



# Ohio Youth Advisory Board

*Established in 2006, the Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OHIO YAB) is a statewide organization of young people (ages 14-24) who have experienced out-of-home care.*



## **OHIO YAB Mission**

We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.

# Benefits for Youth

- Leadership
- Professionalism
- Future employment
- College applications
- Emotional connections
- Positive memories
- Peer support



# Benefits for Professionals

- First-hand expertise
- Valuable insights
- Better outcomes for youth
- Revitalize their work
- Add value to conferences
- Organizational goals
- Able to pass legislation

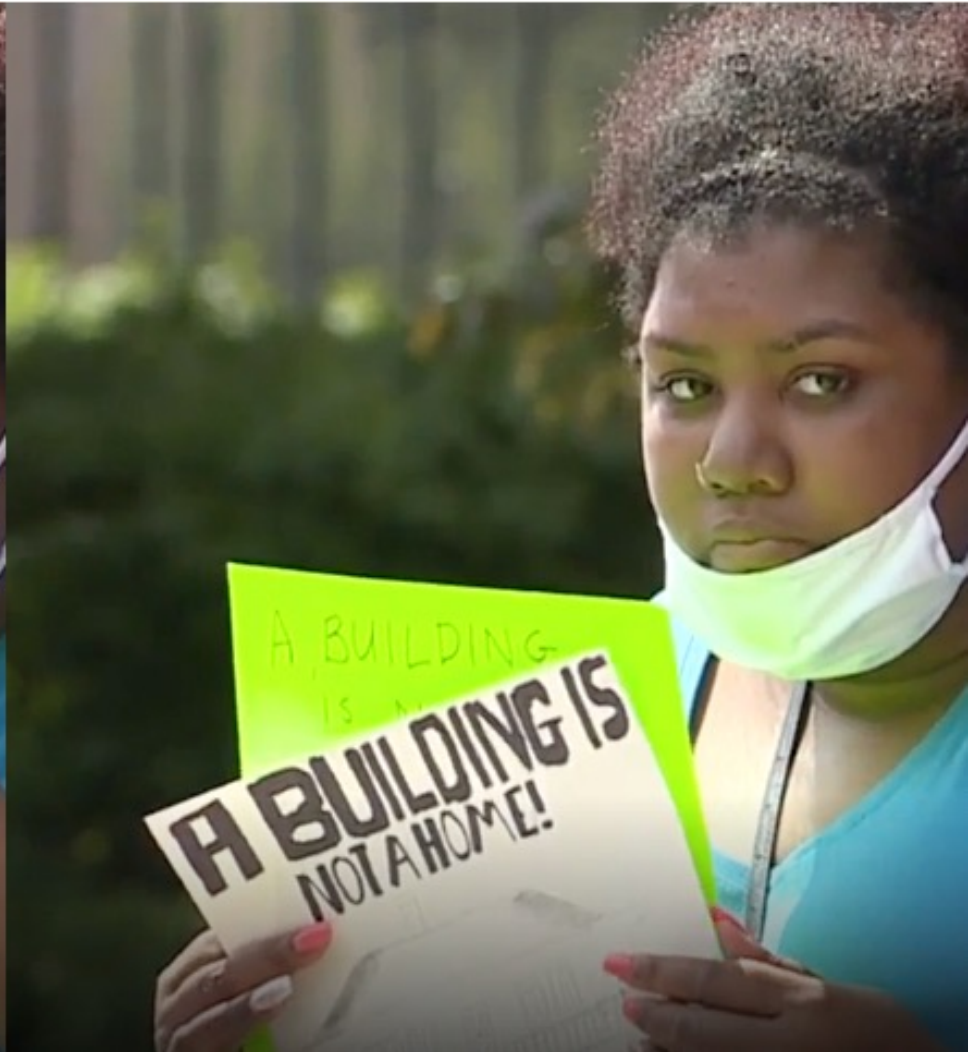


# OHIO YAB Priorities and Accomplishments

## Child Safety and Protection

- Updating the Foster Youth Bill of Rights
- Updating the Foster Youth Rights Handbook
- Successful advocacy to create a statewide Youth Ombudsman Office
- OHIO YAB evaluation of the first Youth Ombudsman report
- *Seeking to improving county child abuse hotlines*
- *Seeking better safeguards for youth who run away to escape abuse*

# Partnership with Children's Defense Fund-Ohio



# OHIO YAB Priorities and Accomplishments

## Life Skills and Resource Knowledge

- Youth-created resource pathfinders
- Created a three-part video series for teen moms in foster care
- Youth voice in vetting statewide workshops:
  - *Life Skills training pathway for foster parents*
  - *Caseworker Core trainings*
- *Seeking to extend foster care supports to age 23*

