

RISE PROGRAM

RECOGNIZE INTERVENE SUPPORT EMPOWER

Pathways to Permanency: Dismantling Systems of Care Pipelines

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LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER®
RISE

FORWARD
FOR
50

Intros

Name

Pronouns

Role (i.e. Outreach Worker, Advocate, Social Worker, etc.)



Recognize, Intervene, Support, & Empower



- Reduce LGBTQ+ youth in systems of care.
- Increase permanency options.
- Decrease bias and discrimination in care through education and coaching.

What is permanency?



Take note!



Permanency



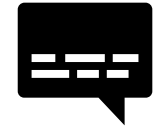
A holistic state including but not limited to **physical, legal, social, mental, and emotional** safety, stability and well-being for youth.

This includes lifelong connections with supportive adults, a sense of community, connections with peers, and

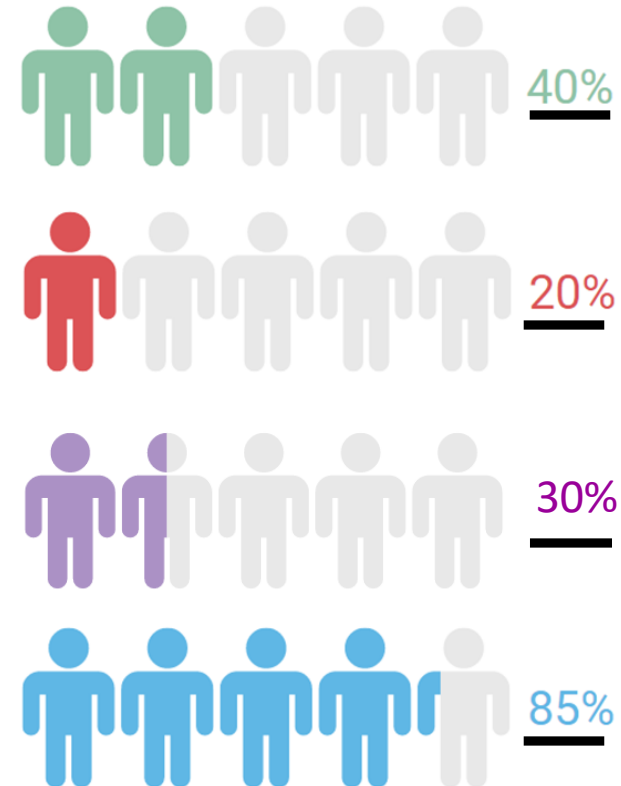
access to resources one needs
not only to survive but to thrive 



Permanency Disruptions



Type in chat



Williams Institute, NCLR, Irvine et al, GLSEN

● Experiencing Homelessness ● Juvenile Justice ● Child Welfare ● SOGIE-Based Bullying or Harassment



