



2004

**Dare to Dream
Youth
Recommendations**

Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Iowa's Mental Health Advocate for Children, Youth & Families

**A statewide family advocacy organization focusing on the
behavioral, emotional and mental health of all children.**

February 14,2005

Dare to Dream Readers,

Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health asked the youth who reside at Iowa Juvenile Home in Toledo to dream and to tell us what in an ideal State-of- the-Art System of Care would look like. This system is based on their own experiences as youth who are involved with the current system in Iowa. We chose to expand our Dare to Dream project this year to include the youth because so often their voice is not heard.

The youth who reside at the Iowa Juvenile Home are involved with many systems within the state. The one that we feel is very important to mention is that The Iowa Juvenile Home has adopted the Positive Behavioral Support philosophy and practice through out their campus.

These are their statements about what the service system would look like when the "dream" comes true. Iowa Federation of Families does not change the wording of what someone has said.

With all of us working together our dream can become a reality!

Please feel free share this document with others. If you would like more copies call our office at 319-462-2187 or e-mail your request to help@iffcmh.org. This document is also available on our website www.iffcmh.org and click the Dare to Dream button.

Sincerely,

Lori

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Iowa
Federation of Families
for
Children's Mental Health

2004
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To
Dream

If you could dream your wildest dream what would your life be like at home, in school, in your community, and with anyone who provides services to you.

On the Day the Dream Comes True For Kids At Home:

My dream for home is to have my family be a family. I'd eliminate all the alcohol and drug usage. I'd get rid of all of the emotional and physical abuse that takes place. I wish that my father could understand the concept of love and be able to feel that for himself and his children. I'd wish that my mother would get her life on track and re-evaluate her reason for becoming a mom. I'd wish that my dad would apologize for what he's done and attempt to make it better. I'd figure out who it is that my family really is and make the best of it. If I could, I'd wish that my family could start all over again, from the top, and be the all-American family. I'd wish to be happy with those who I claim as family and not feel as if I have to walk around with my head down because I'm so ashamed. I'd wish to be proud and have people know me for me and not as "someone's" child. I'd wish to have my family members be satisfied with me and not put me down. I'd wish to know that they care. But most of all, I'd wish for them to say three simple words--**"I Love You."**

A big house that's in the country. With a lot of pigs, horses, cows, cats, dogs, duck. With a pond with fish and a house that's made out of wood!

It would be that my mom didn't have to worry about how she's going to pay her bills.

That my mom could get help with understanding me and not always jumping to conclusions about why I'm always upset. That I could've had my own room and bathroom.

That we could have a family night and spend a whole day after school with each other and play games and talk about issues that has been bothering people or the family just try to think about how we are feeling before they jump to conclusions.

The day that my dream comes true is when my sister comes home.

Wouldn't be forced to go to church every Sunday.

My own bedroom with my own bathroom with my own hot tub. Have a big house with an upstairs. For my brother to have more attention from my mom.

My mom to have a good paying job and have more time at home with me and my brother.

My family would live in a nice house that we owned with a few nice cars that we owned. And where we all had our rooms and a kitchen full of food, and not having to worry about not having money. And full security.

For all my family to be out of trouble and see and my mom to be out of lock up, and never have another issue with drugs or alcohol and my sisters have positive friends. My mom being able to work and a big back yard.

Medical care.

It would be that I got what ever I want and in my house would be a panic room in it somewhere too. That there was no curfew, smoking allowed, a maid or butler in my house to have care of what I want.

Locks on all doors (bedroom etc) Parents would have own separate wing of the house. Another addition for another garage.

I would want my house to be surrounded by trees, animals, rivers and anything that blocks out the rest of the world. I'd have everyone treated equally. I'd have a nanny to clean after us, so I don't have to do anything.

I would be able to get along with all my families. I would have a whole house to myself. Maybe build an apartment upstairs or better yet, I don't want to live with my family. I want to be on my own. I want my own things. Everything I don't want anything of anyone else's because if I have my own possessions I know no one can take it from me, unless I break the law.

