



## Call for Workshop Presenters

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Family Equality Conference, Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**Burroughs Community School, 1601 W. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Minneapolis, MN 55419**

***Proposals must be received by March 16, 2012***

*The Midwest Family Equality Conference*, now in its 17th year, is the longest running gathering of the LGBT family community in the region. Our *Conference* is a weekend full of both educational and social events, featuring activities and sessions that allow LGBT families to learn more about the topics that matter to them, to build on their own community of support, to share their stories to open hearts and minds, and to raise their voices to create social justice.

Presenters are encouraged to focus on issues related to LGBT parents and their children. The conference includes workshops about family building options, parenting tips and best practices, financial planning, social justice and advocacy in today's community and promoting safe and inclusive schools. This year, our conference will focus on our families: LGBT families who come together in a strong community to provide friendship, good advice, and support—just like any other community of parents. This year we are asking our presenters to present workshops in an interactive format to allow for participant involvement and engagement. This can include a round table discussion on the topic, a facilitated panel or question and answer sessions. Workshops should be reflective and inclusive of the diverse LGBT parenting community, including bisexual people, transgender people and people of color. Some topics requested include foster parenting, parenting and support for families of children with disabilities, Trans-parenting, co-parenting after a divorce / separation and relationship building.

### **Workshop Track Information**

The conference is organized into four different tracks. Some topics may lend themselves to more than one track; however, we ask presenters to gear their presentation toward one track. Each session will be 75 minutes in length. It is highly recommended that some time be incorporated for discussion or Q & A. If you plan to include media presentations in your workshop, please read the Presenters' Guidelines to see what services are available.



## **Creating Families Track**

Workshops include a wide range of topics about creating families—adoption, foster care, donor insemination, surrogacy, infertility issues—and the decision-making process around starting a family.

## **Parenting and Healthy Families Track**

Workshop topics include developmental stages and challenges of children/youth with LGBT parents, as well as the many complex legal and financial challenges surrounding the creation, security, and safety of LGBT families. Potential areas include step- and blended-families, co-parenting, transracial family issues, parenting while uncoupling, coming out to your children, school issues, supporting your children in a heated political climate, co-parent adoption, creating legal documents to support your family through all stages, and child custody realities and strategies. All workshops need to be specifically geared towards LGBT families rather than general parenting.

## **Social Justice and Advocacy Track**

Topics focus on social justice issues facing LGBT families and their community. Topics include examining bullying, sexism, and classism in the LGBT community; transgender issues; responses and strategies for dealing with the current political climate; and understanding how these issues intersect with LGBT families.

## **Educators and Schools in Action Track**

Workshops in this track are for E-12 educators and focus on strengthening the understanding of teachers, staff, and administrators to create safe, welcoming, and equitable environments for students and their LGBT parents as well as LGBT youth. Potential topics include creating and maintaining safe schools, talking to your school board about policies, the Safe Schools for All Coalition and starting a successful GSA in your school.



## Presenters' Guidelines & Deadlines

- All proposals for workshop presentations need to be submitted using the form and instructions attached.
- Proposals should demonstrate a focus on issues related to LGBT families.
- Workshops should be inclusive of bisexual and transgender parents and parents of color.
- Proposals should attempt to incorporate a social justice lens.
- Each session will be 75 minutes in length. It is highly recommended that discussion time be incorporated.
- While topics may overlap tracks, please keep your proposal focused on one primary track.
- The conference is housed in Burroughs Community School in Minneapolis and all sessions are held in classrooms. Please be understanding and flexible with room configurations.
- Most classroom facilities are equipped with chalkboards or white boards, a limited number of classrooms include overhead projectors, VCR, or DVD capability, please specify if needed. *There is no available equipment for PowerPoint presentations, if you would like to incorporate a PowerPoint presentation in your workshop you will need to bring your own computer and projector.*
- All workshop proposals are reviewed and selected by the conference workshop committee.
- Registration fees for presenters are waived. Families of presenters will only be waived in case of financial need and special circumstances.

<b>Deadline for proposals:</b>	<b>Received by March 16, 2012</b>
<b>Presenters will be notified</b>	
<b>of acceptance:</b>	<b>March 23, 2012</b>
<b>Deadline for presenter confirmation:</b>	<b>March 30, 2012</b>

**Questions?** If you have any questions about Conference or workshops, please contact Mel Rexroad [mel.rexroad@familyequality.org](mailto:mel.rexroad@familyequality.org) or 612.823.2000



## 2012 Conference Workshop Proposal – Due March 16, 2012

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**Presenter Information** *(Please include a biography for each presenter and attach an additional sheet if there are more than 3 presenters.)*

### Presenter #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Presenter #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Presenter #3**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Description**

**Workshop Title (as it will appear in the program):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Description (as it will appear in the program):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Please select the track which best fits your proposed workshop:**

- Creating Families Track
- Parenting and Healthy Families Track
- Social Justice and Advocacy Track
- Educators and Schools in Action Track (for E-12 educators)

**Format:**

- Presentation       Facilitated Panel       Roundtable Discussion      Other:

**Equipment needs:**

- TV/VCR/DVD       Overhead Projector       Screen for PowerPoint

*(Presenters must supply computer and projector)*

**About Your Proposal**

To better inform proposal decisions; please provide additional information about your proposed workshop beyond what you included in the workshop description above.

**What do you hope participants will take away from this workshop?**



**How does this workshop specifically address issues related to LGBT families?**

**How does this workshop incorporate The Midwest Family Equality Conference's commitment to social justice and inclusion of marginalized groups within the LGBT community?**

**Please submit proposal by March 16, 2012 to:**

**Family Equality Council / PO Box 3898 / Minneapolis, MN, 55403**

email [mel.rexroad@familyequality.org](mailto:mel.rexroad@familyequality.org) or fax 617.502.8701

We recommend that you retain a copy of this form for your records. All workshop proposals are reviewed by the conference workshop committee, and notification will follow. Thank you for your interest and willingness to participate in this year's conference.