# Self Care Summit





# OHIO YAB Priorities and Accomplishments

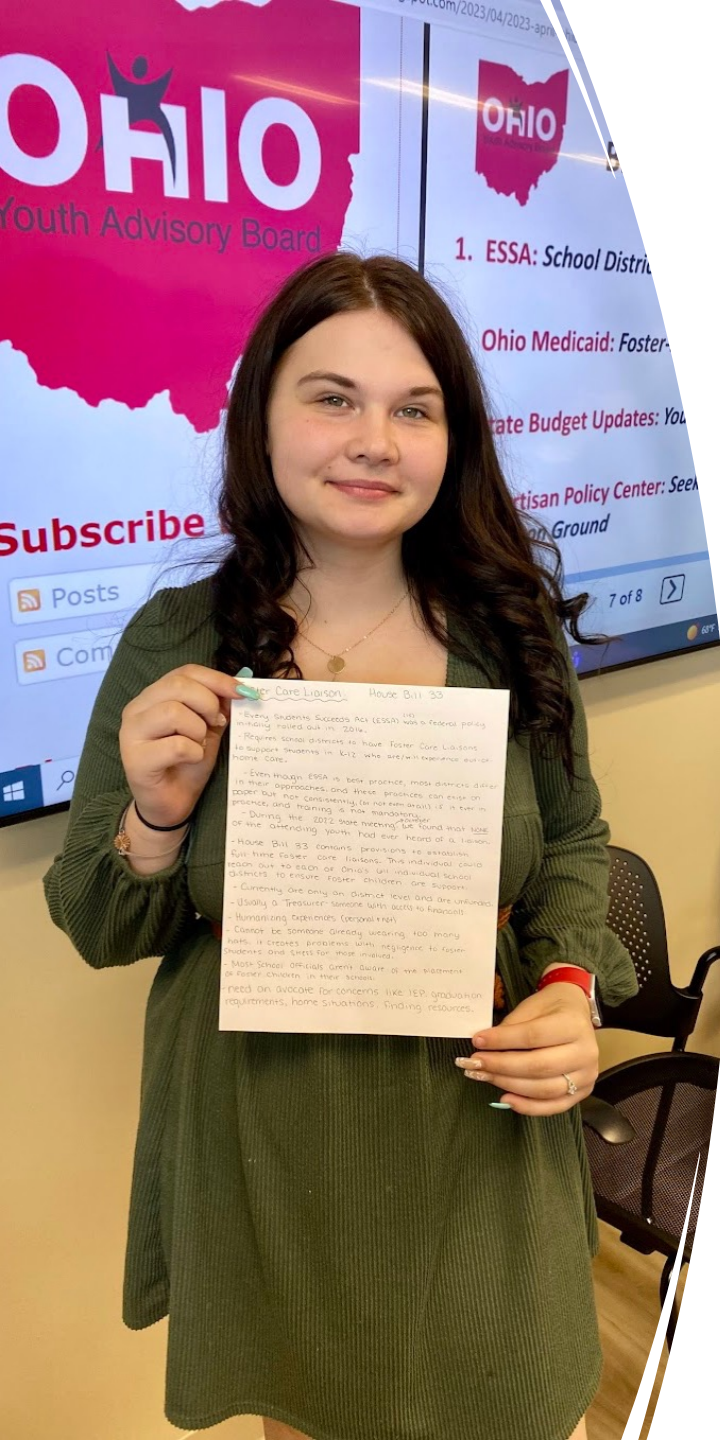
## Normalcy and Emotional Support

- Successfully advocating for the closure of Sequel Pomegranate
- Youth voice in recommending a strengths-based approach to:
  - *ICCA form, CANS assessment, Tiered Foster Care*
- *Youth proposed solutions for youth spending nights in office buildings*
- *Ongoing advocacy for sibling connections to be supported*

# OHIO YAB Priorities and Accomplishments

## Youth Voice in Court and Elsewhere

- Youth presentation for Ohio Juvenile Court Clerks Conference
- Ongoing partnership with the Ohio Supreme Court Summit
- Ongoing partnership with Ohio CASA
- Ongoing partnership with the Ohio Department of Education
- *Seeking statewide consistency when it comes to ESSA*



Foster Care Liaison House Bill 33

- Being Successful Success Act (ESSA) was a federal policy thinking rolled out in 2015.
- Requires school districts to have Foster Care Liaisons to support students in K-12 who are in residential out-of-home care.
- Even though ESSA is state practice, most districts differ in their approaches, and these practices can vary in practice and training in the amount of time in the classroom.
- During the 2012 state meeting, we found that some of the outstanding issues had ever heard of a liaison.
- House Bill 33 contains provisions to establish the Foster Care Liaison. This individual should report out to each of Ohio's 119 individual school districts to ensure Foster children are supported.
- Currently, one only on district level are unfunded.
- Usually a Treasurer someone with access to resources.
- Minimizing expenses (personal time).
- Clients be someone already working too many hours in cases (resources) with responsibility to foster children and staff for those involved.
- Most School officials aren't aware of the placement of Foster children in their schools.
- need an advocate for concerns like IEP, graduation requirements, home situations, funding resources.

