Communications Report Out on Youth Engagement

1) Quarterly Statewide Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OYAB) – 04/18/2019

Common Themes:

Treatment Model Considerations
• **24/7 Nursing and Clinical staff**
  o Staff to handle crises need to be available 24/7, not just for ER situations where an emergency room visit is required
  o Youth in crisis need 24/7 supports. Examples of Crisis: self-harm/harming others, panic/anxiety attacks, not feeling safe/triggers
  o Youth in crisis need to know how to access crisis services at all hours (nurse, clinician)
• **Family Engagement**  
  o Prioritize family engagement with family members (fictive and relative) with whom youth feel safe and comfortable.
  o Let (safe, healthy) family members be a part of treatment.
• **Trauma-informed model**
  o Many Group Homes and CRCs, as well as foster homes, have a behavior ‘Level system.’ This level system impacts recreational activities, school functions, visits with family, access to call family and caseworker, etc.
  o Individualized treatment: Let youth be part of the plan and attend meetings

Level of Care
• Need to ask questions about how youth are feeling with no retaliation for youth who share. Questions to ask youth:
  o Are you comfortable?
  o How do you like other people in the placement?
  o Do you feel supported?
  o Do you understand why you are here?
• Desire for focus on successful reintegration into society.
• Youth feel seeing family members would have been helpful and supportive. Youth reported many instances of “having to earn the right to see family members.”
• Youth in residential facilities can have a lack of access to share concerns about what is going on

2) Youth/Young Adult Focus Groups
• **Existing Meetings/Events/Conferences**
• **Local YAB Forums**
• **Other suggestions?**