I would want my home to be a happy place to be at. All the people in the home happy and would get along. Beautiful things in the home like, Hot tub, Big screen TV's, leather couches, entertainment system, 6 bedrooms, pool table, computer, pool, Big back yard, 3 cars, careers, DVD's and DVD player, loving, work together, all the food you can eat, and plenty of space. Stuff to keep me entertained at home things I can do. Cordless phones, my own dance club in the basement.

Well right now I would wish a lot first is to get all the drugs out of the community. Help the old people. Take care of the poor people that don't have anything, buy them a home take really good care of them.

I want it to be a mansion so I could have my own room where I would stay in and I would want my mom and dad and sister have a good life.

At home they would have their own room, own T.V. Allowance, only if you do chores to earn the money. Have fun with the family.

Have family meetings and have family nights. Spend more time together. Help out around the house. Help when somebody needs help. Don't argue over little things. Be in extra curricular activities. Have love for one another.

Be a happy family.

At home it would first of all be a mansion. It'll have a big TV screen and basically a movie theater in the home and have a swimming pool and everything fun in my home. My parents never work and are open to everything and are accepting to how people are. They're happy to be there, with their children. Nobody who comes to the house have any problem. NO Chores!

I would be home with my mom and going to be my new dad. I would still be finishing school and hoping to get a better relationship with them and have boundaries with them.

I would like have a mother and a father that would love me and care about me so I can have a mother again. I would like to have all my brothers and sisters come together and have my unborn brother alive and see him.

My dream would have to be to have a loving family and for nothing to ever go wrong between us. Besides things that normally would occur in a family. I would like to have a big house with luxurious items and all the basic necessities that are needed without having to purchase them or going into debt.

To have everything they want. To be able to think and do as they please as long as it's good. To prepare their own food. To have all the animals in the world.

Being at girlfriends house.

Is being at home a dream?

I want to be at home with my mom, dad and sister. To have no criminal background. To have any and every dirt bike. I want for my dad and I to ride when we want to. I don't dream about money.

I would rather be at home with my mom, dad, and sister, not worrying about money the whole time.

My home life would be great. I would not have disrespectful behaviors or challenge my mother.

My mom and I would get along all the time w/o any fights or arguments. I would overall just like to have good family interactions.

Everything will go good. No arguments.

Respectful to one another and things will go awesome. Shake things off. And don't annoy each other.

To act right and not have a bad relationship with family members. This means to take full advantage of having a family that cares for you and the most important for everybody to have love.

My dream would be that I could have a family. I wouldn't care what kind, what color, or religion. All I want is a family that is willing to love me. I'm not like the kid who wishes to go to a new family because I don't like mine because they didn't buy me what I wanted. See that's not right if you are like this next time say to yourself what would the kids who don't have family say. I would love a family.

To not do anything bad and get put back in a lock up or any placements.

To stay away from any sort of negative or any bad drug problems of any kind.

To get along with my family to get along with my brother or grandparents. And cousins and aunt and uncles.

No abuse of any kind and no meanness and a better way of living.

I wish that everybody cooperates and gets along and there are no drugs and alcohol.

I wish I could not have any problems and we could all get along.

I have ice cream everyday, to have a pet dolphin. To live in the sea, to be free to be a individual and vote.

My dreams at home....

To get along with siblings

Get along with parents

Not always be mean

Don't yell

Don't be aggressive

To be able to have all the money in the world and give it to poor people. And to stay home until 18 years of age.

Mom and dad's help their children with their homework and no one hits their children and the household is everyone's responsibility not just one person's. All the family members pitch in to help everything stay in a neat fashion.

I would go to college and graduate high school with a 4.0!
There wouldn't be divorces.

No one would have alcoholic parents.

Parents wouldn't argue and would want their children.

