What is the DCS Youth Empowerment Council?
Introducing DCS YEC

- The mission of the council is to improve the experience of foster care for youth.
- There are currently ten active members and many others who participate on a regular basis.
- The DCS Youth Empowerment Council is a concerted effort by the Arizona Department of Child Safety to establish an authentic Youth/Adult partnership.
- Enhance child well-being and healthy development all youth in foster care.
A Few Projects This Past Year

- YEC has developed a presentation to be given to youth in group homes, which explains the foster care bill of rights, ways to self-advocate, roles and responsibilities of staff required by group home contracts.
  - Members of the YEC leadership team gave a presentation to group home owners explaining their objective to educate youth in group homes.

- YEC has improved Arizona’s Cell Phone Policy for youth living in congregate care by having access to landlines or cell phones.
  - This updated Policy has been approved recently by the Department of Child Safety and is currently in policy, “DCS 15-05 Telephonic Access for Youth in Care”
DCS YEC
Leadership

President
Faith Sexton
February 2019 – Present

Vice President
Ryan Young
February 2019 – Present
YEC Membership
Spencer L.
Cheyenne P.
Sierra P.
James M.
Bobbi C.
Kayla K.
Malakai F.
Chastity W.

DCS Staff
Barbara Guillen
Megan Conrad
Lauren Zanotti
Felix Fornino
Alex Ong
Laura Farrington
Leah Adams
Jackie Carter
COLLABORATION. We will work with DCS Executive team to compile ways the Council can find solutions towards:

- Creating a Siblings Bill of Rights
- Increasing available permanency options ie: family-centered placements
- Reduce the amount of youth runaways while in care

OUTREACH. We understand that in order to stay in touch with our peers, we must do so on multiple medias.

- Plan and coordinate our Annual DCS Young Adult Program Conference
- Plan and coordinate our Annual DCS Convening Event
- Forming local county-level DCS youth advisory boards
- Continuing our social media efforts
Youth Thrive: Working to See Change National Convening Conference

New Orleans, LA - November, 2019

ASU Next Chapter Symposium: DCS YEC Presentation on Extended Foster Care

Phoenix, AZ - February, 2020

Annual DCS Young Adult Winter Formal Event

Chandler, AZ - February, 2020

Chafee Program Alliance Annual Grantee Conference

Washington, D.C. - March, 2020

DCS YEC & IKEA Young Adults & Families Donation Partnership Event

Tempe, AZ - May, 2020
Activating Youth Engagement Virtual Summit
Phoenix, AZ - August, 2020

ACF Assistant Secretary Lynn A. Johnson Roundtable
Phoenix, AZ - September, 2020

3rd Annual DCS Youth Leadership Day
Phoenix, AZ - November, 2020

CB Associate Commissioner Dr. Jerry Milner Roundtable: Adoption
Phoenix, AZ - December, 2020

Annual DCS Young Adult Program Holiday Movie Night - LoveUp Partnership
Scottsdale, AZ - December, 2020
Want to stay connected
Follow us on Instagram
@AZ_YEC