




Updates From  
the Field: Tools  
& Tactics for  
Trusted Adults





## The National Campaign's Mission

- Our **goal** is to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families.
  - We address the complex factors that lead to unplanned pregnancy through **policy, research, capacity building, convening, and strategic communications.**
  - We approach our work in an **evidence-based, bi-partisan, non-ideological way.**
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# Objectives


- **Describe** common themes from in-depth interviews with youth in care and frontline child welfare staff about preventing unplanned pregnancy
- **Conceptualize** issues related to foster youth populations and sexual and reproductive health; and understand how you can be a trusted/askable adult.
- **Describe** the ways CASAs and other trusted adults can educate youth on topics related to sexual and reproductive health



# Agenda

- **Updates From the Field:** Transition to Success Project (**JeNeen Anderson**)
- **A Closer Look:** Challenges and Solutions – Being an Askable Adult (**Jaime Muñoz**)
- **Tools in Action:** Experience of a Former CASA (**Kyle Lafferty**)
- **Q&A**





# JeNeen M. Anderson, MPH

Senior Manager, Programs  
Transition to Success Project  
The National Campaign

# Transition to Success Project



- Goal: To develop an innovative systems-level intervention to help support transition-age youth in foster care avoid an unplanned pregnancy.
- Method: Human-Centered Design Process to learn more about the lives, context, and need of three groups:
  - Youth in foster care ages 16-21
  - Child welfare front line staff
  - Administrators or other relevant professionals
  - In-depth interviews, observations, and focus groups





# Emerging Themes

- Behavioral health/mental health counselors could engage youth in conversations about pregnancy planning and sexual health;
- Trusted adults can take advantage of the teachable moments in a youth's life to have conversations about pregnancy planning and sexual health;
- Conversations could be explored in a peer-to-peer setting (i.e. peer-led classes or support groups);



# Emerging Themes

- Conversations need to be honest and straightforward (i.e. no sugar coating);
- Stereotypes prevent social workers from addressing these topics in depth with all of their youth; and
- Keep it simple, but expand beyond the checkbox approach for more meaningful interaction.



## *Foster Care Youth:*

### *Who are the trusted adults in their lives?*

- CASA/GAL
- Foster Parent
- Older Sibling
- Social Worker
- Extended Family Members
- Teacher/Coach
- Judge
- Mentor
- Counselor/Therapist

