

What Would I Do?

(When completing this exercise, please keep in mind what your Total Behavior might be. In other words, what would you be doing, thinking, feeling, and what signals would your body be giving you? Behavior is much more than only what we are doing.)

1. You are a caseworker that has been working with a 15-year-old female, named Sara, who has been in the same foster home placement for around seven months. You receive a frantic telephone call from Sara at school, stating that she believes that she is a lesbian, and had told her foster parents the night before. Their response was quite negative, and Sara is quite upset. A short time later, the foster parents also telephone you, requesting that Sara be removed from their home, because of her “sinful” thoughts and behavior. What do you do as the caseworker?
2. You are in a supervision meeting with several other caseworkers, and one of the caseworkers begins asking for assistance on a case in which a 17-year-old male is being harassed at school because he is suspected of being gay, and the young man has expressed confusion about his sexual orientation in the past. Other staff members in the group begin telling gay jokes and making negative comments regarding the issue. As an observer/participant, how do you deal with the situation?
3. As a caseworker, you are requested to attend a meeting at a local high school for one of the teens with whom you work. The young man is in danger of failing gym class, because he refuses to change or participate. The student states to you that he refuses to participate in gym, because he is openly gay, and he has been physically harassed whenever he is in the locker room. The gym teacher is aware of the harassment and has done nothing to intervene. You are at the meeting and asked to contribute. What do you do? What type of an action plan do you create with the youth?