FEELING “PLUGGED IN”

Promoting Connection After Care

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Submitted on behalf of Selfless Love Foundation and National Think Tank participants
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Disclaimer
The points of view, analyses, interpretations, and opinions expressed here are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of Selfless Love Foundation or their contributors.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Selfless Love Foundation worked in partnership with experts with lived experience in foster care to codesign a 2-day intensive Think Tank. This convening in Broomfield, CO, brought together youth with experience in foster care, child welfare professionals, and cross-system partners from 28 states to explore innovative policies, programs, and practices that increase young people’s access to supportive networks as they transition from care.

Divided into 2 days, this Think Tank revealed key opportunities for intentional, older youth-focused permanency planning. There are also opportunities to shift current deficit-based narratives around the experiences of transition-age youth and to highlight meaningful engagement strategies to help young people build long-term networks of support. Following this 2-day intensive, youth with lived experience and their child welfare professional partners were invited to develop state-specific action plans to implement the strategies they learned.

While the structures of each state’s child welfare systems and their approaches to older youth permanency may vary, each state system will continue the collaborative work begun at this convening. Each system wants to achieve the same goal: radically improve how the child welfare system supports transition-age youth in building community. For ongoing accountability and sustainability, the Selfless Love Foundation facilitates One Voice Impact, a youth engagement initiative where transition-age youth and child welfare professionals can connect with one another for peer support around implementation.

This report is intended not only as a record of the insights shared by Think Tank participants but also as a call to action. Our systems will only improve if we listen to the voices of young people in child welfare systems across the United States and implement their feedback to build healthier, connected communities for all.

Listening to the voices of young people in child welfare systems is crucial to building healthier, connected communities for all.
FRAMING & INTRODUCTION

Selfless Love Foundation is a nonprofit organization that leverages resources, expertise, and proven solutions to improve the child welfare system, creating opportunities for more foster youth to find their forever families and thrive in adulthood. Working in three key areas, including adoption, independent living, and advocacy, the Selfless Love Foundation leveraged their national youth and system partner connections to host a Think Tank dedicated to addressing permanent connections for older youth aging out of foster care. Available academic literature, gray literature, and participatory action research suggest that in addition to legal permanency, relational permanency (which can include family or other adults informally involved in a youth’s life) can positively affect a young person’s transition to adulthood, including in the areas of health, resilience, education, and self-esteem (Thompson et al., 2016; Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2019; Advocates for Richmond Youth, 2021).

The National Think Tank on Permanent Connections is a collaborative initiative in conjunction with young people with lived experience aging out of foster care, 28 state child welfare professionals, and various cross-system partners. This National Think Tank worked to elevate the perspectives of transition-age young people and their system partners in identifying strategies to connect youth to long-term networks of support. The Selfless Love Foundation engaged youth with lived experience aging out of care, Youth Villages, and Chapin Hall in planning and preparing for the 2-day National Think Tank.

The Selfless Love Foundation recruited partners with both lived experience and child welfare professionals for their National Think Tank planning committee, which convened for 13 months to intentionally design and invest resources in a youth-centered convening in Broomfield, CO. This planning committee met monthly. It determined that a supportive environment for young people with lived experience to share their perspectives on connectedness would include the following key features:

**Figure 1. Key Planning Choices to Center Youth Voice and Experience**

- Focus on Permanent Connections
- Agree on Core Values
- Provide relevant policy background
- Preparation Calls for Participants
- Intentional Space Planning
- Youth Panel on Permanent Connections
- Youth-Adult Collaborative Presentations
- Compensation for Youth Expertise
- Schedule unstructured time to connect
- Keynote Call to Action
Specific focus on permanent connections, with flexible opportunity to note other transition-related practice challenges

A set of core values to ground the Think Tank discussion and decision making

A policy and practice background related to permanent connections and disseminated to partners for Think Tank level-setting discussion

Preparation calls for invited participants: two for young people with lived experience led by Selfless Love Foundation staff with lived experience, as well as Selfless Love’s One Voice Impact (OVI) National Network call for both youth and child welfare professionals

Intentional space planning to include consistent access to snacks, a dedicated self-care space with relaxation/emotional regulation activities, and meeting rooms for breakout room sessions with various options for notetaking

A hosted panel with youth with lived experience to discuss their perspectives on permanent connections

Planned youth–adult collaborative presentations on current permanent connections innovations in human service

Youth Villages and Selfless Love Foundation compensated youth with lived experience to provide their expertise through presentations, panel participation, and breakout room discussions

Built in periodic break-time and unstructured social networking opportunities for participants

Selected Gaelin Elmore, a keynote speaker with lived experience in foster care, to deliver a closing call to action for increased sense of community connections and belonging

The Think Tank planning committee divided up the agenda into 2 days.

**Day 1: Programs and Practices**

- **Level-Setting for Meaningful Engagement with Youth**
  - Natalie Clark, Lived Expert: Youth Adult Partnerships Presentation
- **Lived Experts panel: Perspectives on Permanent Connections**
- **Innovative Program & Practice Approaches**
  - Mitchell Odo, Marilyn Toribio Cocchia, Tianna Celis-Webster, & Melissa Mayo with Epic Ohana: Family Circles
  - Dr. Annette Semanchin Jones: Youth Connections Scale (YCS)
  - Annie E. Casey Foundation and Kansas DCF: SOUL Family Permanency
- **Breakout room sessions**
  - Develop a youth-driven definition of “permanent connections” to ground discussion
  - Explore what efforts are working well in each state to ensure young people have long-lasting connections before exiting care
  - Explore what programs/services/resources are needed to address permanent connections
Identify what roles exist for partners in making improvements (such as lived experts, child welfare, community, external systems, etc.)

Explore what can be done upon entry and throughout a young person's journey to sustain and revisit their existing relationships

**Day 2: Strategy, Advocacy and Partnerships**

- Innovative Messaging and Advocacy Presentations
  - Dr. Marisa Gerstein Pineau, FrameWorks: Shared Purpose, Shared Narrative
  - Lynn Johnson, ALL IN Fostering Futures: Driving Culture Change

- Breakout Room Sessions
  - Explore key takeaways from Day 1 presentations & discussion
  - Explore federal policies related to permanent connections and identify policy opportunities for improvement
  - Identify effective strategies to advocate for policy changes related to permanent connections
  - Identify key partners needed to create, implement, and sustain policy changes related to permanent connections.

The rest of this report details the themes identified across both days by panel participants, presenters, and breakout room participants and summarizes important next steps elevated by lived experts to improve long-term connections for youth aging out of foster care.
DAY 1 OVERVIEW

Presentations on Day 1 gave participants the opportunity to hear from foster care alumni and innovators who are bringing new ideas to practice with older youth. Natalie Clark highlighted the urgency of improving supports for older youth in care and the networks of love, connection, and stability they need to thrive. A panel of foster care alumni shared their unique, moving experiences with navigating family connections; their narratives demonstrated the complexity of these relationships in emerging adults, as well as the life-affirming impacts of strong, permanent connections.

The last group of speakers introduced new practice innovations with the potential to enhance connections between older foster youth and supportive adults. Mitchell Odo, Marilyn Toribio Cocchia, Tianna Celis-Webster, and Melissa Mayo shared Hawai‘i’s novel approach to youth transition planning, Epic (Effective Planning and Innovative Communication) ‘Ohana. ‘Ohana Conferencing offers a specialized intervention referred to as E Makua Ana Youth Circle or “Becoming an Adult” Youth Circles, which strengthens the natural supports available for young people as they enter adulthood. The Youth Circles’ model empowers each youth to identify and invite their meaningful adult connections to a series of transition-planning meetings the young person designs and leads. As with several other states, Native Hawaiian youth are disproportionately represented in Hawai‘i’s child welfare system (Puzzanchera & Taylor, 2021). This model utilizes a culturally-responsive conferencing framework that is infused with Hawaiian cultural values (‘Ohana) and emphasizes the cultural significance of food and physical space related to a young person’s identity as they plan for adulthood.

Dr. Annette Semanchin Jones presented her research on the Youth Connections Scale (YCS) as a structured tool for casework practice with older youth to systematically draw attention to reinforcing relational permanency in transition planning. The last presentation provided an overview of the SOUL Family permanency option, by Annie E. Casey and Kansas’s Department of Children and Families (DCF). The SOUL (Support, Opportunity, Unity, Legal Relationships) Family model addresses many of the themes that arose in the youth voices panel, such as the ambivalence many foster youth feel about family separation, the unfair choices available to youth exiting care because of legal barriers, and the exclusion of youth from decisions that affect their lives. SOUL Family nurtures the chosen family that young people are connected to, providing each young person a Circle of Care and placing them at the center of that circle. The model hopes to end the self-defeating decisions transition-age youth often face, such as choosing between their essential needs for connection (reunifying with a caregiver the system deems unsuitable, for example) and experiencing “hard stops” in service. Kansas DCF officials shared their experience in rolling out a SOUL Family demonstration project. They had positive experiences in engaging lived experts in planning and implementation but they also learned lessons about using slower, deliberate planning to build trust and authentic partnership throughout the system.

“Foster youth voices aren’t just the key to system change. They’re the anthem of resilience, the chorus of hope, and the melody of a brighter future.”
Natalie Clark, Lived Expert

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Natalie Clark, Lived Expert
In the afternoon, participants broke out into three discussion rooms and reflected on the morning’s presentations and speakers. Groups included all types of participants, with two facilitators (one with lived expertise) in each room. Facilitators helped synthesize information that was surfacing in each discussion while monitoring group dynamics to ensure youth voices were heard and elevated. Participants exchanged personal experiences as well as observations of systemic strengths and weaknesses; ongoing work by Selfless Love Foundation will continue to elevate specific programs that were highlighted in these conversations. Seven common themes emerged across rooms.

Figure 2. Themes Identified to Improve Older Youth Experiences in Foster Care

Lessons for child welfare systems on permanency planning with older youth

Define permanent connections: As each group came to a shared understanding of what permanent connections are and what value they hold for young people, the groups highlighted important characteristics:

- Stable: Lifelong, ongoing, in it for the long run, SOUL Family, mutual and reciprocal, unconditional commitment, strong, dependable, reliable, non-transactional
- Trust: Safe, natural, through thick and thin, shared power, chosen, available, go-to people, sense of belonging, understanding
- Nonjudgmental: nonbiased, mutual respect, open, honest
- Flexible: Help with concrete needs or relational needs, on a spectrum time-wise, anchored but not always close, resilient, can be different roles—friend, mentor, parent
- Caring: Love, present in tough times, bonded, positive, meaningful, good listening, emotional support
- Developmentally appropriate: Adults have appropriate expectations of young person, meet them where they are at, experience growth and learning together, respect autonomy
1. **Embracing the complexity of kin connections—and prioritizing them anyway:** Many participants said the lived expert panel’s description of their experiences with foster care resonated with them. This was particularly true for experiences related to love and loss in relationships with biological family members. Many young people reported having mixed emotions related to their biological parents and the struggles their parents faced. Sibling relationships also need more attention from child welfare professionals. These professionals should not just provide mandatory sibling visits but also facilitate natural, ongoing contact and shared healing. If these bonds are broken, it deepens the grief and isolation that can come with living in foster care.

2. **Moving from support that focuses on “checklists” to focus on relationships:** Participants saw Youth Circles as a paradigm for better transition planning. Discussions touched on how caseworkers often engage in transition planning as a series of tasks initiated by a set of requirements. Some participants, however, shared local examples of transition planning that were more youth-driven and empowering to young adults. These relationship-focused models, which collaboratively accomplish transition planning tasks while activating the natural supports available to each young person, were found to be more developmentally appropriate, humanizing, and helpful. Some conversations included the Youth Connection Scale as a promising tool to bolster the relational component of permanency planning.

3. **Youth deserve choices:** Many discussions emphasized the importance of choice in an emerging adult’s life, as laid out in a foster care bill of rights. Young people, especially those exiting care, need to be heard when major decisions are being made about their lives. These include decisions such as where they live, who they connect with, and what their permanency goals are. Child welfare systems do not always treat young people as experts on their own lives, which may create disincentives for certain choices (like returning to a biological parent who lost custody). Since this is a reality for many young people who exit care, rather than imposing other choices like moving to a shelter or getting one’s own apartment, the system could help them heal and rebuild those relationships as they transition to independence. Additionally, benefits eligibility can be compromised by youth reunifying on their own after discharge from care. Participants expressed this is a lose-lose situation that is a barrier for foster care alumni.

4. **Redefining Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) as an intentional permanency practice pathway to adulthood, not a failure of “permanency”**: The SOUL Family model presents a path toward independence that does not involve adoption, guardianship, or reunification. Participants were enthusiastic about this approach to permanency planning. Too often a goal of achieving APPLA can mean less intentional case management, unlike pathways to adoption or reunification which provide concrete supports and a legal framework toward exiting care. Young people who seek independence upon exiting care can be more effectively supported in this goal through a more intentional practice model designed to prepare them for the opportunities and challenges they will face in that journey.

