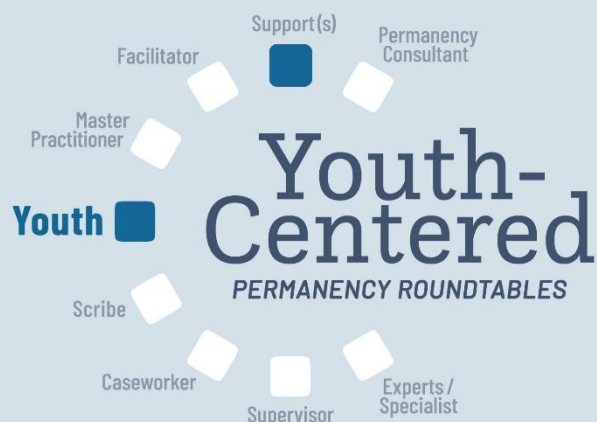


Youth Supports: Highlights



Getting Youth Supports to the Table

A key part of the YCPRT process is consistently identifying who the important people are in a young person's life, determining how the youth wants them involved, and partnering with the youth to invite these individuals to their table. Through this approach, we've seen meaningful connections form and grow.

Example #1

A Special Teacher

A youth participating in YCPRT felt a strong connection with a teacher at their school. The youth expressed interest in exploring whether this teacher could be a support for them beyond the school environment. With the youth's permission, the YCPRT team supported them in reaching out to the teacher and inviting them to participate in the roundtable process. The teacher accepted and became an active participant by attending meetings regularly, learning about the youth's needs, and exploring ways to provide meaningful support outside of the classroom.

As the relationship grew, a home assessment was completed which led to after-school visits and eventually weekend overnights. The teacher's spouse also became involved. They began attending roundtable meetings and building rapport with the youth. While the professional team knew the teacher was a natural support, the roundtable process created a structured space to quickly engage and grow the relationship.

Support presence makes a difference!

Example #2

Family Out Of State

During their initial youth prep meeting, a youth identified several extended family members who lived out of state. The YCPRT team worked closely with the youth to facilitate virtual introductions and invitations to the roundtable process. Through consistent involvement and open conversations during meetings, these relatives began building stronger connections with the youth, providing emotional support, participating in planning, and exploring future permanency options. The collaborative work allowed these supports to become engaged in the youth's life in ways that had not previously been possible. It also supported the youth in broadening their network of caring and committed adults who are invested in their future."

Example #3

Family Connection

Through YCPRT's collaboration with Wendy's Wonderful Kids, a half sibling was located for a 16-year-old youth in permanent custody being served by YPCRT. A relationship was developed with the half sibling's adoptive parent. In time, the youth was placed in the same home as their half sibling, however the adoptive parent was unwilling to provide legal permanency to the 16-year-old youth. Through continued work with Wendy's Wonderful Kids and the diligence of the youth's team in asking naturally connected questions, the youth identified a grandmother she was very close to who had passed away. The YCPRT team located the spouse of the grandmother. They were contacted and were very open to communication and exploring support for the youth. A relationship was re-kindled with the step-grandfather, who had many fond memories of the youth and their grandmother. They joined the YCPRT process and eventually, the youth transitioned to placement with them.

The youth's only hesitancy with this caregiving arrangement was not being with their sister. The step-grandfather understood the importance of this connection and this life-long relationship. They reached out to the adoptive parent of the little sister. He and the adoptive parent worked to facilitate continued contact between the siblings! Because of the continued support and advocacy for contact with their family, the youth's permanency journey led to legal permanency being finalized.

Adult Supports are critical participants in YCPRTs!

Example #4

Permanency With Kin

During a specific YCPRT meeting the team noticed a drastic positive change in the demeanor and engagement of the 12-year-old youth. They sat right next to their paternal aunt, and they were relaxed and comfortable. The aunt was very supportive and spoke about helping the youth's pursuit of their dreams and goals. While the communication with the sibling's adoptive parent was sparse and a little strained, the aunt understood the importance of keeping these lines of communication open and continuing attempts to maintain a healthy connection between the siblings. It was clear during the meeting that the aunt considered the youth a part of her family and the youth felt a part of the family. They both spoke of the aunt's adult children who also are very supportive of the youth. Once the youth was ready, the YCPRT team added filing for a change of legal custody to the aunt as one of the action plans items.