

***Fostering
Authentic
Engagement:
Empowering Youth
in the Child Welfare***

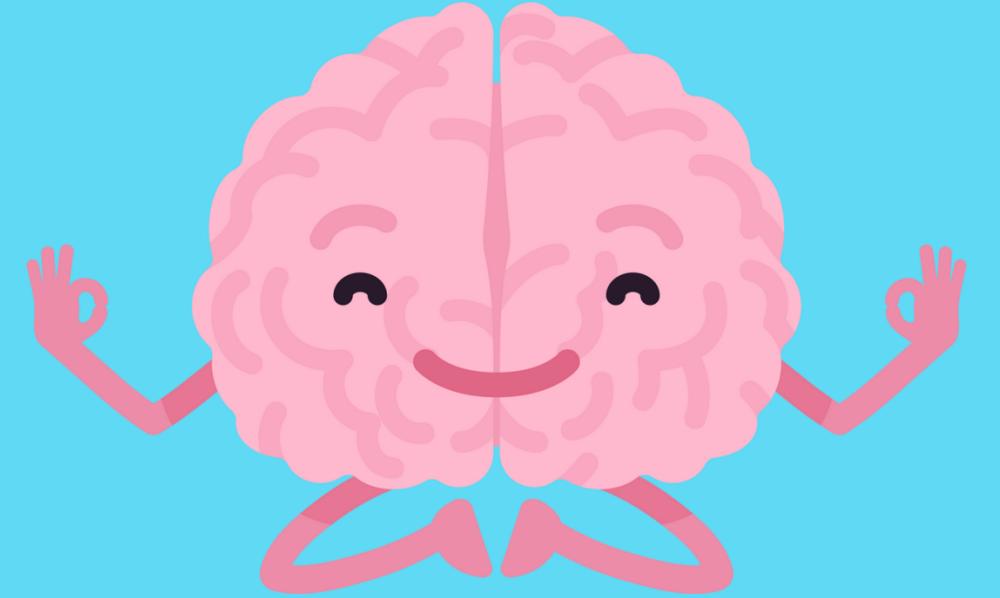
Marquan Teetz

WELCOME TO THE 2024 CHILD WELFARE SUMMIT!



Marquann Teetz

Youth Advocate:



Mental Health



Child Welfare

Juvenile Justice



What is authentic engagement and why it is important in child welfare



Meaningful Involvement

Respect and Trust

Empowerment

Improved Outcomes

Tailored Services

Trust Building

Accountability

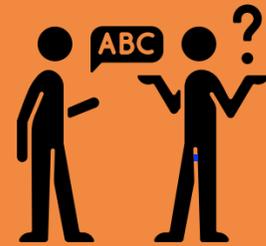


Relationships

Current Challenges in engaging Children, youth, and Young Adults in the child welfare system!



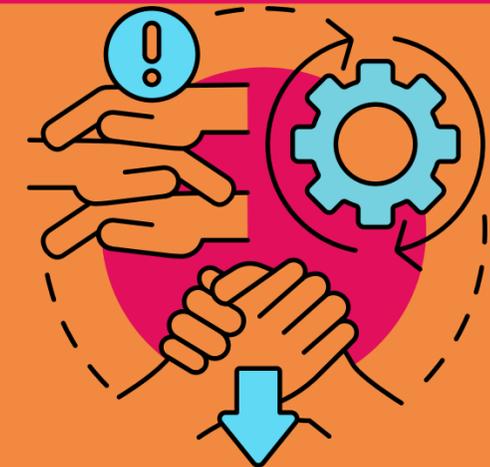
Trust Issues



Communication Barriers



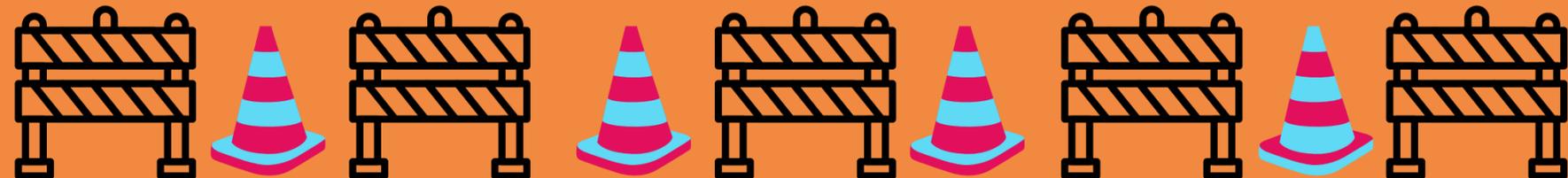
Lack of Empowerment



Stigma and Shame

Limited Resources and Support

Systemic Barriers



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Relationships

Here are practical strategies for authentic engagement with children, youth, and young adults in the child welfare system:



Actively Listen to Their Perspectives

**Create Safe Spaces for Sharing Thoughts and
Feelings**

**Provide Opportunities for Meaningful Participation in
Decision-Making Processes**

Respect Their Autonomy and Choices

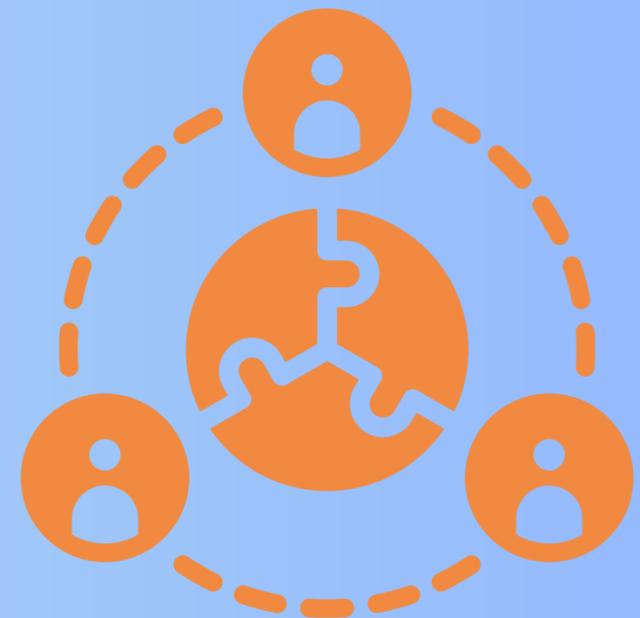
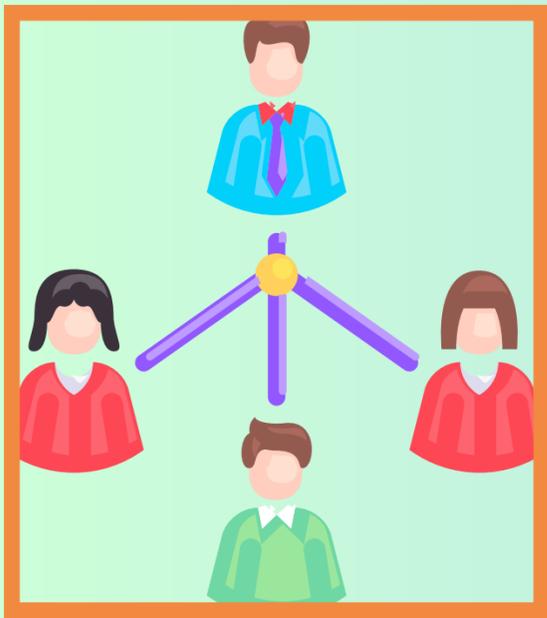
Provide Ongoing Support and Resources

Collaboration with stakeholders is essential for creating a comprehensive and effective support system for children, youth, and young adults in the child welfare system.

Foster Partnerships with Community Organizations

Involve Foster Parents, Caseworkers, Educators, and
Other Professionals

Create Interdisciplinary Teams to Support
Youth Comprehensively



Incorporating feedback from youth is crucial for creating a child welfare system that is responsive to their needs and experiences. Here's why it's significant

Regularly Seek Feedback from Youth about Their Experiences

Use Feedback to Improve Services and Policies

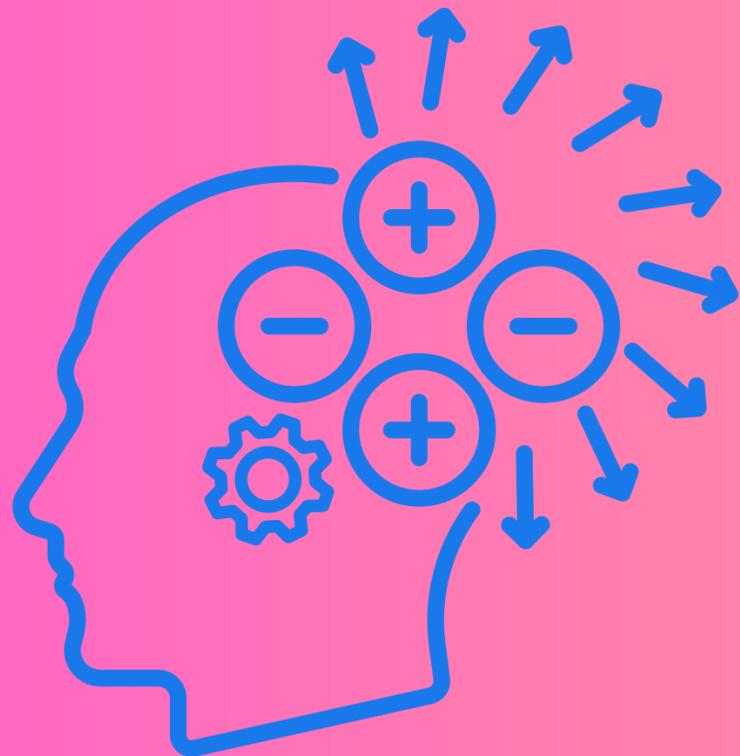
Demonstrate Responsiveness to Their Input



Robins Success story



Addressing barriers to authentic engagement is essential for creating a child welfare system that effectively involves children, youth, and young adults in decision-making processes.



Lack of Resources

Cultural and Systemic Barriers

Institutional Resistance to Change

Leadership and Commitment

Flexibility and Adaptability



Promoting diversity and inclusion within the child welfare system is not only a moral imperative but also essential for creating a system that effectively serves all children, youth, and young adults. Here's why it's important



Recognizing the Unique Experiences and Perspectives of Marginalized Groups

Ensuring Representation and Equity in Decision-Making Processes

Addressing Disparities and Inequities

Building Trust and Rapport: