

HI H.O.P.E.S.

Hawai ‘i Helping Our People Envision Success



“The HI H.O.P.E.S. youth leadership boards provide the youth voice for HYOI and the DHS-Child Welfare Services by **educating** others on the needs of transitioning foster youth, **collaborating** with community partners and **advocating** for improved outcomes.”



The National
**FOSTER CARE
YOUTH & ALUMNI**
Policy Council



casey family programs



FosterClub

the national network
for young people
in foster care



FOSTER CARE™
ALUMNI
of America

<http://nfyapc.drupalgardens.com/>



U.S. Department
of Health and
Human Services



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Children's Bureau

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



**Congressional
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914

NFCYAPC Recommendations

- ✓ **Aging Out** (October 06, 2012)
- ✓ **Vulnerability - Sex Abuse and Human Trafficking** (October 06, 2012)
- ✓ **Higher Education** (April 16, 2013)
- ✓ **Mental Health** (April 16, 2013)
- ✓ **Normalcy** (April 16, 2013)
- ✓ **Well-Being** (November 2014)
- ✓ **Implementation of P.L. 113-183** (Nov. 2014)



**The Preventing Sex Trafficking
and Strengthening Families Act
(Public Law 113-183)**

Promoting NORMALCY for Children and Youth in Foster Care

- Ensure that children in foster care engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities.
- Institute the 'reasonable and prudent parent standard' for youth participation in activities.
- Develop standards and training on the reasonable and prudent parenting standard for foster parents and caregivers.
- Implement contract requirements so child care institutions always have an individual onsite who is designated to exercise the reasonable and prudent parent standard.
- Institute liability protections when the reasonable and prudent parenting standard is applied by foster parents.
- Mandate judicial review of normalcy for youth who have a permanency goal of APPLA. (*Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement*)
- Require participation of youth age 14 and older in case planning and identification of advisors/advocates.
- Mandate provision of a list of rights to youth age 14 and older.
- Mandate inclusion of youth age 14 and older in transition planning.

What is **NORMALCY**?

Age and developmentally-appropriate activities and experiences that will allow children and youth to grow.

Barriers to Normalcy

- Fears that youth will get HURT and that agencies and individuals will be held LIABLE.
- Foster youth and foster parents have to obtain PERMISSION for many activities.
- A foster parent's AUTHORITY is often unclear
- Congregate care is RESTRICTIVE and does not provide the role of a 'prudent parent' .

Barriers-Comments from *'Ohana is Forever Conference*

- Liability
- Lack of trust between young person and adults
- Lack of personal connection/relationships
- Money
- Transportation
- Cultural differences
- Not knowing the law and its requirements
- Inconsistent visits from social workers and GALs
- Young people not given a forum to express their needs and wants

Costs of Not Providing Normalcy

- Foster youth feel SOCIALLY EXCLUDED
- Hinders WELL-BEING and PERMANENCY
- SKILLS necessary for adulthood not developed
- Affects RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING skills
- Prevents DECISION-MAKING and SELF-LEADERSHIP
- Increased chance of NEGATIVE LIFE OUTCOMES, HIGHER SOCIAL COST

What is PRUDENT PARENTING?

The term *'reasonable and prudent parent standard'* means the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the State to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.

IMPLEMENTING THE LAW

- 1) States should provide a right for children in foster care to engage in age-or developmentally-appropriate activities, and an affirmative obligation on the child welfare agency to provide these opportunities.
- 2) States should enforce normalcy provisions by requiring a) inclusion of age-appropriate activities in each child's case plan, b) judicial oversight, and c) youth-friendly grievance procedures.
- 3) States should supply youth with a document describing their rights under federal and state law and youth-friendly grievance procedures.
- 4) States should codify the reasonable and prudent parent standard and clarify the scope of decision-making authority and the considerations for decision making.
- 5) States should afford protections from liability to foster parents and caregivers who follow the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

Recommendations-‘Ohana is Forever Comments

- Legal protection and guidance for resource caregivers
- Training and continuing education for resource caregivers
- Readily accessible information about the law (checklists/handouts/online/warmline)
- Supportive relationships between youth/RCG/SW/GAL
- Open communication with youth
- Consistent visits and availability of SW/GAL
- One-on-one visits between youth and SW/GAL/Judgs
- Encourage youth to attend all court hearings
- Provide opportunities for youth to share their voice, wants, needs
- Listen to the youth

NFCYAPC RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Include youth and alumni of foster care in the development and amending of foster youth rights**
- **Encourage states to educate other stakeholders about our rights**
- **Provide specific guidance about how-and how often-rights must be provided to foster youth**
- **Provide requirements about items that must be included in a list of rights**
- **Develop and implement a youth-friendly grievance process**
- **Do not disqualify foster youth from extracurricular activities based solely on foster care status**

Normalcy Poll - 2013

More restrictive placement settings contributed to a lower degree of normalcy.

Many foster youth lack control over even minor aspects of their lives.

Allowance: 75 % current youth vs. 52% of alumni

Club/Sports: 92% current youth vs. 76% of alumni

Learning to Cook: 77% current youth vs. 78% of alumni

Overnight stays: 46% current youth vs. 54% of alumni

Work/Volunteer: 62% current youth vs. 76% of alumni