The Definition of “Normalcy”
Defining what “normalcy” means for youth in out-of-home care, and how service providers can promote “normal” adolescent experiences for youth in their care.

Created by the New England Youth Coalition
2014

Preamble:

“Normal” refers to standard or usual activities regularly experienced by youth not in out-of-home care. ‘Out-of-home care’ includes residential treatment facilities, foster homes, group homes, and placements with relatives or kin. In addition to ‘standard or usual activities’, normalcy for youth in out-of-home care includes opportunities for input and participation in decision-making for their cases and day-to-day lives.

Along with defining what “Normalcy” looks like, the New England Youth Coalition hopes this document will raise awareness of the unique experiences of:

- Youth in secure facilities,
- Youth from varying ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds - including Native youth, and
- Youth with non-conforming gender identification and sexual orientations.

Categories in Process of being defined

“Normalcy” and Families:
“Normalcy” and Social/Peer Inclusion:
“Normalcy” and Community Inclusion:
“Normalcy” and Cultural Awareness:
“Normalcy” and Age-Related Milestones:
“Normalcy” and Decision-Making: