Lived Experience Voices Webinar Takeaways

How to Support Court-Involved Youth

- **Listen to lived experience experts and advocates-** Ensure that your decision-making is informed by their expertise and input.
- **Consider the "why"-** Most, if not all, systems- involved youth have experienced traumatic events that impact how they respond to events. Provide space and grace for young people.
- **Consider the words you use**- Ensure you use language that is accessible to youth and consider the impact of the words and labels you use on young people. Avoid re-traumatizing language.
- **Consider the difference between access to care versus access to *needed and appropriate* care-** Treat youth as individuals with unique needs and strengths.
- C**heck your biases-** Consider how existing institutional and personal prejudices affect your behavior and treatment of young people.
- **Provide alternatives-** Mental health care comes in many different forms. Ensure the options offered are not punitive in nature.

Resources

- Judicial Council Bench Cards: Supporting the Mental Health & Well-Being of Court-Involved Youth
- Judicial Council Bench Guide: Supporting the Mental Health of Children and Youth in Probate Guardianship Proceedings
- Judicial Bench Guide: Supporting the Mental Health of Children and Youth in Family Court