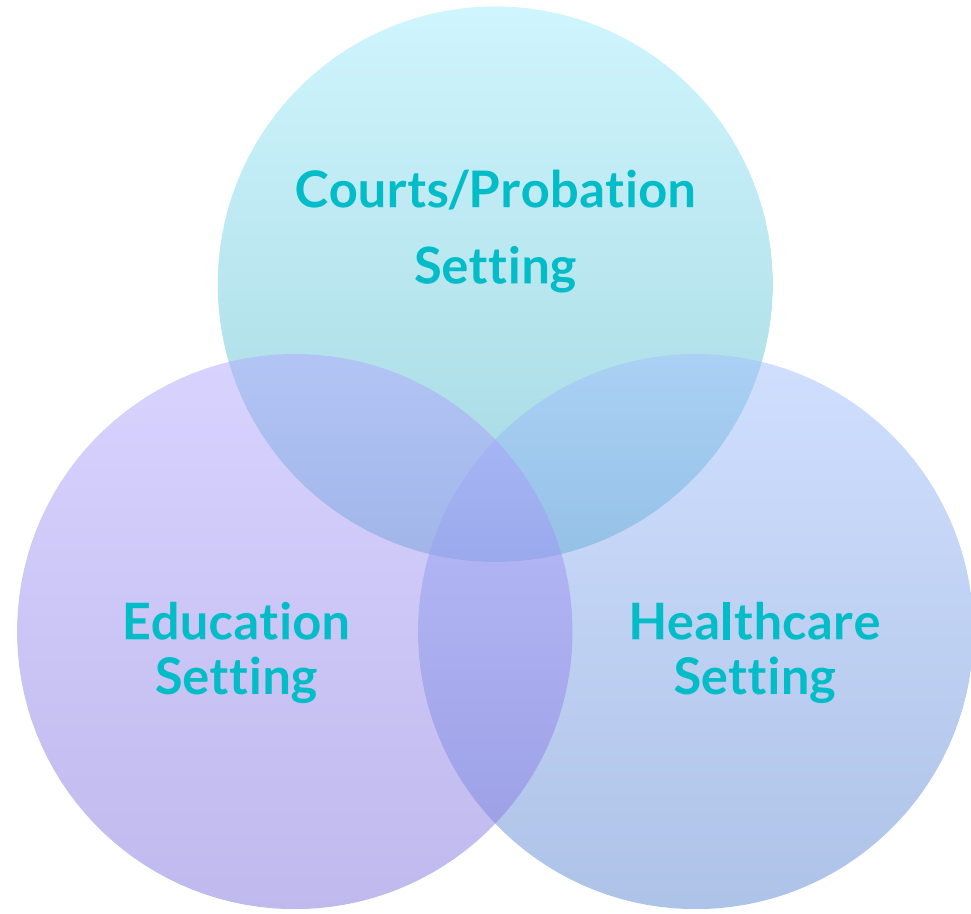




Initial Trauma



Removal from Home



Placement in Care



Transition Out of Care





# Jaime Muñoz

Administrative Manager II  
OC Social Services Agency



# Urgency, Right & Responsibility to Act



## Urgency to Act

- Incidence of Unplanned Pregnancy
- Diminished Life Outcomes



## Right to Act

- Orange County Policy: [Reproductive/Sexual Health & Parenting](#) + [Prudent & Reasonable Parenting Standard](#)
- [CA's Plan for the Prevention of Unintended Pregnancy for Youth & Non-Minor Dependents](#)



## Responsibility to Act


- Supporting Healthy Sexual Development
- Supporting Successful Transition to Adulthood
- Improving Multi-Generational Life Trajectories



## Expected Outcomes

- Increase awareness of the important role you hold to immediately impact the life trajectory of youth in your care
- Increase awareness of the essentiality of supporting healthy sexual development
- Increase awareness of resources to enlist in supporting the healthy sexual development of youth in your care
- **Become an Askable Adult**





