

*"If You Don't Ask,
I'm Not Telling You Anything!"*
What Works When Engaging In Real Talk
With Foster Youth Around Dating and
Sexual Behaviors?

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SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

SOCIAL NORMS & CULTURE
HONORING EXPERIENCES & PERSPECTIVES



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Workshop Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Icebreaker
- Video
- Getting to know you
 - Social norms and culture for teens
 - Connections to foster youth
- Interests and expectations
- Who we are, motivations
- Holding a space for these discussions
- Real Talk

Questions for Consideration

- #1 : How would you describe your agency or setting in terms of understanding millennial behavior?
- #2 : What suggestions would you make to influence more open communication with adolescents transitioning from care?
- #3 : What strategies do you believe need to be employed to make a paradigm shift for adolescents to feel safe to have these discussions with social workers?
- #4 : What do you believe would work best to engage youth to discuss practice preferences in a group setting?
- #5 : What strategies has your agency/caregivers employed to build capacity to initiate these conversations with foster youth?

Small Group Exercise

- Talking with Teens and Young Adults
- Strengths-based communication and language
- Making a connection
- Ah Ha! Moments
- Listening for keys
- My turn, where do I begin?

Tough Conversations

- Sensitive and highly personal
- Trauma history
- Cultural landmines
- Foster Care History
- Adolescent development
- Level of acquaintance
- Personal agendas
- Authentic Inquiry vs. Nosiness!?

Now We're Talking...?!

- Initiating the conversation
 - Role Play
- Personal communication
- Sexual communication
 - Advice or information?
 - Question or statement
- Strategic sharing
- Role determination
 - Learner?
 - Listener ?

Trust, Inclusiveness and Communication

- Privacy and confidentiality
- Because no one listens...
- Nothing about me, without me!
- Vulnerability
- Suspending judgement
- Staying on track
- Ok to switch drivers

Sexual Communication and Safety

- Foster youth often miss the school talk
- Lack consistency in placement, peer group
- History of broken promises, trust violations
- Difficult to create or discover a place to start
- Always worth it!
- You and the golden opportunity
- Information saves lives
- Know that very often they desire the connection

Feedback, Questions and Next Steps

- What does this workshop bring to mind for you?
- What successes have you experienced? Willing to share?
- Suggestions for next steps?
- What gaps exist in today's workshop? Information you wanted and didn't get?
- Something you hoped for?
- Places to go from here....?

Thank you!!

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