In the Life Media: Our Bodies, Our Rights

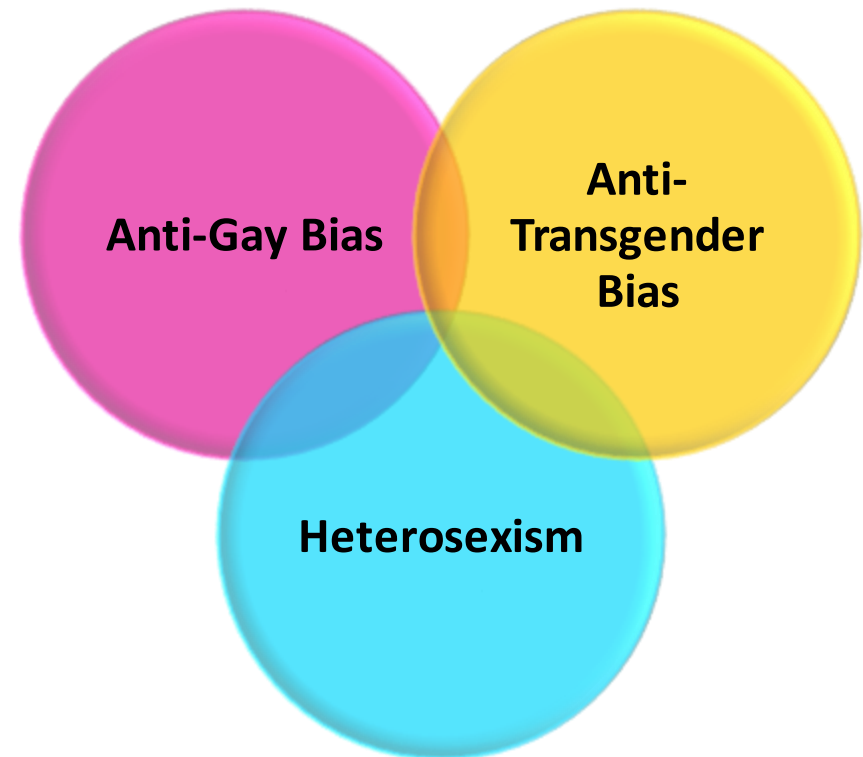
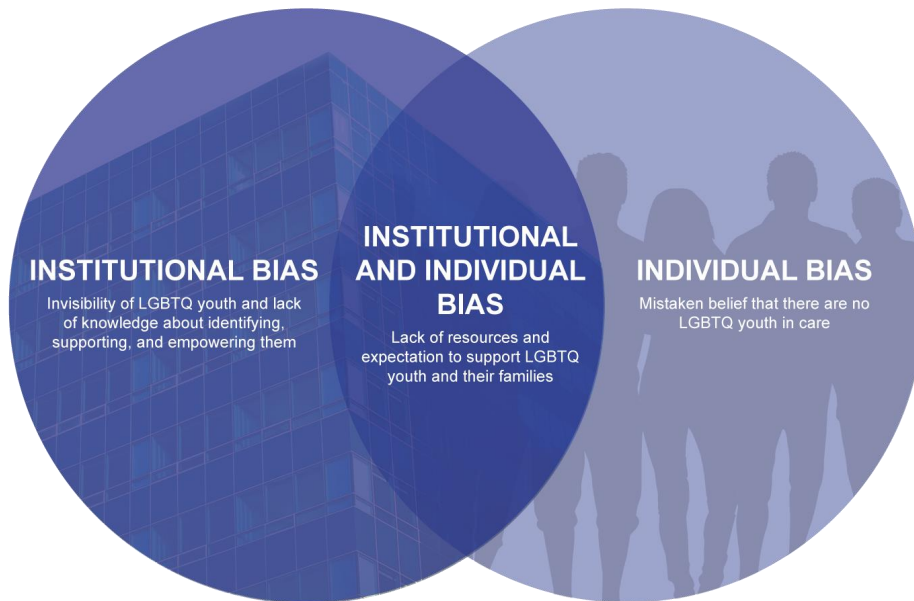
George's Story



Understanding the Cycle + Context



Recognizing the Barriers to Permanency



Education

Analysis of State Laws that Address the Consequences of Bullying (as of 4/30/11)



