

Tomorrow is another problem: The experiences of youth in foster care during their transition into adulthood.

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“Tomorrow is another problem”: The experiences of youth in foster care during their transition into adulthood

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Abstract

This study gathered qualitative information about the experiences of youth transitioning out of foster care into adulthood, from the perspectives of youth themselves, as well as foster parents and professionals. Data was gathered from 10 focus groups comprised of a total of 88 participants, including youth currently in foster care ($n = 19$), foster care alumni ($n = 8$), foster parents ($n = 21$), child welfare professionals ($n = 20$), education professionals ($n = 9$), Independent Living Program staff ($n = 9$) and other key professionals ($n = 2$). Findings of key themes included: (a) self-determination; (b) coordination/collaboration (c) importance of relationships; (d) importance of family; (e) normalizing the foster care experience; (f) the Independent Living Program and (g) issues related to disability.



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Keywords

Foster care; Adolescents; Disabilities; Emancipation

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