That there were no such things as drugs and alcohol and not everything revolved around them. That my dad shared the same opinions as me. I felt more open to talk to my dad and not worry about hurting his feelings when I had a problem here at the juvenile home.

One dream I would have is to have a family that cares and would feed you. Such as your mom, and dad.

I wish the people that produce kids can stay and support them, help care and have feelings for them.

I also wish someday for everybody that it could get to the point and where nobody gets taken out of their home because of drugs or alcohol.

I wish that I could get the help I need at home and not have to be placed somewhere to get the help I need.

Not getting in fights w/parents. Being able to talk your problems out no abuse or hitting.

No inappropriate touching.

There will be ice cream for everyone and everybody will be nice to each other and everyone will not be twisted.

My family would be very proud of me. Never fighting again. We would have a better life.

To go home and take care of my grandma. My mom to visit daily. I go off to college to be a doctor. When I grow up get married to my boyfriend and live in Davenport with 4 kids. I will take good care of my kids while my husband works. I want to cook good Italian meals. My family is all good and happy, out of trouble. There are no such things as diseases.

My dream would be to have good relationships with my family members. Everyone would trust each other in our home. We would eat supper together each night and have a family fun night at least once a month. I would also dream for other kids who aren't as fortunate as I am.

I want every child to have a loving family to go home to.

Everyone would have a loving mother and father. Everyone would go to school and not judge each other but welcome one another with warm hearts.

If I could have my home be anywhere I wanted it to be I would still be in Alaska. My mom would still be married to my step-dad. My dad would never have had a stroke. He would never have started drinking. And he would have been able to do the things my step-dad does with me. I would never had have started doing drugs or drinking alcohol and my two dogs would never gotten ran over.

At home I wish that I could stay at home with my parents, brothers, and sister and that we could all get along.

I wish that I could have a second chance to do the right thing because if I knew then what I know now, I know I would be more able to do the right thing. I also wish that I could have learned more appropriate social skills, so I would be able to fit in more. I'd also want there to be more money available so that my dad wouldn't have to work so much, so that he wouldn't get so stressed out (especially when he comes from work and finds a stack of bills waiting for him.)

I get to go home and have a family vacation to Florida. To have a family reunion and be wealthy so we don't have to scrounge up money!

Families would never get split apart but instead go to family sessions to help them. I dream that we all have big houses and nobody would be homeless.

On the Day the Dream Comes True For Kids In Schools:

Teachers would not automatically give out referrals or detentions if someone is sleeping in class. I know to an extent its wrong but some people don't sleep cause they stayed up too late partying-but some people have family problems. Teachers not getting on your case if you're late to class. QUIET work environment. More time to have homework due. Not to persuade or bargain with food but extra credit points.

I dream to never get kicked out of school for negative behaviors. To get strait A's and be on the Honor Roll. I want to graduate as a strait A student.

More fun, and some snacks and breakfast, your own clothes. And you can wear belly shirts.

To have more people on the watch for bullies trying to hurt the little kids. Like on the school buses, and to have more after school programs for kids so they stay out of trouble.

That they're will be candy and pop machines on each floor. In every school there will be new textbooks. That for each good grade you get you get a certain amount of points for the grades and you are award or incentive at the end of the school year. That you go on mission trips and do things with other countries. I think that it would benefit the kids if the school had a fun night and open gym then kids would get to know each other more and get outside themselves.

I never went to school on a regular basis except when being institutionalized. But the few times I went on the outs what kept my interest for a while anyways getting money. Getting free food, and getting to use our cell phones.

High school would not start at 6:45 it wouldn't begin until at least 10 am and go until 4:30 pm.

To have comfy couches to sit on. For the teacher to be more helpful with more aides and more one on one help. And to have more classes on what really happens when you are on your own like drugs and pregnancy and stuff like that.