*Think Tank attendees at the Partners Group campus in Broomfield, CO*
5. **Intentional youth engagement**: Whatever a young person’s permanency goals are, participants saw opportunities for better youth engagement throughout an adolescent's experience in foster care. At the administrative level, this involves accountable feedback mechanisms (such as youth boards, follow ups with alumni, surveys, etc.) to hear from transition-age youth how the system is serving them. At an individual level, this means ensuring that adults possess youth engagement skills that will help young people feel heard, supported, and connected.

6. **Focus on how to prepare young people for planning spaces**: SOUL Family and Epic ‘Ohana both offer young people preparation for significant planning meetings/youth circles. Think Tank participants found this practice especially beneficial. The preparation helps to build young people’s capacity and readiness to take the lead in planning their future when their circle is assembled. Helping a young person prepare might include clarifying the process, managing expectations, selecting attendees, addressing anxiety and concerns, and rehearsing assertiveness or other skills needed to be effective in collaborative planning. Participants envisioned this practice leading to more successful planning meetings and development of more meaningful, actionable goals for the young person.
DAY 2 OVERVIEW

The second day of the Think Tank featured presentations from Dr. Marisa Gerstein Pineau with FrameWorks and Lynn Johnson with ALL IN Fostering Futures. Their presentations leveraged social science research to identify communication and advocacy strategies for youth aging out of foster care. Both presenters spoke of increasing awareness of and support for transition-age young people, but challenged participants to communicate both the challenges and unique experiences of youth in care to spur concrete actions the public can take to support them.

FrameWorks provided an overview of their strengths-based, research-informed toolkit, which can be used to create a collective shared understanding of transition-age youth experiences and ways to support their needs. This toolkit reinforces the idea that young people transitioning out of care need the same social connection as their peers without experience in care. It also highlights that increased social connection benefits overall community health, as young people seek to be active, supportive participants in their local communities. This toolkit includes an evidence-based “Do’s and Don’ts” fact sheet for designing communication, metaphor card graphics for multiplatform use, general talking points, frequently asked framing questions, and sample social media layouts.

Day 2 Breakout Room discussion questions focused on identifying specific strategies, advocacy approaches and impactful partnerships participants felt could effectively improve social connectedness for youth transitioning out of care. The following themes emerged from Day 2’s breakout room discussions and are captured in Figure 1.

1. Youth-led and designed solutions: Participants strongly advocated for more meaningful opportunities to shift policy and practice to increase connection to long-term supports. Participants noted that youth engagement opportunities have become increasingly available, however the funding for multiyear, youth-led and -designed project implementation is still lacking. Participants also raised concerns about the degree to which youth were able to form genuine youth-adult partnerships while serving in an advisory capacity on state-affiliated youth advisory boards. With the potential lack of strategic power sharing in those boards, participants felt that youth were not encouraged to maintain their personal boundaries and could be re-traumatized in the process of supporting system improvements. Participants endorsed more funded opportunities for youth advocacy groups that are not affiliated with child welfare and which would allow youth to participate more authentically in system change. Lastly, participants named that youth engagement should not stop at completing “just a survey” or “asking feedback after a policy has already been developed.” Instead, voices with lived experience should be engaged throughout the implementation process—from exploring the root cause for young people’s lack of social connectedness, to identifying and designing solutions, to implementing solutions and evaluating the resulting outcomes.

2. Collect and evaluate better data: Participants reported that they felt ill-equipped with the state and national data available to make evidence-informed decisions to enhance young people’s social connections. Participants wanted to be empowered with sufficient, impactful research on the benefits of relational permanency on young people’s transitions out of care, which could in turn equip them to educate the general public about supporting transition-age foster youth. Participants also highlighted data quality issues across their states and jurisdictions and were encouraged by tools like the Youth Connections Scale as a meaningful measurement of how connected young people feel to networks of support. Participants highlighted data as a potential accountability tool for policy and practice changes, as they grappled with how
to ensure that policies and practices achieve the intended outcome to facilitate permanent connections for young people. Participants shared “what gets measured gets done,” and wanted opportunities to identify goal metrics both statewide and nationally to measure permanent connections outcomes.

