

2024 Legislative Advocacy Training Notes:

Slide 4: Advocacy Cycle

Youth Advocacy Day is the culmination event of a year's worth of hard work, strategic planning and advocacy.

1. In the Spring we IDENTIFY CHALLENGES,

- Each chapter brainstorms the challenges they have experienced with foster care or homelessness.
- The chapters prioritize the issues.

2. In the Summer we DEFINE SOLUTIONS,

- Each chapter decides on one problem, identifies one or more possible solutions.
- And presents the issue and solution at Youth Leadership Summit with chapters from around the state.

3. In the Fall we REFINE PROPOSALS,

- The issues proposals presented at SUMMIT are refined in collaboration with our community partners.
- Chapters and focus groups of youth and young adults continue to give feedback on the issues and the focus of the proposals.

4. In the Winter we ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE,

- With support of champions in the legislature we introduce our legislative agenda.
- Chapters all gather in Olympia to march, rally, and meet with legislators.
- Youth and young adults testify at hearings in the legislature.

Slide 8: 2024 Youth Advocacy Day Agenda

This training focuses on the two hours of Advocacy in Action. During that time you will:

- Have one to two 15-20 minute meetings with a legislator or their staff.
- The meeting with your legislators will be on capital campus.
- Prep for/debrief from your meetings.

Slide 10: Types of Agenda Items

Lead vs. Support

- Lead agenda items are items that came directly from our chapters and are endorsed by our participants and board of directors. Mockingbird is in the “driver’s seat” on these!
- Support items are items created or led by our partners, stakeholders, or are issues our participants wanted to support on. Mockingbird is in the passenger seat, and trusted partners are driving!
- We also have “administrative” items that are not included here in legislation, but we are working on additional topics! These items do not require creation or amendment to the law for changes to be made.

Legislation vs. Budget

- Why does this matter? Different activities are required depending on whether a proposal should be a piece of legislation or a budget request.
- Legislation:
 - Requires a change in law.
 - Example: Legal Representation for All Children & Youth in Foster Care
- Budget:
 - Does not need a change in law, just requires additional funding in order to implement it.
 - Example: Sustain Lifesaving Services
- Legislation AND Budget:
 - Example: SB 5290 ends/ended the practice of incarcerating minors for non-criminal offenses: Implementation will likely be both Legislative and Budget!

Slide 15: DOL

- DOL – Department of Licensing
- DSHS – Department of Social and Health Services
- DCYF – Department of Children, Youth, and Families