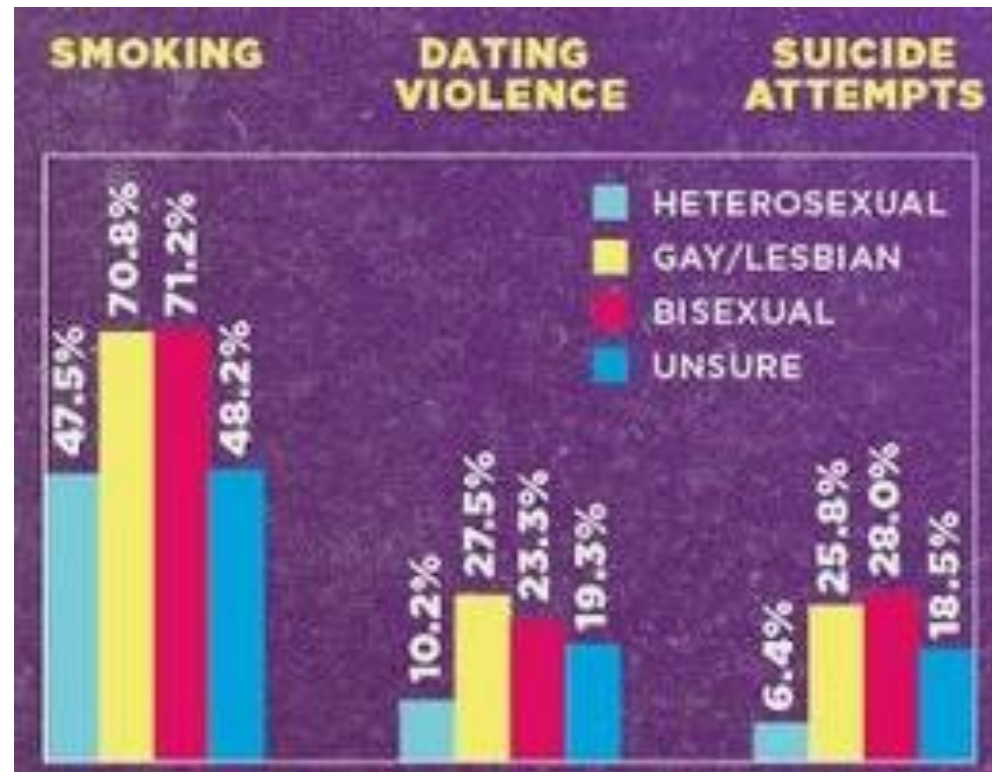
Source: U.S. Department of Education

- Non-affirming school climate
- Punitive Discipline
- Truancy

GSA Network

Access to Healthcare

- Access to knowledgeable providers
- Access to gender-affirming care
- HIV/AIDS & STI Status Stigma



Caregivers



8x

More likely to attempt suicide



6x

More likely to report high levels of depression



3x

More likely to be at high risk for contracting HIV & STIs



3x

More likely to use illegal drugs

- Misinformation
- Lack of resources
- Unique developmental needs & milestones

Child Welfare System

- Bias from: social workers, court, attorneys, caregivers, etc.
- Confidentiality and Outing
- Lack of legal framework and/or implementation
- Disaffirming and unsafe placements

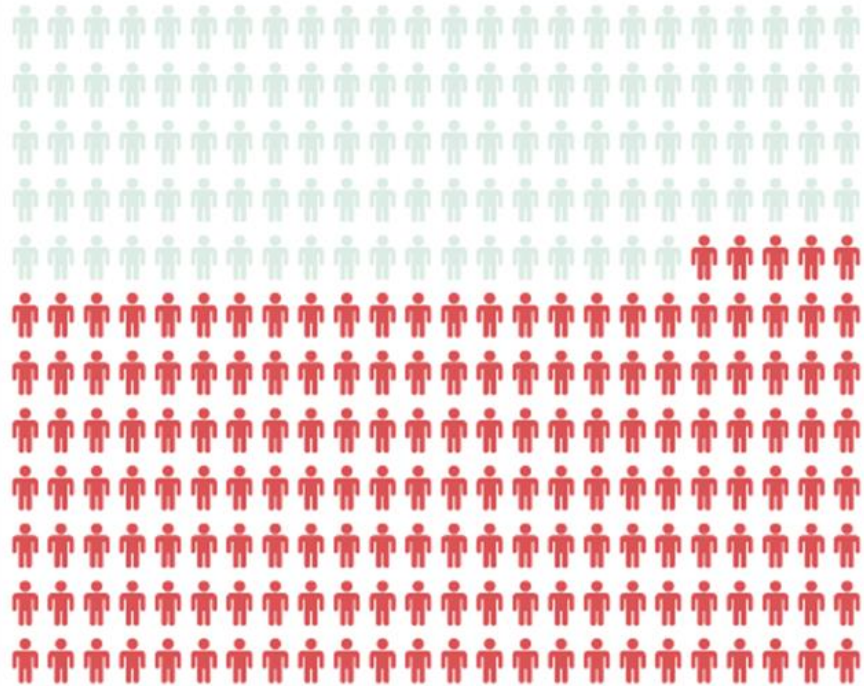
2x { 

as likely to report **poor treatment** by the foster system.

2x { 

as likely to **live in a group facility**, rather than with a loving family.

