

# Youth Voice and Engagement



Unwavering champions for children and families.

# Presenters for Today:



## **Sophia Booker, BSW (almost)**

- SOC Intern
- Youth Services Recipient Representative, SEC

## **Rachelle Butler, LCSW**

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





# 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!!

