

# **Bridging Perspectives: Voices of Youth and Young Adults**



**2026 Ohio Foster Care Summit  
*Together for Ohio Youth in Out of Home Care***



## **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.



# Lonnie

- A roof is not a home
- Communicate with me, and avoid false promises
- Have a sense of urgency in letting youth know about resources

# Brooke

- Stigmas, and lack of being trauma-informed
- Need for resources and supports
- Cuts to resources, and “aging out” of eligibility





# Lanasha

- Housing After Foster Care
- Authentic Care for Youth
- Improving Group Homes and Residentials

# Addison

- Safety must remain the North Star
- Recommendations for Youth Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs)
- House Bill 811



# 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:

- **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.



# Adverse Childhood Experiences

- What is the real intention of ACES?
- How could the system better support physical and emotional safety?
- How could the system better help youth develop coping mechanisms and heal from trauma?
- How could the system better listen to youth concerns, including rights violations?

# Social Support and Coping Skills

- Developmental Assets
- Developmental Relationships
- Alternatives to “talk therapy”

# Education Access and Quality

- K-12 and Post-Secondary Supports
- Value of Cross-Systems Coordination

# Physical Environments

- **Economic Stability:** Before, during and after foster care
- **Improved Transitions:** Providing resources to support youth after they leave foster care to improve economic stability

# Health Care and Quality

- Need for Trauma-Informed Care
- PTSD Rate After Foster Care