Juvenile Justice System



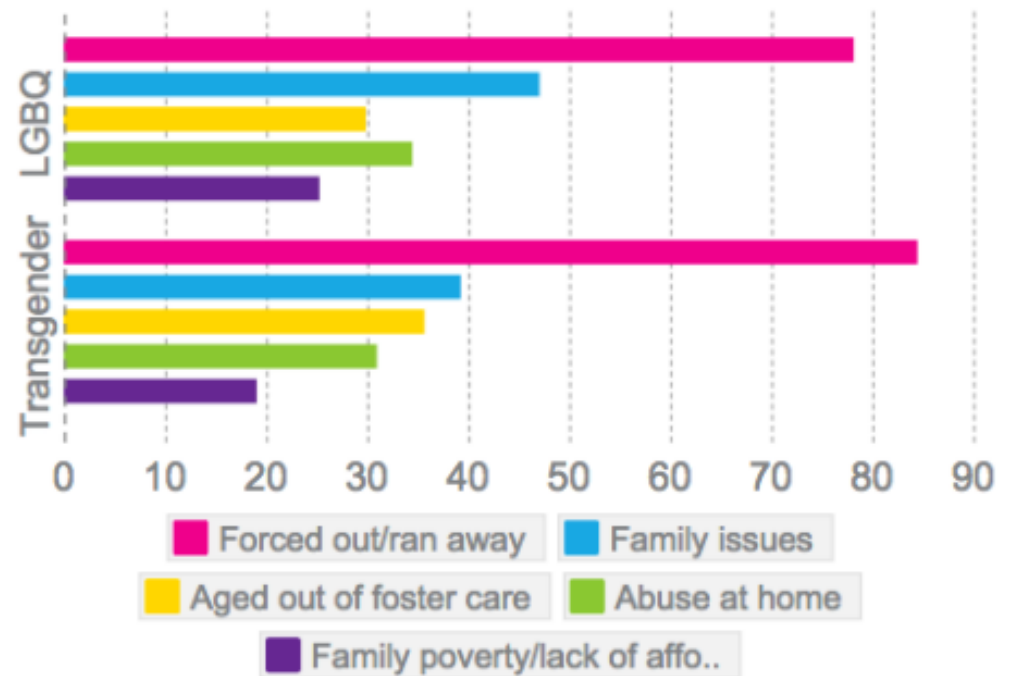
● Non-Black or Latino Youth ● Black or Latino Youth

- Overcriminalization
- Incorrect placement and/or solitary
- Abuse

Irvine

Experiencing Homelessness

- Survival Crimes & “Quality of Life” Offenses
- Lack of identification (i.e. couch surfing youth)



SOGIE Principles

- A. Distinct and Separate:** Sex assigned at birth, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and sexual behavior are each distinct from one another.
- B. Exists on Spectrums:** SOGIEs exist on spectrums, language to describe identities on these spectrums varies by the individuals that use that language.
- C. Intersectional:** SOGIE identities intersect with other identities like race, class, and ability to create life experiences.
- D. Universal:** Everyone has a SOGIE, and identity development is a natural, ongoing part of the human experience.
- E. Self-Defined:** How one understands, articulates, and

Best Practices from SOGIE Principles

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- We can't assume a youth's sex assigned at birth, gender identity, sexual orientation or sexual behavior based on their gender expression.
 - Work to understand the variety of terms that may be used within communities to describe identities along SOGIE spectrums.
 - We serve youth best when our services take into account how identities such as race, class, ability status and legal status intersect with a youth's SOGIE.
 - All youth have a SOGIE and centering the needs of youth who experience anti-gay bias, anti-transgender bias, and heterosexism moves us closer to equity
 - In order to understand the language youth use to describe their SOGIE, we can build rapport with them and learn more.