Everyone in my classes are at my thinking level, working level, and mature level. Everyone would get along and I would be a friend with most people. And the teachers would actually care about everyone and actually treat everyone with the same respect and same ways. And nobody ever has to worry about any threats or bullying.

I'd want to go to a school where everyone was equal. There would be no bullies, no popular kids, no nerds, geeks, or gossipers. I'd want the best education. A dress code or uniform so everyone is alike, not to take away individuality, but to make everyone on the same page.

They would not have very much homework. Maybe a little bit for them to learn responsibility but you would be able to smoke. Sometimes when you smoke and work at the same time you might concentrate more. There would be more physiological classes to learn about more advanced courses.

I think you should also learn independent living. A independent living class should be required. A lot of kids learn from their mommy and daddy they need to learn and live for themselves.

To get more one on one help and have more school activities and opportunities. I think it would help students to have more one on one help that they need and have a better understanding.

Make school a fun place to be as well as learning. Special events and more school dances and talent shows. Cheaper on the food and snacks. They should love the prices and look at the poor.

Well, my day to dream at school. Have all the kids and the slow kids in the same class so students can help the slow with their work and check all kids for weapons and drugs. And stop the fighting violence.

I would want to have a big school with 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade it would be pink and black. With kids that are mature enough to go to school and what their education and go to college to become what they want to be.

That is no arguing, yelling, fights, cliques. Everyone gets along and actually do the homework and study. Be a happy school. No bullies. Have a T.V. in each room and everyday in at least one class watch a movie that pertains to the class they are in. Help each other out. Work together. Have volunteer groups to help around the community. Go on field trips to help out at the nursing home stuff like that.

At school there would be little homework and a lot more fun. Food would be better and there will be no gangs or bullying. Everyone is happy. The principal is nice not or doesn't choose favorites. Bigger swimming pool and the gym teacher teaches all fun activities. Little homework.

I would have a school with all the kids, so they don't have weapons and drugs coming to school. That everyone would be treated fairly and that there wouldn't be any fights, gangs in school. I would like to see the teachers help us like they really mean it and be real about it, instead of acting like they do. I would also open up their eyes and act like they feel about us.

My dream for school would have to be that in all states there wouldn't be dress codes and everyone would get along with everyone including the teachers. That the schools would be fixed and have much less damages or be run down because of lower populations. That girls can play tackle football in college or as a career.

To have a big screen television in every classroom. To have a swimming pool in the gym. To watch movies all day. To have an exercise program in school.

To be able to wear uniforms or their own choice of clothing or jewelry. To have what they want to eat and be able to have candy and pop all day.

School wiz on everything, me the smartest man/person in the world.

In school my "wildest dream" would be to get all A grades, be the valedictorian, and not have any poor interactions. I would be the most popular guy in school.

People will study more, no fights. No one will bring guns or drugs to school and everyone will get along

To take their education seriously. This means not to slack off and do your very best on your schoolwork. Because teachers really do care.

You will know your kid will come home with an A and B report card.

I'm a kid who can tell you something, I like to get rewards. I'm a kid who at first didn't care. I had no family, I had no good friends and the friends I did have used me they did this by telling me to do stuff so I got in trouble when really they it was them. If you want kids make sure you are willing to go through the bad with them even if this mean's they annoy you.

Is to graduate high school and to become a pediatrician and take care of the kids in the hospitals that are sick and can be on their deathbed passing away.

All kids could be capable of 3.33 average and all kids graduated high school and college and be a pharmacist.

To become a marine biologist in a state that has dolphins. To get the best grades in my class and to be the best I can be.

My dream for school.....

Get good grades

Try my best

Go to college

Finish high school

Get along with teachers

To have all the school supplies needed and to have lots of recreation activities in school.

Schools have a better system for BD or LD kids. I think the schools could be cleaned up a lot nicer. New books and more teachers to run the school. Harsher punishment for children who break the rules. And if a child brings any kind of weapon to school they should be expelled automatically.

There wouldn't be kids that drank or did drugs. Everyone would get along, and everyone would treat everyone with respect whether they are fat, thin, or poor or rich! And I would graduate with a 4.0!

That kids weren't so cruel. I could go to a very good med school for a very low price and become trauma doctor or cellular biologist.

To not fight for people to care and also have respect for everybody. I wish it were to have a school outfit that everybody has to wear the same exact thing.

No fighting, getting along, getting an education.

Nobody would make fun of anyone. Everybody will be helpful towards each other. Nobody will be rude. Everybody would get good grades.

Friends knowing who I am and have a better life. People treating them with more respect.

Longer lunch periods shorter classes longer switching time. I wish I could make all new friends and they are positive yet still fun. I wish I could be real good at math and there is no such thing as getting held back.

Schools would have good teachers. Small classes so that students could get individual help. Everyone would have a dependable friend in school.

In school I would have never have skipped as many day that I did. Done my homework, treated others with respect and not have gotten into fights. I would have never smoked on school grounds and caused myself a bad reputation. I also would have myself up in status. (more popular).

I wish that at school, everyone was given an equal chance to do things and if youth are having trouble with their work, then there should be some type of program, whether after or during school that they could use to help them with what they're struggling with.

I wish that mentally disabled youth weren't always made fun of or left out because I personally know some people with mental disabilities who are very nice, but aren't given a chance to succeed.

I will get to be the most beautiful high school student yet and have a beauty makeover so I can have gorgeous hair.

Nobody would get made fun of or hit. There wouldn't be any popular people and everybody at least was nice to each other people wouldn't talk behind each others backs there would be no gossip.

My dream for school is to go to a school where the students are serious about their education and are serious about wanting to become the best that they can be.

I'd wish that I'd go to a school where the teacher's would be serious about teaching and not be so worried about becoming best friends with the student. I'd wish for encouragement from everyone in school. If I could, I'd wish for a curriculum that provided us with information on what the world is really like-not read in textbooks the sugar-coated ideologies of the past, present, and future.

I'd wish for people who could enforce realistic discipline on those who come to school for all the wrong reasons. But the biggest thing I'd wish for is to have less violence on our schools and for our kids to see their worth and set goals that they, in turn, will work hard and strive to achieve. I'd wish for children to take pride in their achievements and to be who they are, without being ashamed of it.

On the Day the Dream Comes True For Kids In Communities:

To have a peaceful day or so. To have a drug/alcohol and gang free community. To put all the wife beaters and killers in jail cause it's decreasing our population. To have any job they can get to raise money for families. To give the poor clothes, a house and food so they can live to. To donate \$1,000,000 dollars to IJH and other placements to get better food, clothes and more staff.

To have all the drugs away and no fighting and to have places where teenage kids can go and still stay out of trouble and still have fun and not in trouble and have a good life.

There wouldn't be any racism, and everyone is treated with the same respect, and their help for the poor, and there are more opportunities for people without money and home.

I'm leaving for a rehab once again and entering a community that has drive bys, drug wars everywhere and things like that. Well I guess I want my community to change just like I am so I can feel accepted in a positive way and to feel belong without going against my morals, values, and ethics.

More arcades and sweet cars that are cheap.

Have arcades and support buildings in every 5 miles. That there's at least a boys and girls club. That the mall is bigger and that you can get to things and buses run all night.

The metro bus system would have more bus stops in area heavily populated with youth. That would keep kids from traveling long distances on foot in snow or sweltering heat to catch a bus to the mall. Also the cost to ride the bus is quite expensive. A dollar is too much to pay to travel 6 blocks on a cold winter day. Business will choose to pay 14 or 15 year olds more than minimum wage.

No killings, stereotypes, all peace. No racist people. Health insurance for others that can't afford it. I'm sure the government could pay-hence they're cheap at times. No on put down others.

Better more comfortable homeless shelters for others.

