

Using Digital Stories to Promote Permanency Efforts

Background Notes

Think about how your staff currently define and approach the issue of supporting youth in achieving permanency. This activity is designed to help your staff understand permanency from a youth's perspective.

Convene a group supervision meeting and let your staff know that the focus will be on youth permanency. Prior to the meeting, ask them to come prepared to talk about successes and challenges they've experienced in their work with youth. Let them know that they will be viewing some digital stories created by young people. We suggest showing Leslie, Giselle, and/or Sasha's stories from the PASS Project DVD.

Before you show the stories, ask your staff: What does permanency mean to you? What are you currently doing with the youth on your caseload to support permanency efforts? What are your challenges and successes? (It may be helpful to flipchart their responses so that you can reference later.)

Show the DVD. Ask your staff to share their reactions. What could the system have done differently? Where did the system break down? As a result of viewing the stories, did their definition of permanency change? Are there things that they could/should be doing differently? How will they ensure that young people are the FOCUS of efforts around permanency?

Tasks / Assignments:

- Schedule time to have this discussion in group supervision. Be sure that your staff is aware of the purpose for this group meeting and that they come prepared to talk about permanency.
- Obtain the PASS Project DVD or view at <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/pass/>.
- Prior to your meeting, think about the questions you'll ask and consider the responses you may receive. Be prepared to provide examples of both successes and challenges that you've experienced around the issue of youth permanency. Review your reference material on youth permanency.
- Be sure to capture the list of suggestions for things that should be done differently. How will you follow up? Take note of any training needs identified and be prepared to address.
- Create a plan with your staff for continued discussions and follow up. This is an ongoing conversation!
- Complete the "Discoveries" portion of this form as a way to record your insights.

Discoveries:

