

# WHAT IS THE DCS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL?



**ARIZONA**  
DEPARTMENT  
*of* CHILD SAFETY  

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Youth Empowerment  
Council

# INTRODUCING DCS YEC



- The mission of the council is to improve the experience of foster care for youth.
- There are currently ten active members and many others who participate on a regular basis.
- The DCS Youth Empowerment Council is a concerted effort by the Arizona Department of Child Safety to establish an authentic Youth/Adult partnership.
- Enhance child well-being and healthy development all youth in foster care.

# A FEW PROJECTS THIS PAST YEAR



- **YEC has developed a presentation to be given to youth in group homes, which explains the foster care bill of rights, ways to self-advocate, roles and responsibilities of staff required by group home contracts.**
  - Members of the YEC leadership team gave a presentation to group home owners explaining their objective to educate youth in group homes.
- **YEC has improved Arizona's Cell Phone Policy for youth living in congregate care by having access to landlines or cell phones.**
  - This updated Policy has been approved recently by the Department of Child Safety and is currently in policy, "DCS 15-05 Telephonic Access for Youth in Care"

# DCS YEC LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

Faith Sexton

February 2019 -  
Present



VICE PRESIDENT

Ryan Young

February 2019 -  
Present



# YEC MEMBERSHIP

Spencer L.  
Cheyenne P.  
Sierra P.  
James M.  
Bobbi C.  
Kayla K.  
Malakai F.  
Chastity W.

# DCS STAFF

Barbara Guillen  
Megan Conrad  
Lauren Zanotti  
Felix Fornino  
Alex Ong  
Laura Farrington  
Leah Adams  
Jackie Carter

# BOARD PROJECT PLANS FOR 2021



**COLLABORATION.** We will work with DCS Executive team to compile ways the Council can find solutions towards:

- Creating a Siblings Bill of Rights
- Increasing available permanency options ie: family-centered placements
- Reduce the amount of youth runaways while in care

**OUTREACH.** We understand that in order to stay in touch with our peers, we must do so on multiple medias.

- Plan and coordinate our Annual DCS Young Adult Program Conference
- Plan and coordinate our Annual DCS Convening Event
- Forming local county-level DCS youth advisory boards
- Continuing our social media efforts

## Youth Thrive: Working to See Change National Convening Conference

*New Orleans, LA - November, 2019*



## ASU Next Chapter Symposium: DCS YEC Presentation on Extended Foster Care

*Phoenix, AZ - February, 2020*

## Annual DCS Young Adult Winter Formal Event

*Chandler, AZ - February, 2020*

## Chafee Program Alliance Annual Grantee Conference

*Washington, D.C. - March, 2020*



## DCS YEC & IKEA Young Adults & Families Donation Partnership Event

*Tempe, AZ - May, 2020*



**Activating Youth Engagement Virtual Summit**

*Phoenix, AZ - August, 2020*



**ACF Assistant Secretary Lynn A. Johnson Roundtable**

*Phoenix, AZ - September, 2020*



**3rd Annual DCS Youth Leadership Day**

*Phoenix, AZ - November, 2020*



**CB Associate Commissioner Dr. Jerry Milner Roundtable: Adoption**

*Phoenix, AZ - December, 2020*

**Annual DCS Young Adult Program Holiday Movie Night - LoveUp Partnership**

*Scottsdale, AZ - December, 2020*





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WANT TO STAY CONNECTED  
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