



Participating youth expressed the following concerns regarding residential placements:

1.) Not being the least restrictive placement:

- *“A lot of teens are put in residential just because there is nowhere else for them to go. These services are not targeted for them.”*

2.) Feeling like a dumping ground:

- *One young lady shared her experience at residential as: “It’s not therapeutic; it’s a dumping ground. 24 girls on one floor: drama, fighting and synced to the same cycles. If it gets too bad, the unit is shut down and therapy sessions are canceled.”*

3.) Wounding, rather than healing:

- *“The teens are there for different reasons. They have the same problems as you or worse. This makes kids worse. They pick up bad habits like cutting/self-harm. After they leave, teens relapse because they didn’t get what they needed in the residential placement.”*

4.) Not being therapeutic:

- *“Therapeutic” foster care placements should be more than just hours. What are the training and licensing requirements? My current placement is supposed to be therapeutic, and they are not trauma-informed at all. I have to keep teaching them.”*
- *One young person described how her grandmother’s rehabilitation placement was more helpful and caring to her grandmother (who was battling addiction) than any foster or residential placement that this particular foster youth had ever experienced.*

5.) Feeling more like punishment than treatment:

- *One young man described his experience in residential as: “It’s like a baby jail. It’s like a jail for 14, 15 and 16 year olds. This is how young people get institutionalized and used to a real prison. It’s all they know.”*
- *He described how this leads to the foster care to prison pipeline: “I would never put my child there. They look down on you. They treat you as if you had committed a crime. They are playing with other people’s lives. I am a person and not just a case. This is something that a kid has to personally experience, and can’t just walk away from. They need to truly care.”*

The OHIO YAB exists to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth that have or will experience out of home care.