us Program

Briarpatch Youth Services

2720 Rimrock Road Madison, WI 53713-3337

24/7 Helpline: 608.251.1126 | Business Line: 608.245.2550 | tlu@briarpatch.org

Queer 101: Inclusive and Informed Professional Development

The Teens Like Us Program (TLU) provides support and education for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth ages 13-18. Founded over 20 years ago, TLU provides a safe place for youth to meet with their peers. The group also serves youth questioning their sexuality as well as youth from LGBT - headed families.

About the Training: The goal of this training is to equip those working in youth services with the vocabulary, etiquette, and understanding necessary to working with queer identifying individuals. This training is on a Google Slideshow, packed with information. Presenters give an overview of the differences between sex, gender, and sexuality, along with tips and tricks to be more queer inclusive. The Slideshow has more information than can be covered, so at the end of the training, participants are given access to view the Slideshow any time at their leisure, and treat it as an ongoing reference. There is also a page with external links to helpful resources for professionals working with youth.

Presentation Length: The presentation is best fit into a 2-hour time slot, but presenters can accommodate for individual agency needs.

Location: Presenters can provide training via Zoom or in-person. * (In-person trainings outside of Dane county might be subject to travel compensation.)

Compensation: Compensation for our services is on a sliding-scale. Please have your financial supervisor communicate with the Teens Like Us program for more information.

Learning Objectives:

1. Learn why **being queer-inclusive is critical** when working with youth.
 - a. (Will be provided an intersectional understanding on queer oppression, a brief history of queerness, and a national resource on Queer Youth Wellness Statistics.)
2. Understand the basic **differences between sex, gender, sexuality.**
3. Learn basic **queer vocabulary**, including how and when to utilize **gender-neutral language.**
4. Learn how to be a **queer youth friendly person**, and how to make spaces safe for queer youth.
5. Teens Like Us members are regularly asked the question, "What is one thing you wish adults working with queer kids knew?" We work their wishes into the curriculum.



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Activities (Optional):

1. **Round-Table Discussion:** While there will be room for questions throughout the presentation, we can provide a Socratic Seminar style discussion on what was learned and any questions or concerns that arose.
2. **Gender-Boxes Activity:** On the slideshow, a slide is divided into two sections, labeled “Male Box” and “Female Box” respectively. At the bottom of the slide are miscellaneous clipart things. As a group, you are to decide which box each object fits into. The goal of the activity is to demonstrate how limiting the “male” and “female” binary is.
3. **Practice Introductions:** At the beginning or end of the slideshow, participants are encouraged to practice introducing themselves in a manner that marks them as a “queer-friendly” individual.

Other Services offered by Teens Like Us:

- TLU Youth Support Group (Ages 13-18)
 - Meets Every Wednesday 5:30-7:30pm
- Parents of Queer and Questioning Support Group
 - Meets the Second Tuesday of Each Month 6pm-8pm
- Individual Counseling Services (Ages 12-17)
 - Counselor can work with children on exploring identity, resiliency, and creating a Gender Support Plan for school support and advocacy.

About Briarpatch Youth Services:

Strengthening the Lives of Youth and Families

The organization was formed in 2003 by the merger of Briarpatch, Inc. (established 1971) and Community Adolescent Programs, Inc. (established 1978). Project HUGS (established 1995) joined the agency in 2009. The agency offers a broad array of services to runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth. Briarpatch works closely with local governments and other non-profit organizations to provide unique programs that fill service gaps. Each year, Briarpatch serves approximately 3,000 unduplicated youth.