Brainstorm

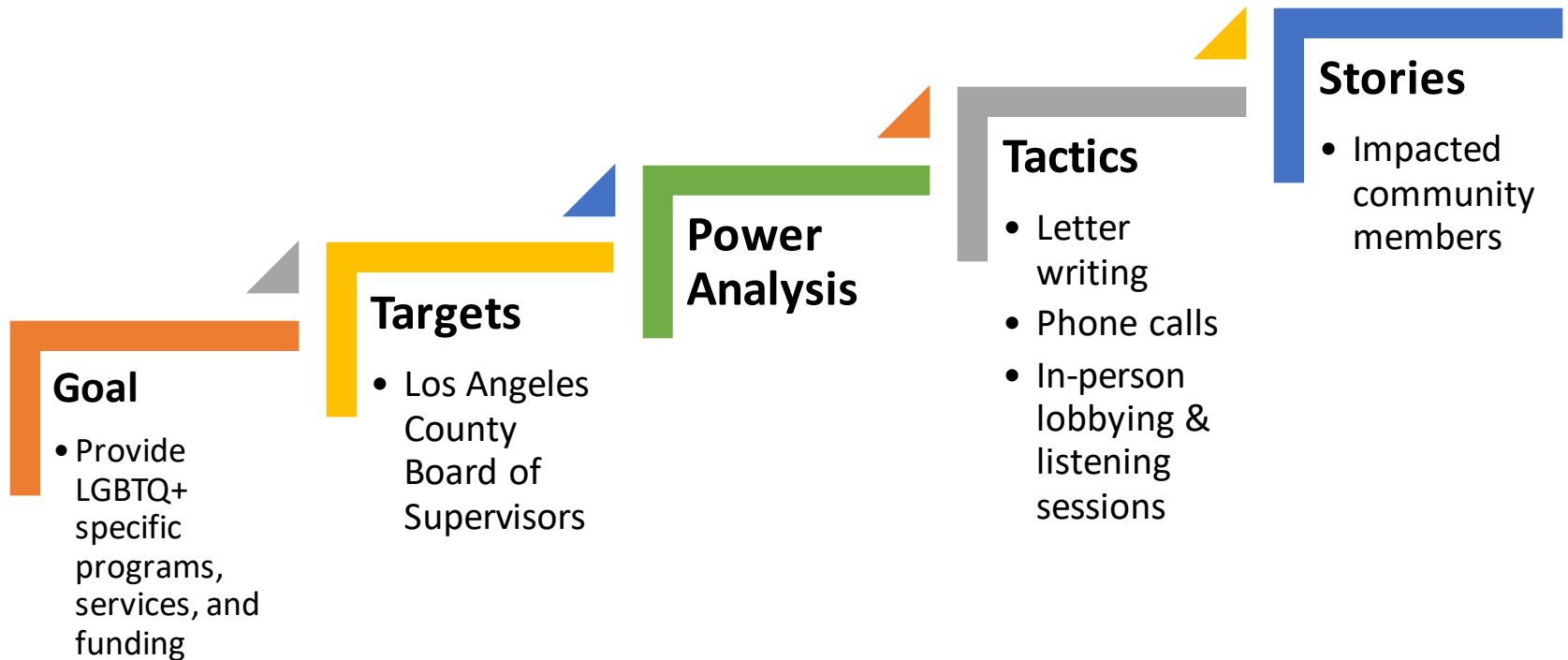
What elements would you want to see to know that a COC was safe and affirming of LGBTQ+ youth, especially TGNC youth?

(i.e. Training for staff, specific policies, visibility, data collection, etc.)

