



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, NATIONAL  
INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF  
HEALTH**

**ISSUE: LACK OF INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON LGBT HEALTH**

**POLICY DESCRIPTION:** The NIMH functions as a complimentary agency to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). In order for the particularities of LGBT mental health and substance abuse needs to be fully met, both SAMHSA and NIMH must specifically target LGBT populations for research, and target LGBT persons and those who work with them as researchers and health care providers to be recipients of information. These goals can be accomplished by making explicit that the definition of “Special Populations” served by the National Institute of Mental Health includes sexual and gender minorities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE:** Add the words SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITIES to the regulations, as indicated in capital letters below.

**SEC. 464R.**

IN GENERAL- The general purpose of the National Institute of Mental Health (hereafter in this subpart referred to as the 'Institute') is the conduct and support of biomedical and behavioral research, health services research, research training, and health information dissemination with respect to the cause, diagnosis, treatment, control and prevention of mental illness.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS-

- (1) IN GENERAL- The Director of the Institute shall designate an Associate Director for Special Populations.
- (2) DUTIES- The Associate Director for Special Populations shall--
  - (A) develop and coordinate research policies and programs to assure increased emphasis on the mental health needs of women, SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITIES and minority populations;



A new beginning: Policy recommendations to improve the lives of LGBT people and eliminate discrimination  
from federal policies

- (B) support programs of basic and applied social and behavioral research on the mental health problems of women, **SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITIES** and minority populations;
- (C) study the effects of discrimination on institutions and individuals, including majority institutions and individuals;
- (D) support and develop research designed to eliminate institutional discrimination; and
- (E) provide increased emphasis on the concerns of women and minority populations in training programs, service delivery programs, and research endeavors of the Institute.

This change will allow concern for the health of the community to be included in regulations and open up the possibility of a greater level of inclusion, funding streams and programs in the federal government.