**Figure 3. Promising practices to enhance permanent connections for transition-age youth, identified by Think Tank participants**

3. **Specialized child welfare workforce**: Related to accountability, participants acknowledged that the child welfare workforce requires specialized skills and training to effectively engage and partner with young people and respond to their developmental needs. Beyond the field of child welfare, participants felt strongly that system partners like judges, court partners, school staff, resource parents, kinship families, and placement providers needed sufficient training in culturally and trauma-responsive supports to address young people’s needs as they prepare to leave care. Participants encouraged a combination of ongoing practice improvement efforts to ensure continued skills development beyond initial training, including metrics to evaluate practice changes and peer support coaching. Child welfare workforce retention and position vacancies were a significant challenge identified by participants (including lived experts, some of whom showed empathy and insight into caseworkers’ constraints). However, several states had intentionally re-invested administrative funds to recruit and pay for permanency-focused positions. Participants identified two promising retention strategies: (1) continue leveraging upstream prevention strategies to reduce foster care caseloads and (2) capping older-youth specific caseloads for workers.
4. **Reframed, consistent messaging:** Overall, participants strongly endorsed the strengths-based and whole-community health focus from Dr. Pineau’s presentation. They reported wanting to shift community and workforce education to reflect this effective messaging reframe. Participants felt that improving permanent connections touched on two categories of messaging: a feedback loop of communication for youth aging out or already aged out and a shared, consistent message for the general public. Participants advocated for transition-age young people to have choices in the platforms they use to communicate with their adult decision makers like judges, policymakers, elected officials. Examples of these platforms included reports written by young people, blogs, video recordings, and social media content. Participants also felt that conversations about permanency and permanent connections should occur on a local community level as well as on a national level via a congressional caucus or youth forum dedicated to this topic. Lastly, participants advocated for more consistent methods of communication for young people leading up to aging out and after they age out. A few states cited that they leverage app-based features to store documents for young people to access after their exit care. These apps can help communicate with young people through sending push notifications. In general, participants felt that practitioners should have clear, consistent talking points regarding the importance of permanent connections, the needs of young people, and what specific actions the community can take to support them.

5. **Specialized partnerships:** To enhance young people’s connections to long-term social supports, participants advocated for more effective, cross-jurisdictional and multidisciplinary collaboration. Participants said that the successful transition of older youth from foster care into adulthood requires significant community engagement. This transition should also include meaningful engagement of the following partners:

- Young people with lived experience aging out of care
- Court partners, specifically juvenile and family/domestic relations court judges, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Guardians Ad Litem, and child and parent attorneys
- Cross-system partners, specifically healthcare organizations like hospitals and urgent care facilities, mental and behavioral health organizations and providers, housing development authorities, and juvenile justice agencies
- Wraparound and economic and concrete support service providers
- Biological and chosen kinship connections
- Affinity organizations, specifically cultural organizations, faith-based groups, LGBTQ+ organizations, and organizations led by people of color.
- Native Nations
- Workforce development providers and partners
- Childcare and Head Start providers
- Benefits Agencies (SNAP, TANF, housing assistance)
- Community-based advocacy organizations
- National policy advocacy organizations
6. Expand impactful practice innovations: Participants indicated a desire to implement or expand a variety of practice innovations in their states. These innovations include:

- Adopting a culturally responsive transition planning process intended to serve youth disproportionately represented in child welfare (for example, adapting Hawai‘i’s Epic Ohana model of transition planning)
- Adopting Covid-era policies permanently, like Medicaid extension and automatic re-enrollment
- Establishing both national and state bills of rights for youth in care and their siblings
- Re-evaluating the preparation, facilitation, and outcomes of family meetings to be leveraged as a transition planning tool, with specific accountability metrics identified for implementation
- Adopting reframed messaging around transition-age youth and activating community support for meaningful connections
- Piloting and expanding a more flexible permanency option like the SOUL Family model
- Establishing transition-age youth drop-in centers (like in Philadelphia and Iowa)
The think tank offered 2 days of five permanent connections strategy presentations and breakout rooms brainstorming policy, practice, and advocacy solutions to improve young people’s connections to long-term supports after exiting care. Following the think tank, participants from 28 states highlighted 10 key next steps to implement:

1. Leverage Family Find/Family Search routinely to identify possible permanent connections, not just at the beginning of a young person’s entry into care.

2. Engage youth and lived experts in policy and planning without tokenizing them and identify mechanisms to share power with and be accountable to lived experts. One example of this is to have lived experts be the majority in planning meetings.

