

Youth Conference Timeline

2007 - 2019

2007

1st Ohio Statewide
IL Summit

-Ohio Children's Alliance hosted a series of Independent Living Focus Groups throughout the state which led to Ohio Reach.

- First statewide Independent Living Conference facilitated by Ohio Children's Alliance. Workshop submission form required foster care youth/alumni input on developing each presentation.

2008

2nd Ohio Statewide
IL Summit

- Second statewide Independent Living Conference facilitated by Ohio Children's Alliance with foster youth, alumni and ally input.

- Workshops focused on practical needs (education, housing, finances, transportation) and social concerns (community connections, emotional healing, personal identity and restorative relationships).

2009

3rd Ohio Statewide
IL Summit

- Third statewide Independent Living Conference facilitated by Ohio Children's Alliance with foster youth, alumni and ally input.

- This year also marked the first Ohio Reach conference, which included a youth panel, and youth voice/participation in workshops.

2010

SW and NE IL
Summits

- NE IL Summit hosted by Stark County. Emcee Michael Sanders facilitated a Youth Panel. Three foster care alumni-led workshops by Alex, Lisa, and Paula.

- SW IL Summit, hosted by Montgomery County. Youth were on the planning committee, as facilitated by Doris. Event included a Youth Panel.

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2011

Statewide Career & Entrepreneurship Conference

- The Planning Committee was headed up by Lisa Dickson and made up of foster care youth, alumni and allies. Youth were involved in every detail, including keynote speaker, raffle prizes, Resume Clinic and Suits for Success.
- Ohio foster care alumni fundraised to make this conference possible.

2012

Connecting the Dots Conference

- ODJFS Director Michael Colbert had asked the OHIO YAB for their top 3 asks; one of which was funding for a statewide youth conference.
- The Planning Committee was headed up by Lisa Dickson. Youth were involved in every detail, including wide array of workshop topics and Youth Panel (*Dispatch article*)

2013

2nd Connecting the Dots Conference

- The Planning Committee was headed up by Lisa Dickson. Youth were involved in every detail, including three foster care alumni speakers (Michael Lehan, Antwan Turpeau and Tei Street), workshop and kiosk choices (Ohio Benefit Bank, Ask-A-Lawyer, Health Clinic), youth speak out and youth-facilitated "Making Something Out of Nothing" fashion show.

2014

Regional CTD + Statewide Pathways

- SW Connecting the Dots Conference included keynote and signed books by Antwone Fisher. Youth served on planning committee, as facilitated by Doris.
- Teening Up for Success Conference in NE Ohio paired teens and foster parents with a focus on WORTH (Work, Opportunities, Relationships, Training, Housing).
- First statewide Pathways Conference

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2015

2nd Fostering Pathways to Success Conference

- The Pathways Conference was an effort to combine the Ohio Reach conference with the youth conference
- Tei Street keynote ensured that the conference remained youth-engaging
- Two OHIO YAB workshops on “Alternatives to AWOL” and “OHIO YAB Leadership Tools”

2016

3rd Pathways Conference

- Keynote by OHIO YAB first President Adrian McLemore
- Remarks by OHIO YAB current President Gabriel Young
- Kev Brown facilitated youth talent sharing
- OHIO YAB workshop on “OHIO YAB Leadership Tools”
- Ended with youth speak-out
- SE Reach Conference was also held, with youth heading up planning

2017

4th Pathways Conference

- Two OHIO YAB workshops on “Mapping Out Your Vision” (shirts and resources) and “Turning Your Passion Into Plans” (passion planners and time management tools).

2018

5th Pathways Conference

- OHIO YAB workshop on “Youth Voice Matters: Increase the Positive People in Your Orbit.”

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2019

6th Fostering Pathways to Success Conference

-We deeply care about and appreciate the event, and all the behind the scenes work that goes into it. Event speaker Governor Mike DeWine did a wonderful job of encouraging youth voice during his time at the mike, and empowering young people to speak.

-From a conference planning standpoint, there was less youth voice in conference planning than ever before in statewide conference history. Youth had no voice in the keynote speaker, the amount of workshops or how often workshops were held, the giveaways, or the overall schedule for the day.

- The OHIO YAB was grateful to be able to lead one workshop and have a display table. It worries us from an Ohio Reach standpoint that the Higher Ed and ETV tables were marginalized.

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2020

Regional, Statewide or Both

- We would like to see foster care youth and alumni voice included in:

- 1.) Date of Conference (that doesn't negatively impact youth participation in the four statewide quarterly YAB meetings)
- 2.) Choice of Keynote Speaker
- 3.) Workshop Topics
- 4.) Overall Schedule for the Day
- 5.) Raffle Prizes/Giveaways

- We would like for the event to include a Youth Panel made up of successful foster care alumni who can share tips on how to succeed in young adulthood, regarding housing, college, the workforce, interpersonal relationships, etc.

EVENT FEATURES:

**Please don't hold the event on a date that negatively impacts youth attendance of statewide quarterly OHIO YAB meetings*

- 1.) Foster care alumni speaker who is engaging to youth (i.e. The Amazing Tei Street)
- 2.) Youth Panel
- 3.) Opportunities for music, dancing and talent sharing

YOUTH WORKSHOP TOPICS:

**Based on youth feedback from 2007-current*

- 1.) OHIO Youth Advisory Board: Leadership Tips, Tools, and Opportunities
- 2.) High School Success
- 3.) Financial Aid Resources, including ETV Funds
- 4.) Navigating College Deadlines
- 5.) Finding and Keeping a Job
- 6.) Keeping Life in Balance / When Helping You Is Hurting Me
- 7.) Creating and Maintaining Healthy Relationships
- 8.) Job Interview Role Plays

YOUTH KIOSKS:

**Based on youth feedback from 2007-current*

- 1.) Resume Clinic
- 2.) Suits for Success
- 3.) Ohio Benefit Bank
- 4.) Suits for Success
- 5.) Ask-A-Lawyer: Capital Law School's Foster Youth Advocacy Clinic
- 6.) Court Basics Q&A Station: Being able to ask questions about CASA/GAL/Youth Voice in Court