# ESSA Video



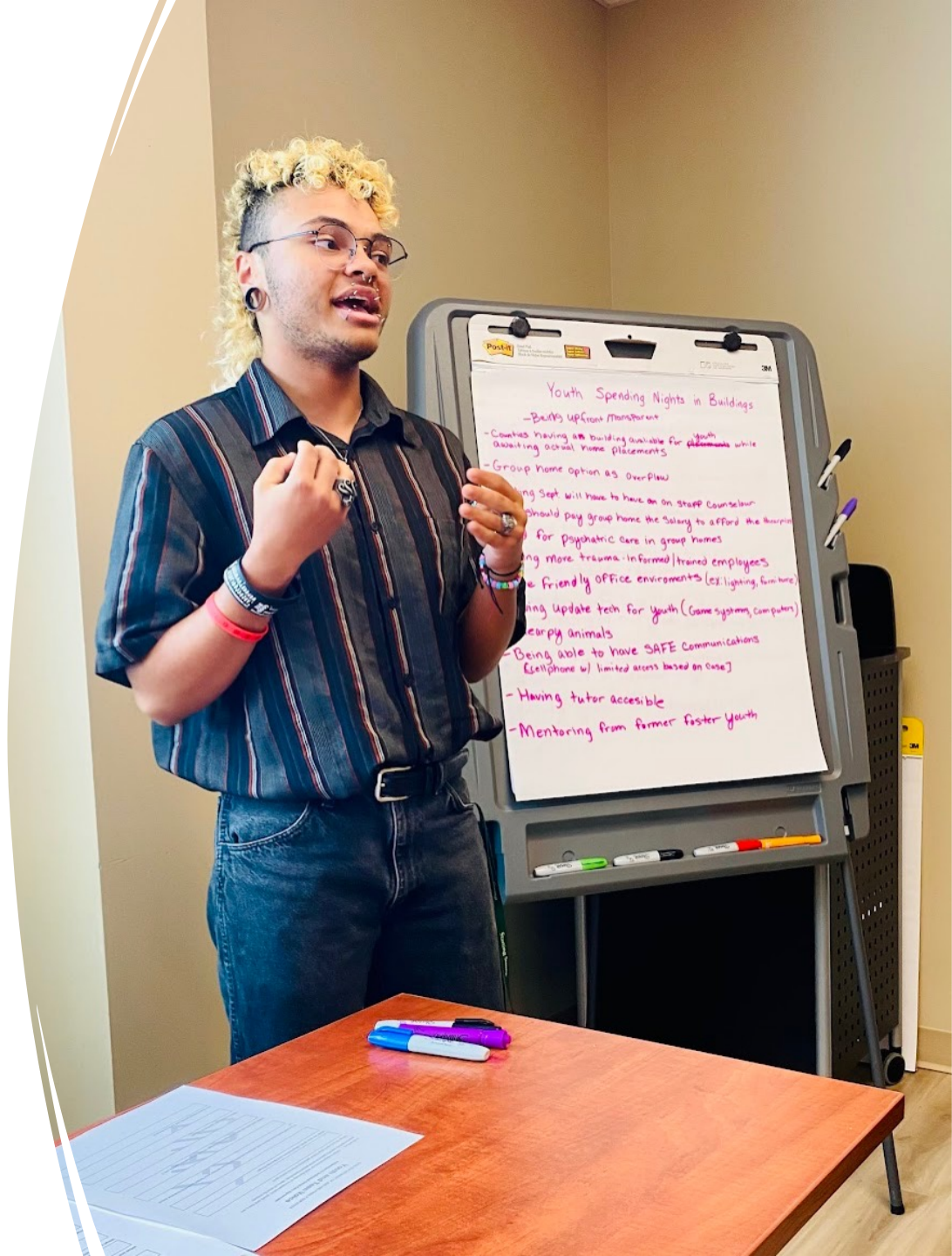
## The Ties That Bind Building a Connected Future

PCSAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sept. 19-21, 2023

# ODJFS webinar

---



## Youth Spending Nights in Buildings

- Being upfront transparent
- Counties having a building available for youth awaiting school home placements
- Group home option as overflow
- King Sept will have to have an on staff Counselor
- Should pay group home the salary to afford the support for psychiatric care in group homes
- Hiring more trauma-informed/trained employees
- More friendly office environments (ex. lighting, furniture)
- Hiring update tech for youth (Game systems, computers)
- No scary animals
- Being able to have SAFE Communications (cellphone w/ limited access based on case)
- Having tutor accessible
- Mentoring from former foster youth

# Social Justice Award

---

Welcome

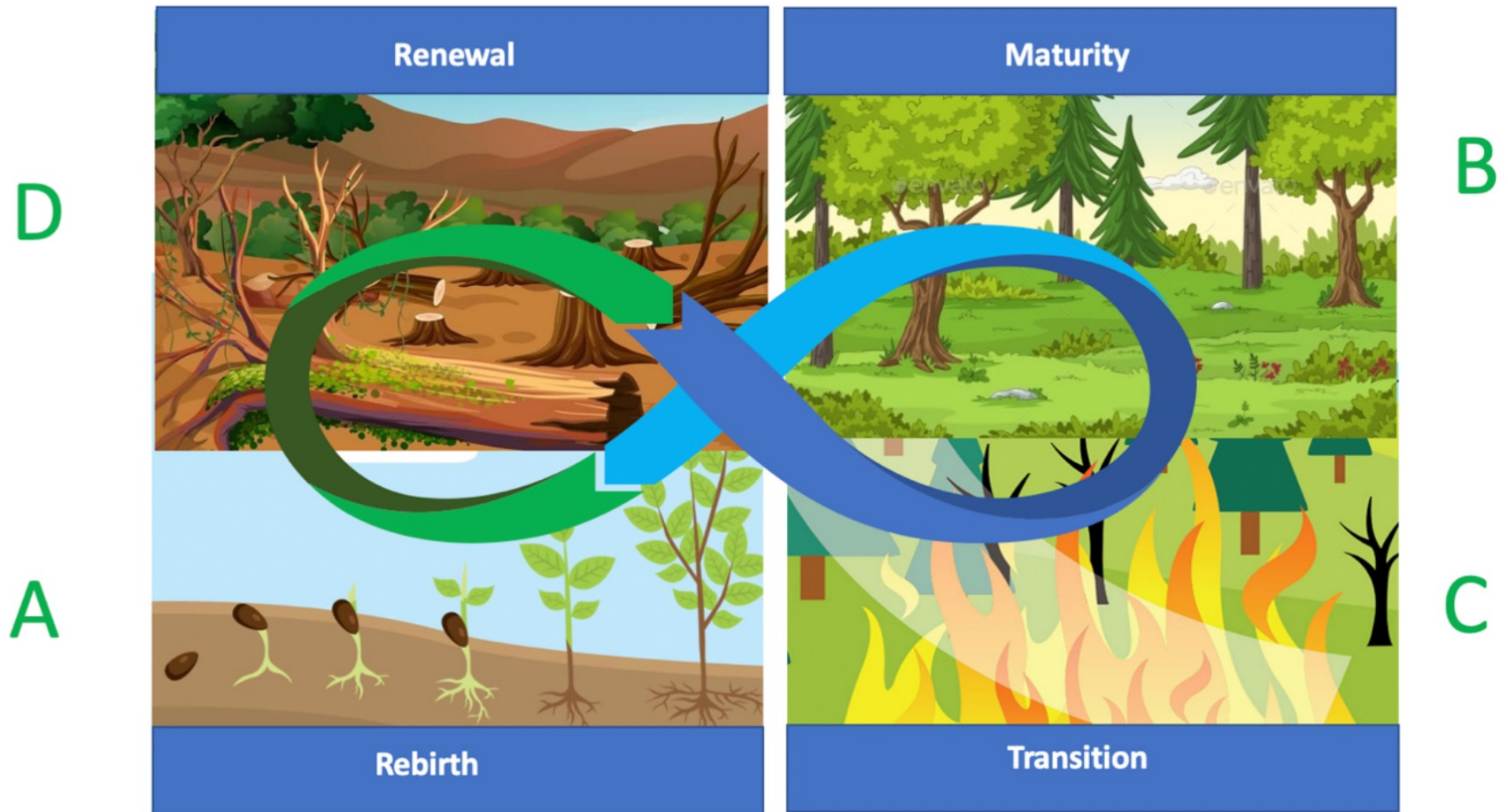


**SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
AWARDS

"Honoring  
Outstanding So  
cial Justice Lead



# Growth Cycle of Youth Advisory Boards



**Eco-cycle of Group Development**