



# THE OHIO CHILD WELFARE TRAINING PROGRAM



## Helping promote lifelong connections for youth as they transition out of care

In 2011, the National Resource Center for Youth Development (NRCYD) began working with The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) to address challenges that interfere with a young adult's ability to make a successful transition from foster care to

independent living. Three workshops were developed and are now available to confront the critical needs of Ohio's youth as they transition out of care. These workshops include *Youth Development: The Vital Link*, *Life Long Connections: Permanency for Older Youth*,

and *Engaging Youth in Transition Planning*. The workshops are co-trained by a foster care alumnus and a social work trainer. Participants have found this brings the material to life. Additionally, these workshops can be offered jointly to casework staff and foster caregivers.



**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: THE VITAL LINK**



**LIFE LONG CONNECTIONS: PERMANENCY FOR OLDER YOUTH**



**ENGAGING YOUTH IN TRANSITION PLANNING**

# Workshops

## **Youth Development: The Vital Link**

Learning Number: 202-35-NOS

Youth are a tremendous and often overlooked resource. Agencies can improve their independent/transitional living programs by utilizing the skills youth possess. Not only will youth enhance agency programs, but youth themselves will develop confidence and self-esteem through the contribution of their experiences. Participants will learn creative ways of empowering youth by allowing them to take on leadership roles, aid in decision-making, and assist in program implementation. Barriers and benefits will be discussed, as well as attitudes regarding youth as resources. Participants will explore levels of youth involvement in independent/transitional living programs, which will include advisory boards, mentor programs, peer-helping and community involvement.

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## **Life Long Connections: Permanency for Older Children**

Learning Number: 210-26-NOS

When planning for permanency with adolescents, we have to think and use approaches differently when planning for younger children. Permanency for older youth is not centered around the living arrangement, it is not simply providing independent living services, and it is not just offering adoption. Instead, it provides youth with the opportunity to forge life long permanent connections to people they identify as important. This training allows participants to experience the impact of permanent connections and why they are important. Finally, participants will come to understand how adolescent development relates to permanency.

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## **Engaging Youth in Transition Planning**

Learning Number: 202-36-NOS

Transition planning is a personal process and young people must fully participate. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008 includes a requirement that a youth-directed transition plan be developed ninety days prior to a youth turning eighteen. However, it is important that we recognize that transition planning begins well before this time. This training provides a definition of transition planning, examines the benefits of youth engagement, and outlines the transition planning process. In addition, participants will learn about the Foster Club's Transition Planning Toolkit, a document that helps transitioning adolescents develop their plans for the future.



### PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL

“THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST TRAININGS I HAVE EVER ATTENDED. I THINK IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MY PRACTICE.”



### PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL

“THIS TRAINING IS LONG OVERDUE.”



### PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL

“IT WAS BENEFICIAL HAVING CASEWORKERS AND FOSTER PARENTS ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP TOGETHER. WE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM EACH OTHER!”