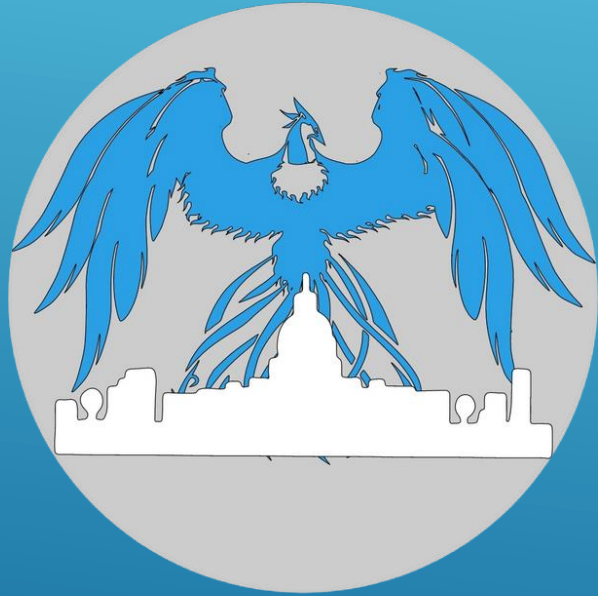


Emerging Phoenix



Created By Olivia Snoke
in Collaboration with Youths from
Virginia's Foster System

One Mile in Foster Shoes: A Foster Care Simulation



ABOUT US



At Emerging Phoenix, our mission is to increase chances for system-involved youth in becoming happy, healthy adults through education and advocacy. Helping youth heal from their past and emerge into the people they want to be as adults with an empathetic support system.



- ▶ Life in foster care is fraught with discomfort, lack of control, and confusion.
- ▶ Gain a new perspective on the grief and stereotypes these children experience.
- ▶ Understand the importance of a social worker and stability.
- ▶ How to support someone in a new environment, surrounded by strangers, with different rules.

THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

AGREE

DISAGREE

ACTIVITY

Based on your perceptions and experience do you agree or disagree with this statement





COLONIAL TIMES

Start of industrial era to 1875

Orphan Asylums

Indentured/Apprenticeships

Native American Boarding Schools

Slavery



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZED FOSTER CARE

1875 to 1962

Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Orphanages

Juvenile Courts Created

Adoption vs Foster Care



GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZED FOSTER CARE

Started 1962

Inadequate Child Protection
Services

Poverty Focus

Reforms



LIVED EXPERIENCE

Last 20 years

youth advisory councils,

independent living programs,

focus on positive youth development

Sharing Our Stories

Validation - Sharing lived experiences can help validate and affirm the experiences of marginalized or minority groups. It can help people feel a sense of belonging and combat feelings of isolation

Stigma - Speakers may feel vulnerable or fearful of stigma when sharing their lived experiences. They may also feel pressure to focus on the positive elements of their experience, which can alienate them from their own identity

Consequences - Sharing a lived experience can trigger memories and cause people to relive trauma. This can negatively impact their personal and professional relationships.

Trauma Mining - *the process of creating an environment that demands that individuals share experiences of Trauma. This process is branded as necessary for the moving forward of a mission to improve. However, it serves no purpose to those who are forced to relive their trauma and applies the pressure to prove their experience is in fact real.*

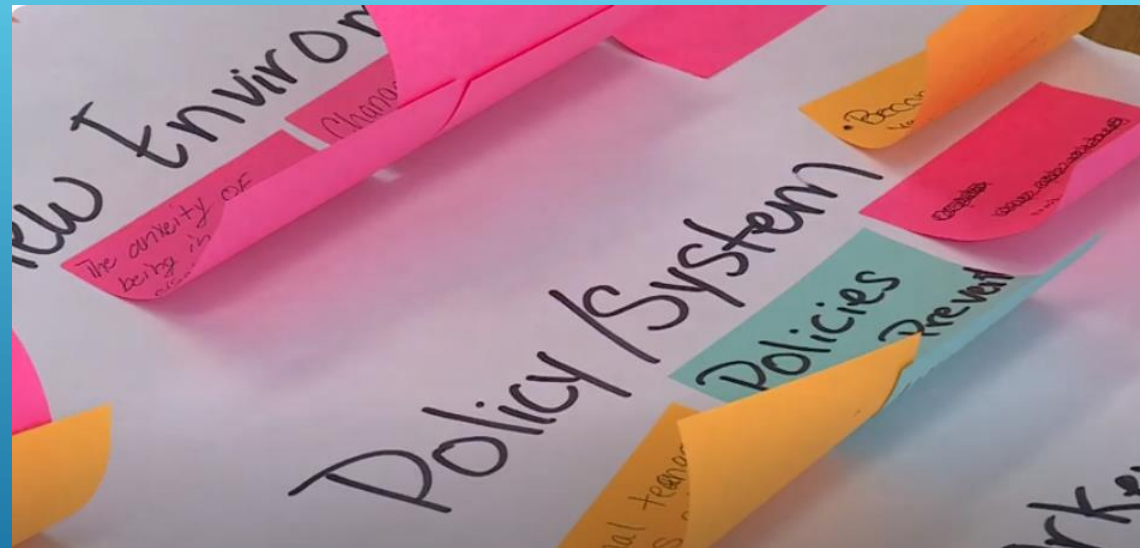
The Process to Create the Simulation

What is it like to enter foster care?

What is it like to live in foster care?

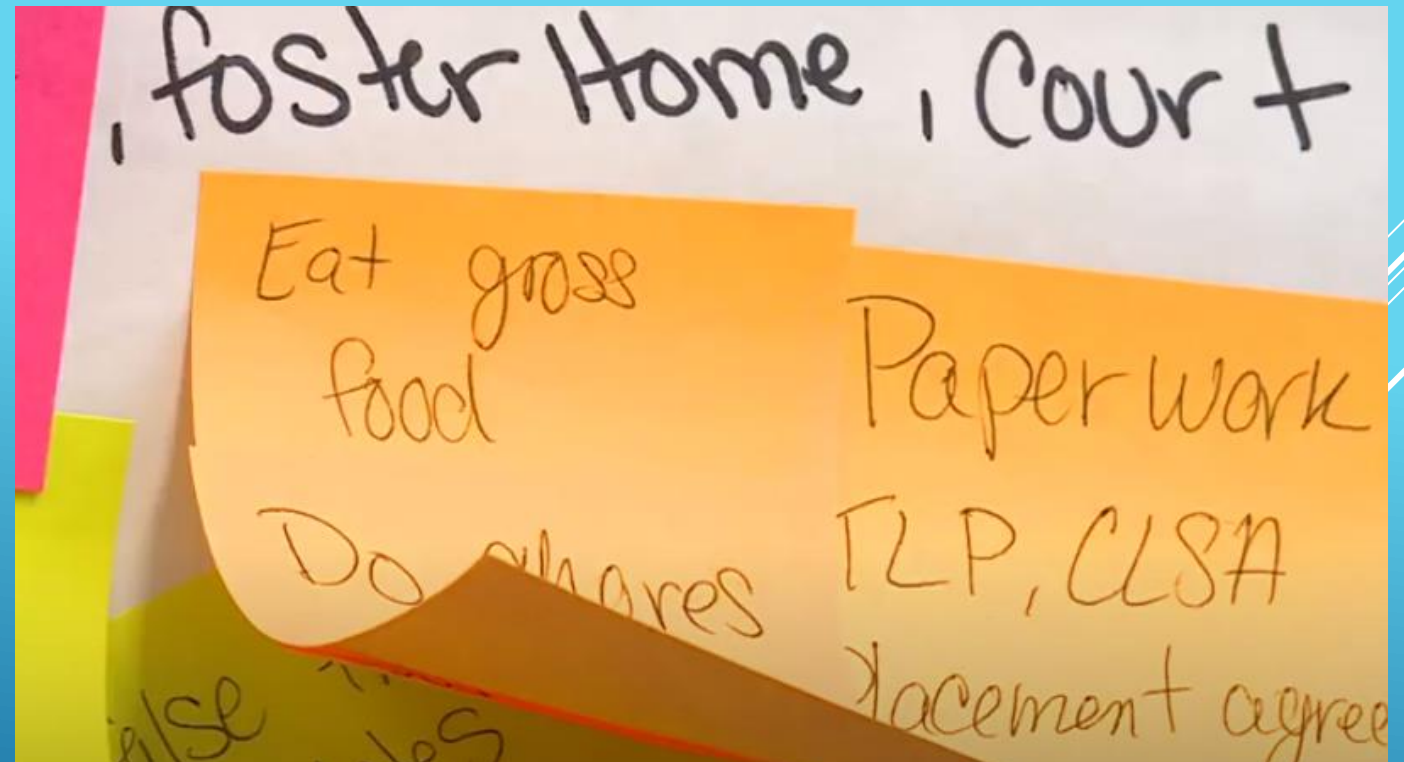
What are 5 things people Don't understand?

What are 5 ways we can help them understand?



The Pattern Reviled

Complex System & Policies
Important Worker Connection
Stereotypes they face
Surrounded by New People
Different Environment
Starting Over
Heavy Grief



Let's do one of the stations from One
Mile in Foster Shoes: A Foster Care
Simulation

The Paperwork Station

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

Social Worker Intern

The stress, confusion and trauma background of youth should be more fully considered. In the simulation there were lots of people asking me to do things I didn't understand, and trying get to very personal information from me.

DEBRIEF PAPERWORK STATION

Entering Foster Care:

Foster care was like getting my guts getting ripped out and my head ripped off.

I felt raw because I wasn't used to it, so I stayed to myself.

To "enter" foster care means you did it voluntary, but we were "placed"

Hello! Welcome to this place where we strip you from who you are. Birthdate and name please.

Foster Care was hard. It took me away from the one thing I knew, which was my family.

Being Given up on & having to be. It's a part of life.

It was hard entering foster care. I felt lonely specially at a young age. My depression will got stronger.

Entering Foster care for me was traumatic. I was put in a detention home for no reason.

Song Abandoned by Rod Wave

Entering foster Care was very nerve racking. It raised my anxiety a lot.

Living in foster care

Waking up each day in someone else's bed and house. Being treated like you don't know your living in someone else's house.

Its like I am a cat stuck in the rain. I hate the rain.

Hardest thing was all the changes including the environment.

I had new people I had to get used to and new kids that won't my siblings. It was hard.

Others are making life decisions without me.

Beginning in foster care is horrible with no one to talk to, but living in care there are still horrible situations, but its better because you have support.

In my first foster home it was scary. In the second one it was hell. In the third it was peaceful.

Hey, Wassup? I'm tired of being in here. These four walls are closing in. Plus, I am all alone, so that makes it worse. Especially when it feels like somebody wants to try to (or think they do) know me but have no idea what its like. I go to work.

It's crazy my bad memories outweigh the good ones.

Living in a group home was stupid and pointless. They want you to get better, but you are surrounded by bad influences. They don't stop bad behaviors. I got in trouble for things others did. Things I would never do. People who know me would know that I won't ever do it.

Living in care was actually quite normal. You learn to get used to the people around you.

New People –

Find people who you love but not being able to stay with them

Creating bonds with new people that I love but the struggle to maintain those connections as placement changes

Making Temporary relationship then having to leave.

Dealing with personality clashes between you and others at “home”

Getting a Whole new family you don't know

Ignorance of the people you are surrounded by

becoming comfortable with your foster parents and/or siblings

Having to make new friends

Having to get used to strange people

Having no one but yourself having to live with strangers that are temporary

Dealing with the peer pressure [in a group home of individuals with negative behaviors]

I have to protect myself from new people

Getting in trouble for things someone else did. If they knew me at all they would know I would never had done that.

New Environment –

Being pulled out of school and having to explain to others why.

Having to deal with New people that do things New ways

The anxiety of being on someone else's home, a stranger

No freedoms until others feel they can trust us

New School, New Teachers [getting behind because of the differences in school systems.]

Feeling of Loss –

Being told someone [you love] is not good enough

Being away from your family (the ones you miss) and not being able to see those family and friends

Grief of losing what you know

Having to stop loving someone

Separated from Everyone

Losing your hole life (all of your belongings, people and Life)

Becoming very depressed [due to the situation] and having to cope having no one care for you [the just give us medications like it will fix our sadness]

Starting Over –

“Great Job... Get Out!” – once a youth completes a program they have to leave when they adapted to and the people they bonded with.

Having to restart your whole LIFE! Over and over again

Belonging and relationships are lost or taken

Regression

When your grown your on your own

Policies/System –

Not being able to live a regular childhood (not getting the same freedoms as others our age)

“Hurry up and wait” Working hard to complete a program to get moved but a new place hasn’t been found yet.

Don’t always gotta be so strict – it’s like being punished for other kids actions.

Normal teenage antics get us in trouble, we can’t even have cell phones

Some policies that prevent mistakes [we need to be able to learn from our mistakes]

Importance of Worker Connection -

Staff Change overs and having to rebuild a relationship and getting to know each other

Not relaying court updates when it is all about me and my future.

Having A Lot of workers in your business, asking the same questions it get annoying (placement, DSS, Therapist, Etc.)

How important meeting with worker is but it is a scripted check list.

The CPS people that try to act like your friend but they're NOT

Stigma/Stereotypes –

Teenage expectations are too low

Feeling like I am the bad guy

I am going my best [not doing this on purpose] – I am human too

The assumptions made as to the reason for “acting out”

Ask your questions about the foster care experience:

Foster Child

Foster Parent

Social Worker

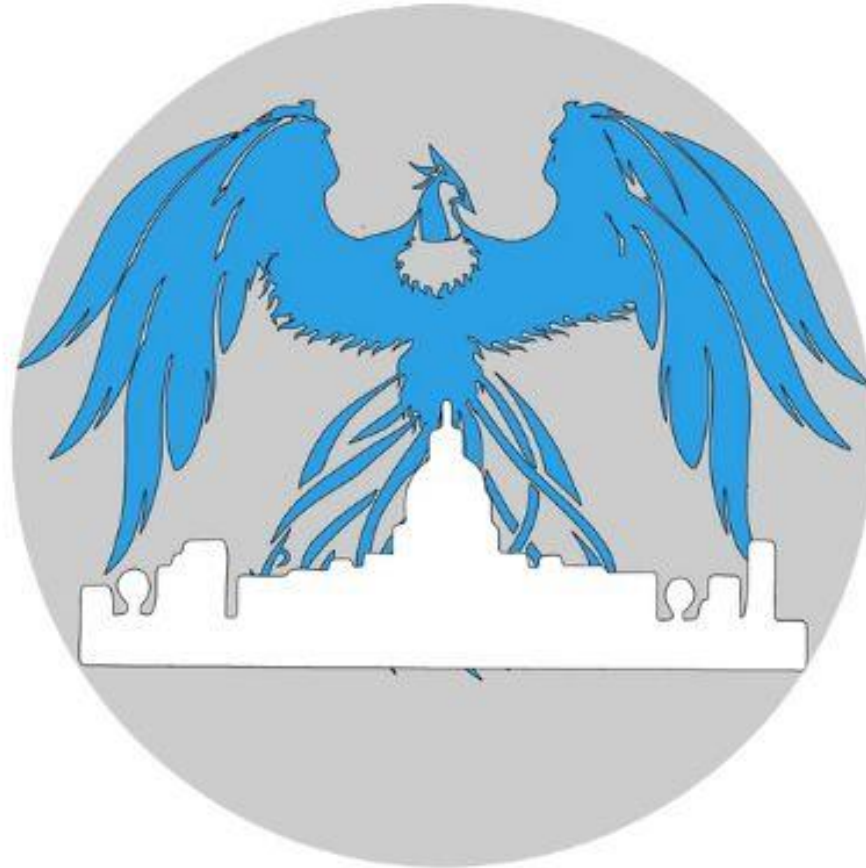
Private Provider



Emerging Phoenix

Assisting System Involved Youth in Becoming Happy, Healthy Adults

**One Mile in
Foster Shoes:
A Foster Care
Simulation**



**Chafee
Independent
Living Services to
Support LDSS**

BENEFITS FOR YOUTH

- Emerging Phoenix will stick with youth even during placement transitions
- Youth lead sessions with Life Navigator
- Life Navigators will assist in advocating for youth's needs, desires and goals.
- Evidence-based curriculum instills knowledge for youth to make informed decisions and avoid unhealthy risk taking.



JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

obtaining a high school diploma and post-secondary education, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training and opportunities to practice daily living skills (such as financial literacy training and driving instruction), substance abuse prevention, and preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention)

Support network with caring adult
engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities, positive youth development, and experiential learning that reflects what their peers in intact families experience
provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 23 years of age

Education about importance of power of attorney, health care proxy, or similar document

Human trafficking education

NYTD tracking

Independent Living skills assessment once a year

Have a team meeting to determine goals and plans to build on Independent Living skills

Monthly Independent living skills building

Yearly Credit Check

113 STAT. 1824

PUBLIC LAW 106-169—DEC. 14, 1999

graduation and continuing, as needed, until the young adults emancipated from foster care establish independence or reach 21 years of age.

(b) IMPROVED INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM.—Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 477. JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM.

“(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide States with flexible funding that will enable programs to be designed and conducted—

“(1) to identify children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and to help these children make the transition to self-sufficiency by providing services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and financial management skills, substance abuse prevention, and preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention);

“(2) to help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment;

“(3) to help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions;

“(4) to provide personal and emotional support to children aging out of foster care, through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults; and

“(5) to provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

“(b) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may apply for funds from its allotment under subsection (c) for a period of five consecutive fiscal years by submitting to the Secretary, in writing, a plan that meets the requirements of paragraph (2) and the certifications required by paragraph (3) with respect to the plan.

“(2) STATE PLAN.—A plan meets the requirements of this paragraph if the plan specifies which State agency or agencies will administer, supervise, or oversee the programs carried out under the plan, and describes how the State intends to do the following:



Emerging Phoenix

Assisting system involved youth in becoming happy, healthy adults.

Olivia Snoke

279-383-8098

Olivia.Snoke@emergingphoenix.us

EmergingPhoenix.us

THANK YOU