

YOUTH IN PROGRESS

Onondaga County Permanency Summit

PANEL MEMBERS:

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YOUTH IN
PROGRESS



YOUTH SPEAK OUT



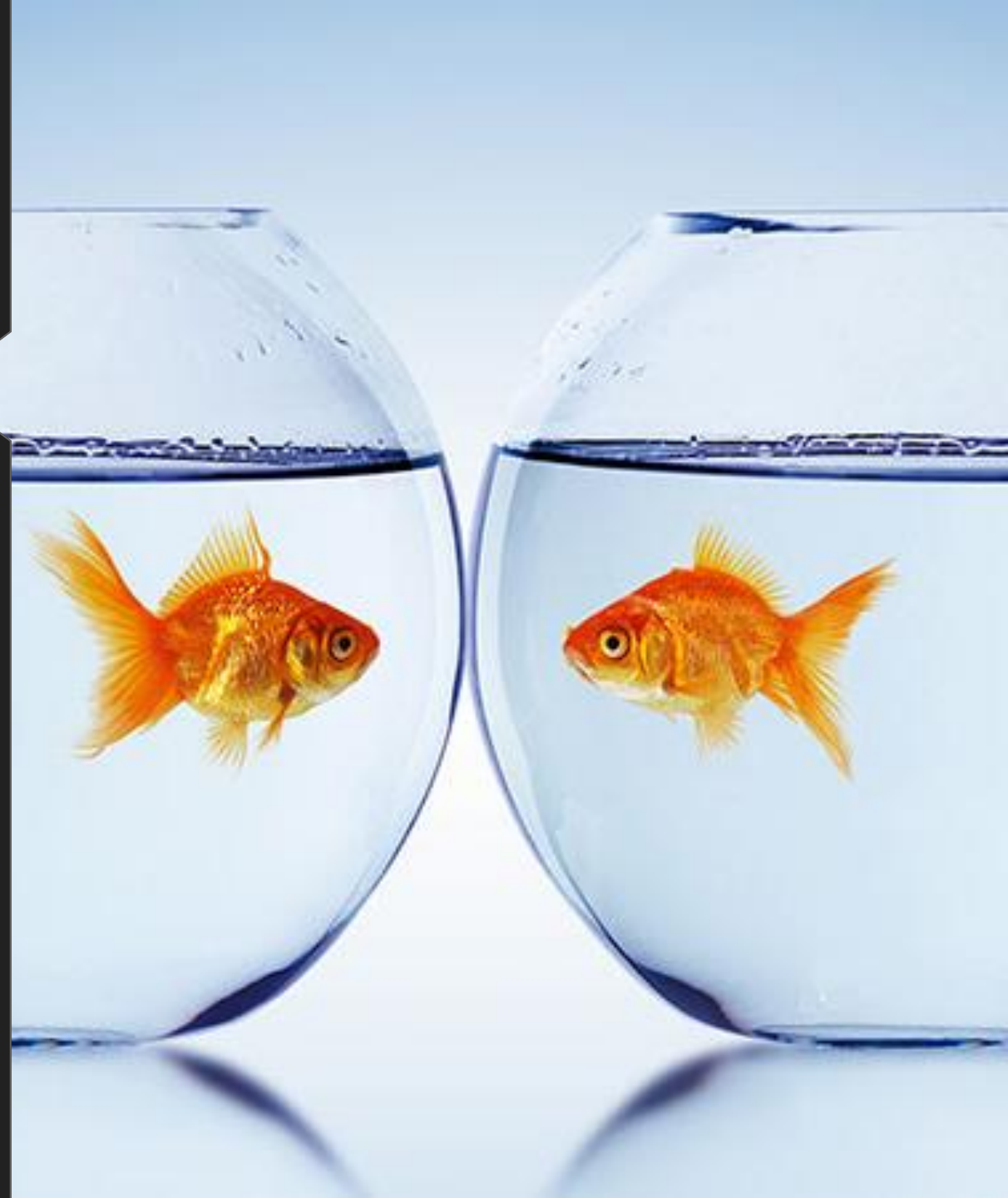
What does PERMANENCY mean to you?

- 10% of the participating youth stated that they have NO permanent adult connections
- Youth expressed sensing an unnecessary delay in achieving permanency. Youth reported feeling stagnant in current placements.
- Youth expressed feeling “ready” for a step-down or discharge, but caseworker/agency staff not communicating necessary steps to achieve this (or delaying this with no rationale).

**What actions did
your county or
agency take that
were helpful in
securing
permanency?**



**What actions did
your county or
agency take that
were NOT helpful
in securing
permanency?**



How important were familiar faces/places?

- Youth reported having minimal phone contact with their families (per agency policy), and having phone calls reduced/taken away as a consequence.
- Youth reported not being provided with adequate emotional support after particularly overwhelming phone calls, leading to crisis in the foster home/program.
- Youth reported having limited family visitation due to transportation obstacles.

What actions were taken by your county or agency to promote your existing connections with family and friends?



**What more
can/should be done
to promote youth's
existing connections
with family and
friends when they
enter foster care?**



What about NORMALCY?

- Youth reported missing out on experiences due to being in the foster care system.
- Youth expressed an interest in being able to experience normalcy by being able to spend time with friends, obtain employment, participate in extracurricular/recreational activities, use social media, and possess a cell phone.
- Youth expressed frustration over not being able to participate in extracurricular activities (due to lack of funds or transportation.)
- Youth expressed feeling stigmatized based on their status as youth in foster care. Youth reported feeling “judged” by both their peers and adults. Youth also spoke to how the lack of normalcy adds to this stigma.

How Important is YOUTH VOICE?



OPEN QUESTIONS