That everyone will help out and have a clean town or city and help the homeless out and with there drug treatment and to help them get back on there feet.

I would like the cop's help out to when someone is killed and they don't do anything about it they just let it go by.

Not as much taxes-lower gas prices-the government can sure afford more than what they're giving.

I'd want my community to be drug free, criminal free, and hate free. No one would be higher up than anyone else. There would be no violence, littering and discriminating.

They would be able to drive at 15. People would be able to do whatever they want on their property whether in or out of city limits. You'd be able to take back more than 25.00 worth of pop cans at Quik Trip less cops on your ass.

Have more places where teens can go to have a good time. So they can meet different types of people and interact better. Have buildings for people who are less fortunate and need stuff to survive and get by. More safer and less violent.

The day my dream in the community is that kids who don't have responsible parent have someone to take care of them.

Have a fun day in the community when everyone comes and communicates and get to know one another. Go volunteer around and help the people in need. Be involved in the community. If you see someone having troubles ask if they need help. Once we go to the fun day people will get to know one another and then that makes it so they have more people to call when they need help. Give to the community and be a part of it is all I dream.

Fun everywhere. Nice policemen. Lil policeman. Things costing less. Not having to clean the lawn. No age limits on things. If there is make it reasonable like cigs. Age 16 since that's the age we are able to get a driver license. Freedom more freedom.

My dream would have to be that everyone obtain the items needed without having to pay for them and that people be less racist against the people who are different races or a sexual orientation that another person is.

I get a lot money.

I dream to have many **POSITIVE** friends that do not constantly get into trouble. To be a helpful part of the community. I want to stay out of trouble with the law. I want to have friends that will not use me or want me to do things that will get me into trouble. I want to have friends that will encourage me to do good. I see myself as doing good and helping out people who need the help. I see myself volunteering to do things to help.

In the community I would be a volunteer and always helping out, without question. I be a perfect citizen.

Everyone will treat with others how they want to be treated.

Be able to walk down city streets without fear of being robbed or killed.

Not to join in gangs or any of that stupid stuff. Help someone out who needs help for example carrying groceries to their car.

My dream is for kids to learn not to take what they have for granted. I mean this some kids get mad when they don't get the meal they wanted they just don't think of the millions of families who get a good meal like that every two months. They don't like the family they have they don't think of a kid like me who don't have a family.

Is to become a better kid to play more sports and to become a bigger person then I'm now. This goes for my children to stay out of drugs and to stay out of gangs and any kind of stuff that is illegal for the kids to get put in placements.

It will be no making fun of others, no violence and no crimes. No doing what you want follow the laws and trying to get some where.

For the kids to stay out until 10:30 pm. For us to be how we are, for our county to be in no more wars, to get right where we need them, to not pay so much money to the state.

My dreams for the communities.....

People will stop smoking
No littering
No drugs
People won't live on the streets
No fighting

To have a clean environment and to have no one breaking laws.

People get more involved with community projects such as generosity projects with others to help the people in need.

Every child would have a home with a loving family. And every child would go to school and have a good education.

To not do graffiti, gangs, fights. I also hope they are successful in careers and have a job so they can support family.

Communities work together.

The community would be clean nobody would steal and everybody would be happy.

The community having one of their very own be a better child.

Cops are nicer while arresting people and I wish houses were cheaper. More sports games for people to watch. More holidays like sibling's day where siblings all go out and celebrate having each other. I want it where stores and gas is not so expensive. Cars don't pollute. Bees don't sting.

The community would have a number of fun places for kids to go. We would feel safe and live in a clean neighborhood.

In the community I would have never have done the awful things that I did to get myself such a bad reputation. I would have also done more to be more helpful to my town.

I'd like it if people could all get along with each other and there wouldn't be any drug abuse. I also would like it if people weren't grouped by how they look, what they believe, or what race they are, but instead by their personality because there are many people who could get along if only they gave each other a chance.

