



ONE VOICE IMPACT

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Policy & Practice Priorities

One Voice Impact youth leaders participated in a discussion at the 2022 Florida Coalition for Children Conference. Youth with lived experience want Florida's child welfare system to start, stop, and continue these policies and practices.

START

- Providing funding for peer mentoring
- Educating youth on their rights in foster care
- Giving choices on foster/adoptive parents, case managers, and therapists
- Training youth in self-advocacy
- Training judges to listen to youth
- Training families to host youth in EFC
- Hiring people who work well with teens
- Formalizing relational permanency on 4th option
- Setting ratios for IL Specialists to youth
- Improving transition planning
- Increasing the EFC allowance
- Funding youth council leaders and staff champions
- Explaining IL benefits to youth
- Increasing housing for transitioning youth
- Getting youth participation in MDT's
- Being transparent about placement changes
- Including youth on all policies related to RTI statute
- Scheduling meetings around youth's schedules
- Training case managers in youth engagement

STOP

- Holding meetings about youth without them
- Immediate evaluations "Let us grieve in peace"
- Judging youth by their case files
- Showing photos of teens for adoption
- Unreasonable and unnecessary Baker Acts
- Overmedicating and ignoring youth input on medication
- Basing decisions on past records

CONTINUE

- Independent Living Services Keys to Independence
- Tuition waivers and Medicaid
- Behavioral Health Services
- Promoting Normalcy
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Connections with bio parents, relatives, and siblings
- Youth speaking at foster parent trainings

In Their Own Words

No pictures online! That's like a dog - this one is cute, I'll adopt them. It's demeaning to me.

Know me beyond my file. Know who I am now.

No youth. No meeting. Nothing about us, without us.

We can see families' backgrounds and portfolios. We know best who we will work best with.

Build relationships with the youth. Real relationships.

Focus on our needs and wants.

Youth need to be at the same level as professionals the room

For more information about this report or OVI, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Wynter at elizabeth@selflesslovefoundation.org or 954-325-4307.