



Protocol for CST Inviting the Voices of Those With Lived Experience

The OHIO YAB and ACTION Ohio deeply appreciate the Office of Children Services Transformation inviting the voices of current and former foster youth to participate in phone calls and virtual opportunities to share their voices in order to help guide and support statewide policy. We recommend the following protocol, in order for us to fulfill our statewide role when it comes to helping foster care youth and alumni prepare ahead of time for opportunities, and circling back to debrief with them afterwards.

Foster Care Youth and Alumni Engagement ~ Best Practices:

Please email lisa@fosteractionohio.org with the following information.

1.) Engagement Opportunity:

- **Topic:** _____
- **Purpose:** _____
- **Date:** _____

**We understand that the date might be dependent upon a future Doodle Poll with participating young people. Please begin by letting us know the week that the call/virtual connection might take place, and then keep us posted as dates and times are identified.*

2.) Questions: Please provide us and each of the foster care youth/alumni participants with the **list of questions** you plan to ask ahead of time; this is incredibly helpful when it comes to preparation and effectiveness.

3.) Ability to Debrief: We will need to have the **contact information for each of the foster care youth/alumni participants**, so that we can reach out to them ahead of time to prepare and talk about strategic sharing, and also circle back with them to debrief when the opportunity is over. For those with lived experiences, talking about memories can cause trauma to resurface, so this is always a part of our process.

4.) Stipends: When it comes to process of planning, preparing, and presenting statewide policy recommendations, the OHIO YAB and ACTION Ohio recommend that **foster care youth and alumni receive stipends for their efforts whenever possible**. They are dedicating their time and sharing their insights to help with state policy, and their efforts should be compensated.