I am the most polite, and grateful women and be respectful for people. To not steal and have criminal thinking.

You wouldn't have to stay away from your family so long. People would want treatment more so they could go back to society and help our country grow.

My wish for kids in communities is to have opportunity to live in a community where there isn't constant violence. I'd wish for them to all live equally and not have a "good" side or "bad" side of town. I want everyone to live in the same kind of home with the same vehicles. I'd give everyone equal opportunity at job, education, and everyone would have respect for each other. I'd also wish for no social classes because they tend to tear people down. I'd wish for friendliness and for everyone to see their neighbors good. The biggest wish is that everyone would be involved in making life happy and worthwhile.

On the Day the Dream Comes True For Kids In Service Systems:

More food and nice comfortable beds, and respect.

The day my dream will come true in service systems is even if us kids did things to get in trouble we should have more responsibility to do things, help others, and take ownership. I really think things should stay the way they are we are here for our problems/charges and maybe are CINA's. But the people are here to help us. If they changed the way systems are, more and more people would be getting and trouble and thinks its alright. They wouldn't care if they were here because they get the same amount if it's like the real world. It wouldn't be a bad place. People would do stupid stuff to get there. I know I don't like most of the systems but I chose to be here. I made mistakes and didn't learn from them and I kept doing it. I chose to do the things I did and I knew the consequences nobody made me. I chose what I did and that's why I am in the system. But see if you come to places and they don't have consequences or rules what's the point of being in placements. The system is designed to help people with problems and help them learn better ways to do things. Their jobs are to keep us safe and learn things and take responsibility for actions. I put myself here, I can't complain. I chose the bad choices and here I am. It's not others fault, its mine and if kids don't like the system then they should have made a better choice and they wouldn't be here. The choice was theirs. Also the system helps us because once we turn 18 they send us to jail for even longer periods. They are helping us so we know what to expect and so would have fear to go to jail stay the same.

That they put kids with people they can better relate to.

There would be people that could relate to us instead of learning just from the book but could also have experiences. They may be full of knowledge in those areas but I feel that I can, and others with us talking together respond better and open up to someone who has seen the things that I have seen or done the same I have acted. I think it would be more beneficial for me if I can relate to someone who enforces the rules towards me. (we also could use better food!)

Residential treatment facilities would only use a control room or seclusion room to help maintain a safe environment for the youth in the facility and won't be used to consequence youth.

Workers to be more understanding. Not to be so mean to the clients, put themselves in their shoes. To give kids a chance before they go lock them up. And tell them all of the information before they say you broke probation.

Kids wouldn't be separated from siblings when the children have to be removed from the family. Kids would be able to be out of placements prior to their 18th birthday and no longer. Kids visitations with parents and other family members could not be refused because family support is the best thing for the child. The child is able to decide when in treatment when they are ready to leave. Because they know better than anyone else.

Only have people who truly care to help. Not just there to have a job (notice I didn't say career). Not as much food and better quality. No time limits on showers. Use consequences no quiet rooms. Cause in reality who's home has quiet/seclusion rooms. All co-ed facilities because eventually we'll all be in our community again so no use of sheltering us from life because there's more than 1 sex – female and male.

That they'd keep me close to my family. Change the food.

They would be able to be their own person. Wear their own clothes. Talk the way they want to talk. How do you really know what people need help with or if they are putting on an act? Being yourself is important. I'm not saying don't make rules. Also older kids would be with older kids. Age wise closer together. Instead of 13 yr olds with 17 year olds. Each age group focuses on something different.

They should be less structured. Have more freedoms and rights of their own.

They should be able to get more home visits and family contact.

Be more fun and have a lot more better opportunities and activities.

They need to rearrange the system completely it is unfair and torture I think.

Help the kids who are being abused by their parent. You did not have kids to abuse them you had kids to love. Take care of them know where they are going to be and what they are going to do when they grow up.