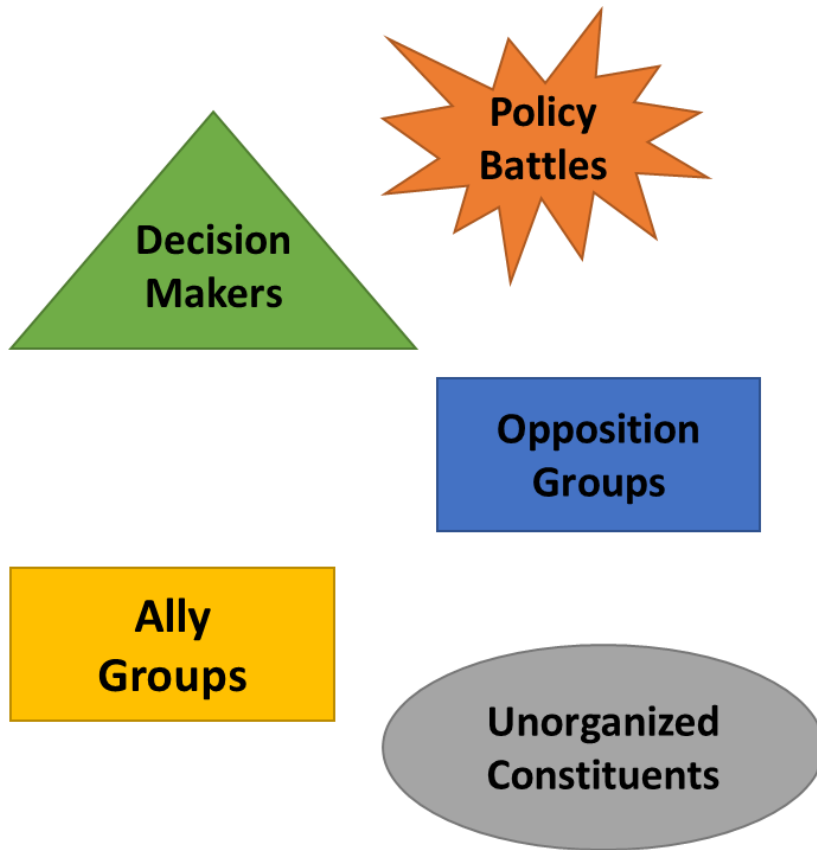
Creating a Standard



Advocacy Campaign: LGBTQ+ Foster Youth

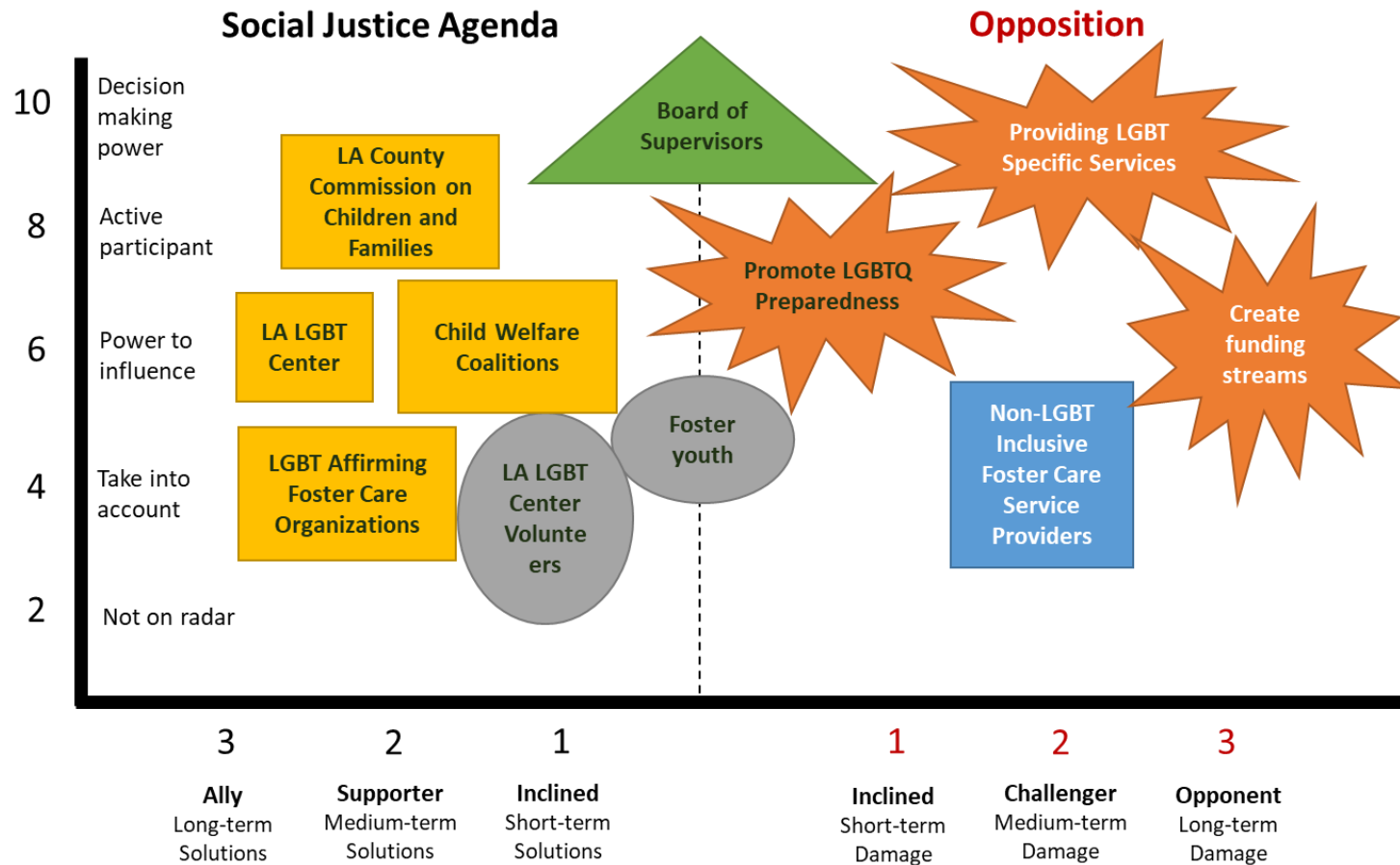


Power Analysis

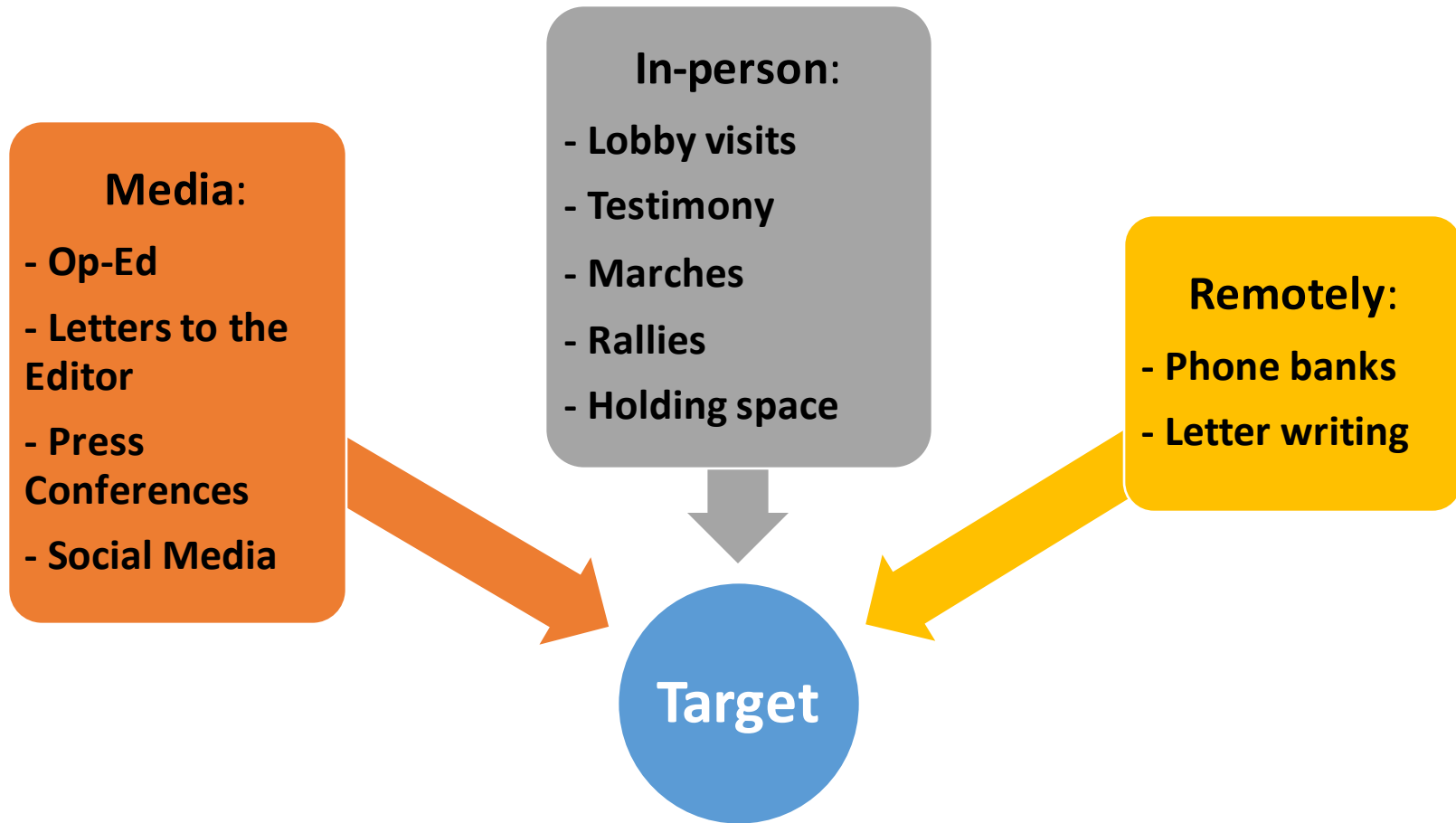


1. Define the problem
2. Name the competing agendas
3. Sketch major issue/policy battles
4. Sketch Decision-makers
5. Sketch organized Opposition Groups
6. Sketch organized Ally Groups
7. Sketch unorganized constituents

Power Analysis



Tactics



Sharing your story...



Dayvon Williams, Youth Justice Coalition & Joshua Arguelle, NFYI

Start Small, Think BIG

What is one area relating to LGBTQ+ youth that you would like to focus your local and/or state advocacy on?



How Will You RISE Up For LGBTQ+ Youth?

Recognize that LGBTQ+ youth are in your care

Intervene to reduce barriers to permanency

Support the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth

Empower yourself and your co-workers to utilize best practices



Wilber, S., Ryan, C., & Marksamer, J. (2006). CWLA Best practice guidelines: Serving LGBT youth in out-of-home care. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.



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