

**Executive Summary:**

**Course Title:** "Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project: on Permanency and Engagement."

**Course Description:**

With the proper skills, resources, and understanding social workers are empowered to develop the dependable relationship foster youth need to feel safe enough to share their hopes and fears on the often sensitive issues of placement, transitions, loss, emancipation, and permanency.

Please join the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project in this day-long training developed & facilitated entirely by current and former foster youth. Our diverse group of youth trainers will share stories and recommendations to inform and inspire the permanency and engagement work of training participants. Additionally, participants will discuss and practice strategies for engaging youth in all aspects of their case plan to support ownership, accountability and a sense of self-efficacy in the youth they work with

Our youth trainers are vastly diverse in their cultural, religious, geographic, educational, and familial backgrounds as well as race, gender identity, and sexual orientation and so considerations for the impact each play are integrated throughout training as well.

The training information will be delivered via interactive activities, small and large group discussion, role play/skills practice, case studies, lecture, digital stories developed by youth and materials to bring back to the office for future reference & to share with colleagues.

**Target Audience:** This training is designed for child welfare, group home and probation workers that work with adolescents (age 13-21). Line social workers, supervisors, managers, nurses, support staff and caregivers are likely to benefit from this training.

**Outcome Objectives for Participants:**

1. Participant will be able to develop relationships, obtain information, and communicate and listen effectively to foster care youth.
2. Participant will apply knowledge of cultural and developmental needs of foster care youth when making assessments and case plans.
3. Participants will practice developing innovative practices.
4. Participant will demonstrate increased sensitivity and skill in dealing with stigmatized foster youth groups including teen parents, youth with mental health issues and gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/questioning youth.
5. Participants will understand the value of including youth in their case planning.
6. Participants will gain knowledge and empathy for the experiences (obstacles and frustrations) that youth go through that often results in behaviors that stigmatize or criminalize youth and bewilder adults.
7. Participants will have the opportunity to strengthen their communication skills to work with youth in a multitude of difficult situations.
8. Participants will understand the importance and practice of protecting relationship

permanency.

**Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...**

**BEFORE the training:** Supervisors should explore the level of knowledge, experience and success that staff has with transition aged youth. Supervisor should review executive summary and review what objectives the staff is aware of and what objective the staff knows the least about. Work on identifying the challenges trainee has working with transition aged foster youth.

**AFTER the training:** Supervisor reviews handout materials with staff, reflect on the objectives accomplished and discusses practical applications with staff's current caseload. In the following three months, supervisor checks in regularly with staff to verify how new material, ideas, practices are impacting/improving social work practice with the youth on their caseload. Review trainee's "Anything Amazing" poster from the training.