3. Implement youth-centered strategies for transition planning, like Hawaii’s Youth Circles, which reinforces existing relationships and supports healthy development. Efforts like Youth Circles also leverage trained, third-party facilitators external to child welfare, who can assist a young person in designing their own transition planning meetings.

4. Train the child welfare workforce in trauma-responsive practice, which recognizes the transformative healing that can occur through any supportive relationship. Consider additional practice frameworks like nonviolence and restorative justice practice.

5. Don’t offer young people what feels like “lose-lose” decisions. An example of these decisions would be choosing between a “benefit cliff” if they choose legal permanency (returning home to live with a parent or kin or to pursue adoption, among other options) or a “relationship cliff” by remaining in foster care to receive benefits and housing, but without supported, consistent access to current connections or opportunities to make new natural connections. Consider creative innovations like SOUL-Family Permanency to prevent young people from having to choose between benefits and long-term supportive connections.

6. Prioritize maintaining relationships with biological family, even if that family is not able to provide long-term placement for an older youth.

7. Develop an intentional practice pathway for collaboration between child welfare and the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

8. Resource far upstream preventative services that can address unnecessary entry into foster care for older youth who are not experiencing maltreatment.

9. Improve court partnerships to educate judges and other partners about how they can best support older youths’ connections as they transition.

10. Improve community messaging regarding older youth in care to ameliorate the stigma they face from caregivers, courts, and community members.
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APPENDICES

National Think Tank Core Values

1. **Safety and stability**: Prioritize the safety and stability of youth in foster care, providing them with secure & consistent environments.

2. **Self-respect**: Encourage youth in foster care to develop a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Help them recognize their inherent value as individuals, irrespective of their past experiences.

3. **Empathy and compassion**: Cultivate empathy and compassion toward youth in foster care, recognizing their unique experiences and offering understanding and support.

4. **Family and belonging**: Foster a sense of belonging and connectedness for youth in foster care. Emphasize the importance of supportive relationships and the concept of “family” in various forms.

5. **Empowerment and agency**: Encourage empowerment and agency for youth in foster care, involving them in decision-making processes and supporting their autonomy.

6. **Integrity and honesty**: Promote integrity and honesty in all interactions, fostering an environment of trust and transparency.

7. **Respect for others**: Promote respect for others, including foster parents, caseworkers, and peers. Emphasize the importance of treating others with dignity and kindness.

8. **Education and growth**: Support the educational development and personal growth of youth in foster care, providing opportunities for learning and skill building.

9. **Community and diversity**: Embrace the value of community and diversity, recognizing and celebrating the differences among individuals in the foster care system.

10. **Social responsibility**: Encourage responsibility and active engagement in the community, empowering youth to make positive contributions.
Permanent Connections & Transition-Age Policy Background Research

Permanent Connections Literature Review

National Independent Living Permanent Connections Policy Scan

OVI National Network Independent Living Permanent Connections Policy Presentation
Youth Think Tank Prep Calls Agendas

Note: These agendas were developed and co-facilitated by youth and adult partners with lived experience in foster care.

1. Pre-Prep Call:
   a. Draft and send invite w/ instructions & pre-reading to all youth participants
   b. Share Think Tank Core Values & Community Norms (as currently written/determined by planning committee, with flexibility for youth input)
   c. Share out first call agenda

2. Prep Call #1:
   a. Welcome Ice Breaker Activity
   b. Review Think Tank Norms & Values
   c. Explain Convening Purpose:
      i. Clarify who is Selfless Love Foundation
      ii. Planning Team membership
      iii. Event Agenda
      iv. Presenter Overview
      v. What Youth Can Expect
   d. Value of lived experts at this event:
      i. Ask what skills young people feel they bring to the table
      ii. What would young people like to get out of the convening? This can be personal, professional, state-specific etc.
      iii. What would they like to see after the convening?

3. Post-Prep Call: Share out meeting materials again (PowerPoint, resources referenced)

4. Prep Call 2: Optional!
   i. Welcome & Re-introduce community norms w/ integrated feedback from Prep Call #1
   ii. Revisit Permanent Connections Discussion from Prep Call #1
   iii. Strategic sharing presentation
   iv. Travel Plan Support:
      1. Ask young people if they have any questions/concerns regarding their travel plans
      2. Re-share convening location information
      3. Share “First Time Flyer” Tip Sheet