

Youth Advocate to Advocate for Youth: The Next Transition

An Overview of the Seven Stages

1

Knowing, Owning, & Sharing My Story

- Develop ownership over your story
- Successfully uses Self-Advocacy skills
- Start branching out to help others and sharing publicly
- Essential to have supportive adult and receive Strategic Sharing and Trauma Informed Training AND to identify what parts of your story you are comfortable sharing and which parts need more development

2

Beyond Your Personal Advocacy: Being a Resource for Change

- Strategically share your story publicly to promote positive systems change
- Use advocacy skills for to maintain personal wellness and recovery
- Get specific on topics where story is most effective

3

A Fork in the Road: Using Experience Personally or Professionally

- Advocacy focus has fully shifted beyond your story to advocating for larger Youth MOVEMENT
- Utilizing statistics, policies, best practices and collective stories in addition to own story
- Skills developed during this phase (i.e. networking, professionalism, etc.) can be transferred to other careers
- When do I say no? Do I want to do this full time and/or as a career?

4

Maintaining Personal Identity: Stay True to You

- Struggle with self-identity
- Stay true to self vs. conform your story
- What's your role in systems change? If any?
- Maintain sense of self within advocacy

KEEP IN MIND:

Significance of sharing AND how to step away from personal story towards advocating for other youth

5

Experience Never Leaves

- Transition has been reached OR Can be a break away point from systems advocacy
- Lived experience is always valid and a part of us — Advocate or not
- Pair personal experience with current youth voice for effective change
- A Youth will always be more than the “story”
- Generation NEXT™

6

Arrival of an Advocate for Youth

- Understand the needs of adults AND Youth Advocates
- Challenge is: Which role now?
- Continued mentorship and support is key
- Embrace Generation NEXT™

7

Becoming Supportive Adults

- Offer yourself as a resource
- Maintain confidentiality, respect, allow space, legit connection, be real
- May or may not have lived experience
- Turn around and give back
- Self-Care and Wellness