I would want kids who are locked up to get day passes to see their family all the time.

Given chances. Don't jump right to the gun. Reasonable. Flexibility to kids wishes and needs. Less accountability. Nicer people. More freedom within the court system. Able to make own decisions. No more CINA'S.

That they would give us more freedom and let us choose for ourselves where we want to live and give us a chance to go back out there and trust us that we will do the right thing.

That there were more freedom and better living spaces. That I'd have my own room instead of sharing a room with another.

To be able to go where they want in ISH and to get more candy and pop. To have less consequences at ISH and other placements. To have less people in a placement. I wish we could go tan or get sun burned to get a nice looking tan. To go swimming when we please.

To have less pornography and rapists. To get rid of all the drugs, to get more singers, books and magazines for everybody. To have candy, pop, and food be free.

Getting the brand new and good car.

I dream that I could get out of the Iowa Juvenile home. Get out and when I turn 18 I want to join the marines. I dream that everyone can do well and stay out of trouble.

I just want a service to help me and to get out of placement.

I hope kids will be able to work their programs/treatments and let the authorities help them so they can come back sot society and make the right choices and stay away from the wrong crowds and don't get involved in drugs and gangs etc. etc. etc.....

To get back home/foster care, with the people that love you and want to help you through hard times.

No one will be in placement. Kids learn that it's not fun it is hard you got people who tell you when you can use the bathroom. When you sleep and when you can play.

To not see as many kids leave and come back to a placement and just give up on their life like I did for a while.

To stay away from the bad things that brought me here or any other kids into placements. And not see kids get taken away from the families unless is really its necessary.

For us children to have contact with the outer world and positive peers that I hung around with.

I wish that they wouldn't just turn their needs and get the whole facts and the truth.

To have family who love them. To be able to have more rights, to be able to do things by yourself, to be able to go out more often, to spend time with the outer world.

My dreams for service systems.....

Good schools that reach your level of learning

A lot of people to help be a staff

That the therapist get paid a lot and get recognized for what they did to help people in life.

We get more children helper's or volunteers to get w/ children and be their friends. And have them to love other neighbors as themselves.

They all would go home! And have a ball!

That they didn't always think they are right because we are in placement and they always automatically assume I was lying and the other person was telling the truth. They listened to me better and actually acted like they wanted to listen instead of its just part of their job.

To have expensive clothes have good clothes. Have food and can be able to still see their families when possible.

Having someone visit or stop and say hi!

Everybody would be rich and nobody would be homeless at all.

Every kid would be home with their mothers and fathers if they have any.

Have a role model they can look up to.

Placements are much easier to graduate. The food is better. More free time for privacy. More phone calls. Levels are where you automatically get to go off campus and on home visits. You wear your own clothes no matter what they look like or what placement you are at. Own rooms if wanted can have a roommate who ever you want.

Programs would have special groups for girls or boys who used drugs, were physically abused. The program would also focus on what has happened to youth rather than what the youth has done. I wish someone would have talked to me about the physical abuse and sexual assault that happened to me. But the focus was always on what I've done wrong.

I would wish for placements to be more helpful and treat kids better.

In service systems or placements I think that staff should not provoke or intimidate the youth that are there for treatment. They should also let the youth explain what he/she thinks without disclosing their opinions or making it seem as if they aren't good enough or their ideas don't count.

We get to wear our new/own clothes and shoes! We get to have No placements and have my family come up and visit me more often. We don't have much money!

You wouldn't have to stay away from your family so long. People would want treatment more so they could go back to society and help our country grow.

My dreams for children is service systems is that they will make the commitment to do there best and take in all the vital information that they can. I'd wish for them to find happiness within themselves and that they would let everyone know how happy they are. I'd wish for them to leave where ever they are and make it. I'd wish for all of them to find happiness and success. Then, once they find those two things, I'd wish for them to share it with someone else and help to create a more happy and unified world for current and future generations.

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