

Youth Voice and Engagement



Unwavering champions for children and families.

Presenters for Today:



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- SOC Intern
- Youth Services Recipient Representative, SEC

Rachelle Butler, LCSW

- Senior Project Manager, UMFS
- Awesome Adult Supporter and Field Instructor!



GOALS FOR TODAY

- *Learn about the importance of Youth Voice and Engagement*
- *Discuss barriers to Youth Voice and Engagement*
- *Learn about how adult supporters can promote youth inclusion in their practice.*



Ground Rules

- Participate!
- No Emails Please 😊
- Have Fun!!!



Youth Voice and Engagement

What is it?



The Diversity of Youth Voice and Engagement

Youth express themselves in many different ways!

- **Youth Voice:** Youth Voice is the active, distinct, and concentrated ways young people represent themselves throughout society.
- **Youth Engagement:** Youth engagement is the result when young people are involved in responsible, challenging actions to create positive social change.



Why its important?

Youth voice and engagement is a central principle of youth development. Through youth engagement, communities can do a better job of creating the services, opportunities, and supports that young people need to develop in healthy ways.



History of Youth Voice and Engagement

Activity Time!

Youth Voice Timeline



Barriers to Youth Voice and Engagement

Activity Time...Again!
Yea or Nay



How to promote Youth Inclusion



What can you do in your practice?

- Engagement is key to empowering youth—adults must take the extra steps needed to engage youth and keep them engaged.
- Youth and adults look at things through different “lenses”. Allies help bridge the gap, bringing together creative ideas from both sides making transformation richer and more sustainable.
- Allies can act as a liaison for youth and the rest of the team, making sure that youth “voice” is heard and that youth are continuously engaged in a program or organization.

Credit: Foster youth in Action



Now it's your turn!

Final Activity:

Youth Perspective: Walk in their shoes



Other ways to promote Youth Engagement

- Youth Adult Partnerships
- Self Awareness
- Youth Led Programs
 - Youth MOVE



Questions?



Video



Thank you for coming!!

