

Helping to Prevent Homelessness & Suicide: *Strengthening Families to Reduce Risk & Increase Support for LGBT Youth*

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL FREE
EDUCATIONAL SESSION FOR
CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS
LEADERS

Wed., May 4 • 6–8 pm
Bates College, Commons Building
136 Central Ave, Lewiston
DINNER WILL BE SERVED

Critical research from the university-based Family Acceptance Project (FAP) has shown that families have a compelling impact on risk and well-being—including suicidal behavior, illegal drug use and homelessness, as well as on self-esteem, general health and positive development—for their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) children. Based on this research, Dr. Caitlin Ryan and her team at FAP have developed the first research-based family support approach to help prevent suicide and homelessness and to support positive development for LGBT young people—in the context of their families, cultures and faith communities. As part of this work, Dr. Ryan has helped many agencies, including religious denominations and congregations, to provide education and pastoral care that is informed by this critical new research and helps families to reduce serious health risks while maintaining religious and cultural values. Called groundbreaking and paradigm-changing, this approach is changing how services are provided to help prevent risk and strengthen families.

We're inviting area clergy and religious leaders to learn about FAP's groundbreaking research and family support work, to discuss family support approaches to help prevent risk and increase connectedness for religious families with LGBT children, including those that are religiously conservative. Participants will have an opportunity to talk about applying this work to inform their ministries and will receive copies of FAP's family education booklets that are "Best Practices" for suicide prevention for LGBT youth. They will also see and discuss one of FAP's short award-winning family education and intervention films.

RSVP

Please RSVP and let us know if you have any dietary needs to [Rachel Spencer-Reed](mailto:rachel@newbeginmaine.org) at rachel@newbeginmaine.org or [207-795-4077](tel:207-795-4077).

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Caitlin Ryan is a clinical social worker who has worked on LGBT health and mental health for 40 years, with a focus on adolescents. As the Director of the university-based Family Acceptance Project, she has developed the first research-based family support approach to prevent major health risks and to increase family support and wellness for LGBT young people. Her work has been recognized by professional and community groups in the fields of counseling, medicine, nursing, psychology and social work. She has trained more than 80,000 providers, families, religious leaders and policymakers on this work across the U.S. and in other countries and works with religious leaders and pastoral counselors from a wide range of religious backgrounds in carrying out this work.