TIPS FOR CREATING DIALOGUE WITH POTENTIAL LGBTQ CLIENTS

Preambles:
• “We recognize that people identify themselves different ways, so we would like to ask the following questions to better understand your situation…”
• “In our effort to match clients with the appropriate services, we ask these questions of everyone at the intake/assessment to better understand your needs.”
• “Our policy allows people to be addressed by their preferred name and gender pronoun/use the restroom of their choice…”
• “To fill out this paperwork, you can put down your preferred/desired name…”

Names & Gender Pronouns:
• “What is your preferred name?”
• “Is there another name you’d like me to use?”
• “Would you be willing to share with me the name or pronoun you prefer to use?”
• “What gender pronoun are you most comfortable using?”
  – Avoid using gender pronouns when you don’t know what a person is comfortable with.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
• “How would you identify your sexual orientation?”
• “How would you identify your gender identity?”
• “Is your reason for getting help related to any issues around your sexual orientation or gender identity?”

Relationships
• “Can you tell me about your partner, and how they identify?”
• “Are you currently dating, sexually active or in a relationship(s)? If yes… how do your partner(s) identify?”
• “How important/significant is this (are these) relationship(s) to you?”
• “If you have had previous relationships, how did your previous partners identify?”

Interview Questions for Specific to LGBTQ Communities
• Can you tell me about any particular problems you have faced because of discrimination around your sexual orientation/gender identity?
• Are you out about your sexual orientation / gender identity?
  – At work? At school? At home? With new acquaintances?
• Tell me about your family. Is your family accepting of your sexual orientation / gender identity? Do you have support from your family?

Adapted from http://www.camh.net/Publications/Resources_for_Professionals/ARQ2/arq2.pdf