# Why are the rates so high? So many youth have sex but why are foster youth the ones getting pregnant?

The Issue: It's Complicated

Trauma

Access to  
Care/Birth  
Control

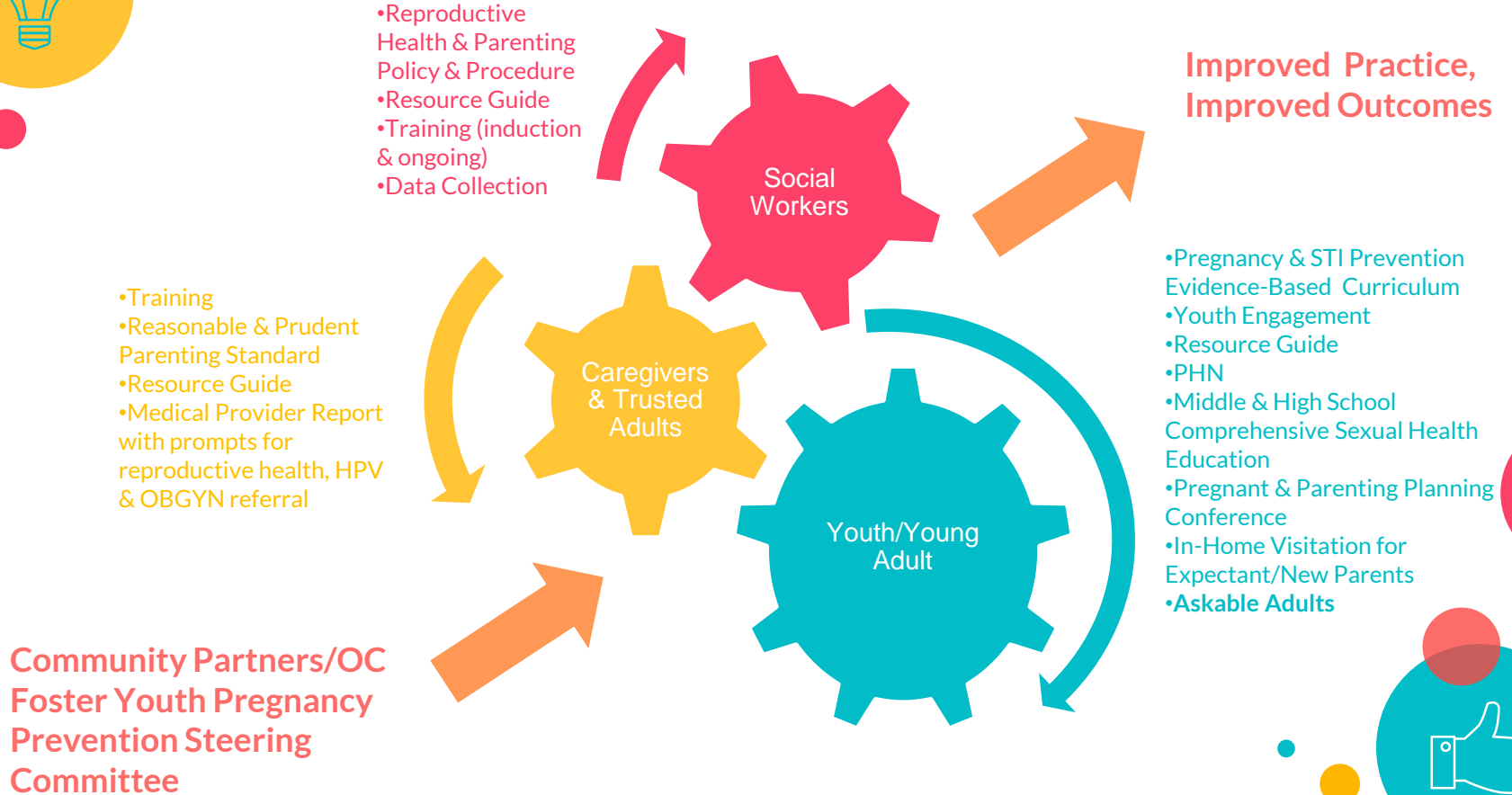
Unclear  
Local/State  
Policy


Lack of  
Knowledge  
and  
Information  
on the Topic

Higher  
pregnancy  
and birth  
rates than  
the general  
population



# How can we make a difference? Impact Points





# Pathway to Reducing Pregnancy & STI Among Youth/Young Adults in Foster Care

Youth/young adults engage with “askable adults”.

Youth/young adults access sexual/reproductive health resources.

Youth/young adults are aware & informed of sexual/reproductive health rights, information and resources.

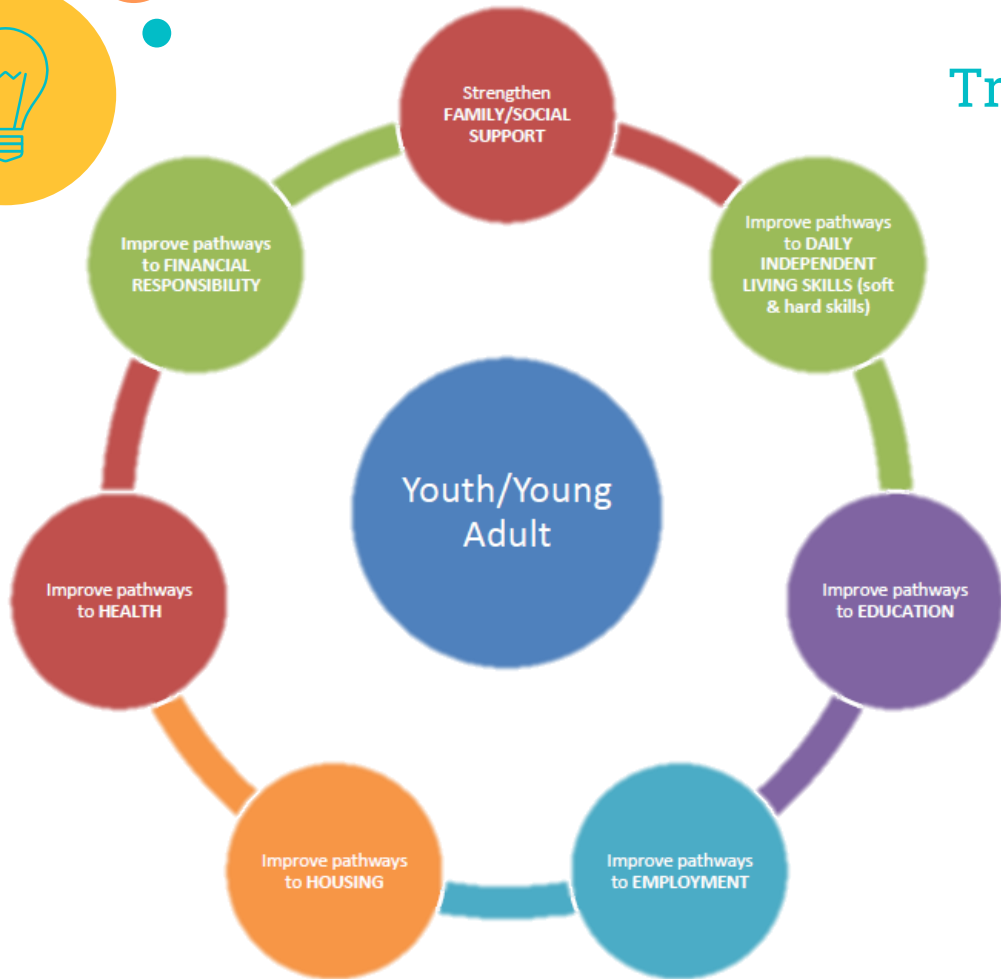
Youth/young adults use the most appropriate forms of contraception to decide when to get pregnant, and to prevent STI.

Fewer youth/young adults have mistimed/unintended pregnancies that may inhibit their path to socio-economic security - to successful transition to adulthood.





# Shaping a Future Outlook for Transition Age Youth in Foster Care: Impact Points



**SUCCESSFUL  
TRANSITION TO  
ADULTHOOD &  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
SECURITY**





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Public Health

# Personal Experience as a CASA...



○Tip #1 - Never Assume

○Tip #2 - Listen



○Tip #3 - Lather, Rinse, Repeat

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Coming Soon!  
Tips & Tools for  
Trusted Adults

The National Campaign's  
Newest Resource



Trauma-Informed

Scripts Included

Research-Informed



Age Specific

User-Friendly





The National Campaign  
to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

<http://thenationalcampaign.org>

# Thanks!

## Any questions?

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<http://stayteen.org>

