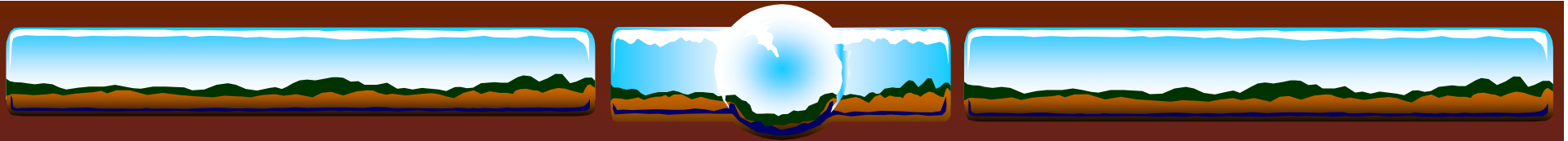


# Project Visibility

**Presented by Boulder County  
Aging Services Division**



## Statistics from Film About LGBT Elders:

- ❖ 1-3 Million Americans Over 65 Are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
- ❖ By 2030 @ 4 Million will be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
- ❖ 5 times *less likely* to access services
- ❖ Live alone
- ❖ May not have traditional family support
- ❖ May be isolated from LGBT community
- ❖ Face poverty and economic insecurity

# Our Concerns



Long-time couple, Kathy and Carmah

- ❖ Increased isolation (75% live alone & 90% do not have children)
- ❖ Increased depression
- ❖ Unnecessary/premature institutionalization (often cannot identify who would provide care to them if they grew ill)
- ❖ Neglect/self neglect (more likely to need formal caregiving systems but reluctant to access them)



# “If I had to go into a Nursing Home:

- ❖ “Would want staff to know that Kathy is my partner and will be visiting every day.”
- ❖ “Want them to know that this (being a lesbian) has been my life and I want to continue that life.”



Carmah, featured in Project Visibility Film

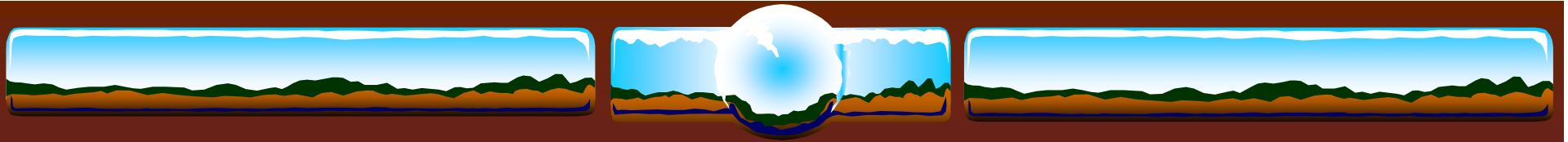


# LGBT Caregiver Challenges and Concerns

- ❖ “Will she be safe?”
- ❖ Legal and Financial
- ❖ Grief and Loss
- ❖ The issue of dementia

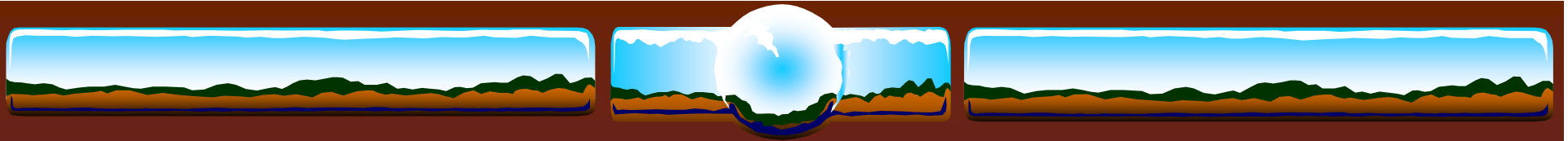


Mary Jo, caregiver, expresses concern.



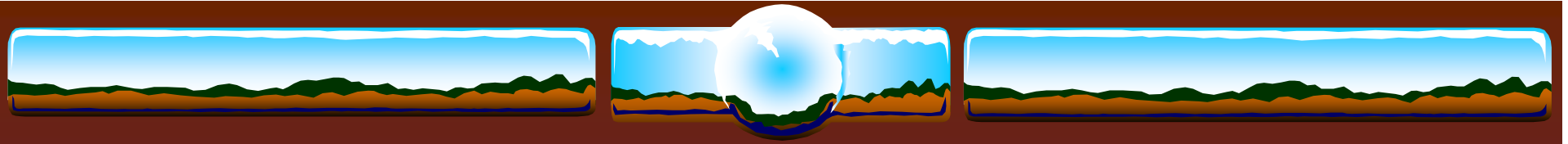
# **Providing Competent Care Involves:**

**The ability to listen, respond and provide  
polite and considerate care to all  
clients/residents regardless of personal  
feelings, beliefs or values about their  
characters or behaviors.**



**Make a check list of the practical solutions you can do now**

- ❖ **Create inclusive infrastructure.**
- ❖ **Create a welcoming environment.**
- ❖ **Develop effective communication skills.**



*“They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.”*

**-Andy Warhol**