



OHIO YAB Mission

We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.

Thank You for This Introduction



- Wonderful to meet Sarah Love of the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health.
- Congratulations to Director Tia Marcel Moretti for recently receiving the 2026 Champion of Children award from the Ohio Children's Alliance.

Five Recommendations from Disability Rights Ohio

- Creating a statewide registry to **prevent the re-hiring of abusive employees.**
- Providing families and guardians with **information about facilities that fail to meet minimum standards.**
- Requiring state licensing agencies to take swift action when a facility fails to meet minimum standards, **including removing youth.**
- **Increasing ongoing training** for facility staff.
- **Raising the minimum standards** to ensure better care and outcomes.

Two Additional Recommendations from the OHIO YAB:

- **There should be a public database of all licensed Class 1 residential facilities:**
 - It should include inspection reports and any licensing actions taken against a facility such as suspending admissions, revoking licenses, etc.
 - For public transparency.
 - This should be considered for day treatment centers as well.
 - Please review the [Oregon Youth Facility Database](#) as a model.
- **An explicit ban on supine restraint:**
 - Not restraints should be used to press a young person up against a wall or the floor (any hard surface, which impairs breathing)
 - And there needs to be enforcement when facilities use other types of restraint.

A Home for Every Child



Safety as the North Star

The OHIO YAB and ACTION Ohio believe that safety is the North Star when it comes to children, teens and young adults.

Please review our [issue brief on youth safety](#) and [an Op Ed written by Jonathan Thomas](#).

Young people deserve safety-whether they are in an out-of-home placement or if they remain at home.



A Home for Every Child

- How can Ohio foster care youth and alumni play a role in implementation?
- What are the plans to listen to youth who self-report abuse, to safeguard them from further harm?
- What are the plans to address how some counties over/under-utilize alternative response?
- What are the plans for foster parent recruitment?
 - Focusing on quality, not just quantity.
 - Including recruitment, vetting and retention.
- What are the plans for prevention services to biological families? (using a whole family approach)

Prevention

- What, if anything, could have kept you out of foster care?
- Were you and your family provided with any resources?
- Were there any resources that might have been helpful?

Regarding resources, OHIO YAB youth leaders suggested that there be a drop-down menu including:

- Therapy
- Parenting Mentor
- Respite Care
- Anger Management
- Food or Financial Resources
- Assistance with substance abuse issues, generational patterns, challenges related to age of caregiver and/or mental health

Protection

- How could you have been listened to earlier if you asked to be removed?
- And/or ran away to escape?

Who did you reach out to – and did they listen to your concerns?

- Safe Place
- Child Abuse Hotline
- Teacher, Counselor or School Nurse
- Neighbor, Church or Community Member

Did you feel screened out or screened in, when you reached out to ask for help?

How will Ohio roll this out?

We heard from you that told us clearly that child safety must stay front and center, including concerns about:

- Fatalities and near fatalities in care
- Maltreatment in foster homes
- Reentry into care
- **The safety of children who stay in their homes under alternative response**

The real examples you shared were powerful and heartbreaking. Their stories remind us why this work matters so much.

- How your feedback connects to the final PIP:
- The PIP includes federal safety measures like maltreatment in care and placement stability, which help to track whether kids are safe in their placements.
- Even though the PIP includes a limited number of federally required measures, **the state will continue reviewing fatalities, near fatalities, and safety concerns, including cases from alternative response, through other safety processes, because they are critical issues even if not part of PIP reporting.**

Ongoing Concerns

- Concerns about safety in residential facilities.
- Concerns about youth being screened out when they self-report abuse to county hotlines.
- Seeking to establish a statewide form and procedure for police as mandated reporters.
- Seeking to safeguard youth who run away to escape abuse.

