

TRAINING PRESENTATION
LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN AMERICA
“WORKING WITH FOSTER YOUTH TO CREATE A TRANSITION PLAN”

I. Jim Casey Youth Initiative Report Regarding How Foster Youth Define Engagement

- Playing an active role in planning
- Freely voicing needs
- Attending planning meetings
- Attending court hearings
- Feeling Listened to
- Power to suggest changes

II. Youth Perspective on Legal Advocacy for Foster Children – General Concerns of Foster Children Aging Out

- Preparation for independent living
- Employment and Income
- Safe housing
- Social network and continued support

III. Specific Tips To Engage Foster Youth

- Build rapport and establish a good relationship with your client
- Establish a common vocabulary and build trust
- Encourage youth to speak and listen to their viewpoints and concerns
- Advise youth, but respect their decisions
- Expect youth to test you
- Help youth identify strengths and needs
- Explain resources available to youth
- Involve youth in developing transition plan and problem solving
- Keep youth informed and maintain consistent communication
- Utilize transition planning worksheet and track progress

TRANSITION PLANNING WORKSHEET FOR YOUTH

1. What assets do I currently have? What are my strengths?
2. What do I need? What are my biggest concerns?
3. What are the resources available to me?
4. What do I want my transition plan to include?
5. What is my readiness to participate in the implementation of my transition plan?
What do I need to focus on most?