Foster Care in Michigan

Samantha Martin
Early Childhood

**Background**

*Childhood before foster care*

**Challenges**

- Addiction
  - School absence
  - Lack of basic needs/resources
  - People in and out of the home
  - Taking care of younger sister
- Removed at the age of 11

**Positive Resources**

- Teachers
- Role models
- Friends
Life in the Foster System

Challenges

- Grief, loss, and trauma
- Mental health
- Fear of the unknown
- Catching up on school
- Identity crisis

Positive Resources

- Mentors
- Staying in touch with family
- Transparent social worker
Becoming a Young Adult

Challenges
- Applying for college as first generation without support
- Health care
  “When I turned 18 I lost my insurance through the state. I didn’t know how to apply and I was terrified. To be honest, I didn’t even know that I lost it until I went to the doctors. Thankfully FAME funded my insurance for the duration of my college career. I went months without health coverage and it gave me so much anxiety that it distracted me from my education.”
- School breaks
- Mental health
- Affording classes

Positive Resources
- fostering connections act
- Spartan advantage
- Fame
- ETV
My recommendations

Prevention

Fund after school programs

- Provide more mentor opportunities

Support

- medicaid

- scholarships

- foster friendly legislation