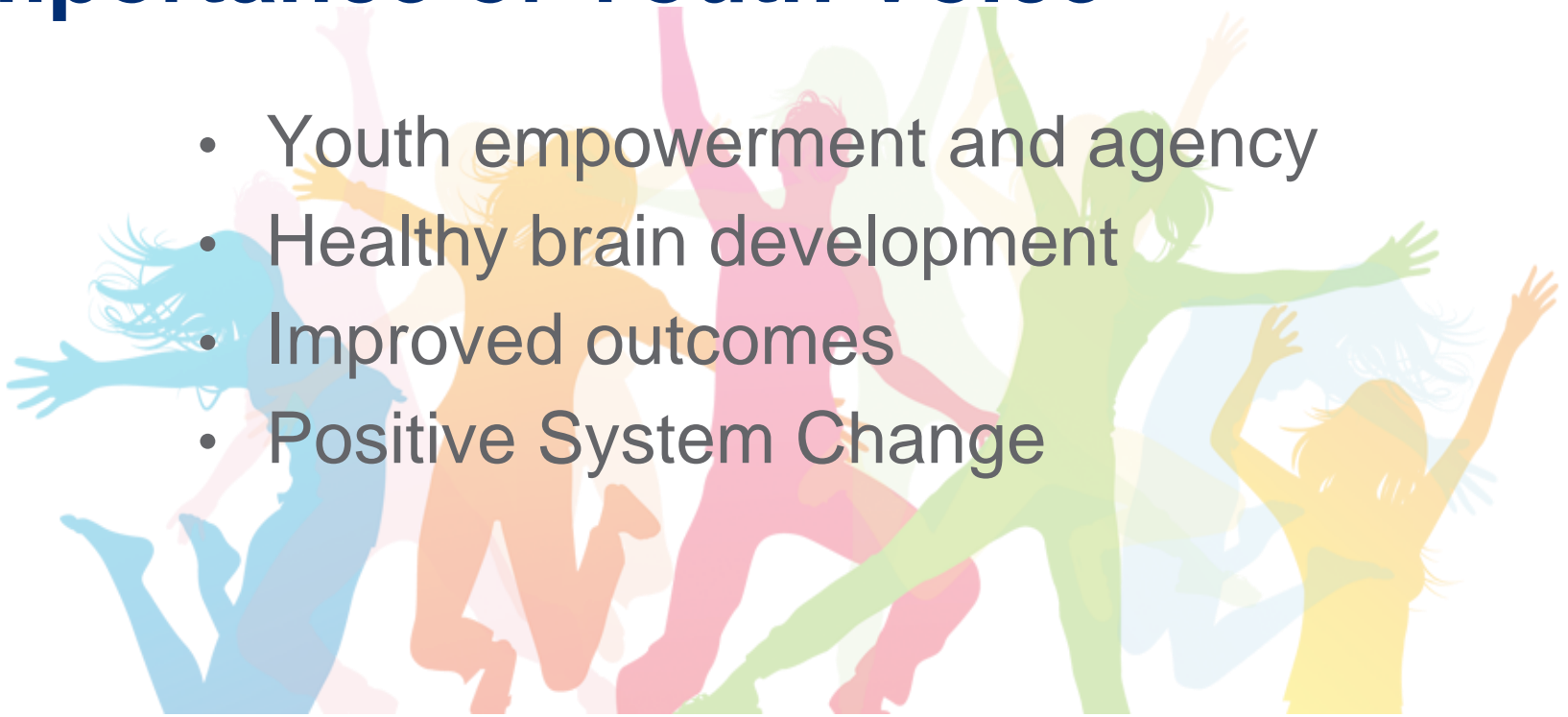


# *Voices of LGBTQ+ Youth in the NYS Foster System*



# Importance of Youth Voice

- Youth empowerment and agency
- Healthy brain development
- Improved outcomes
- Positive System Change



# Listening Sessions Framework

## Who was eligible?

- LGBTQ+ identified youth living in foster care
- Ages 12+
- Living in a
  - foster boarding home
  - group home
  - congregate care program
  - other supervised settings



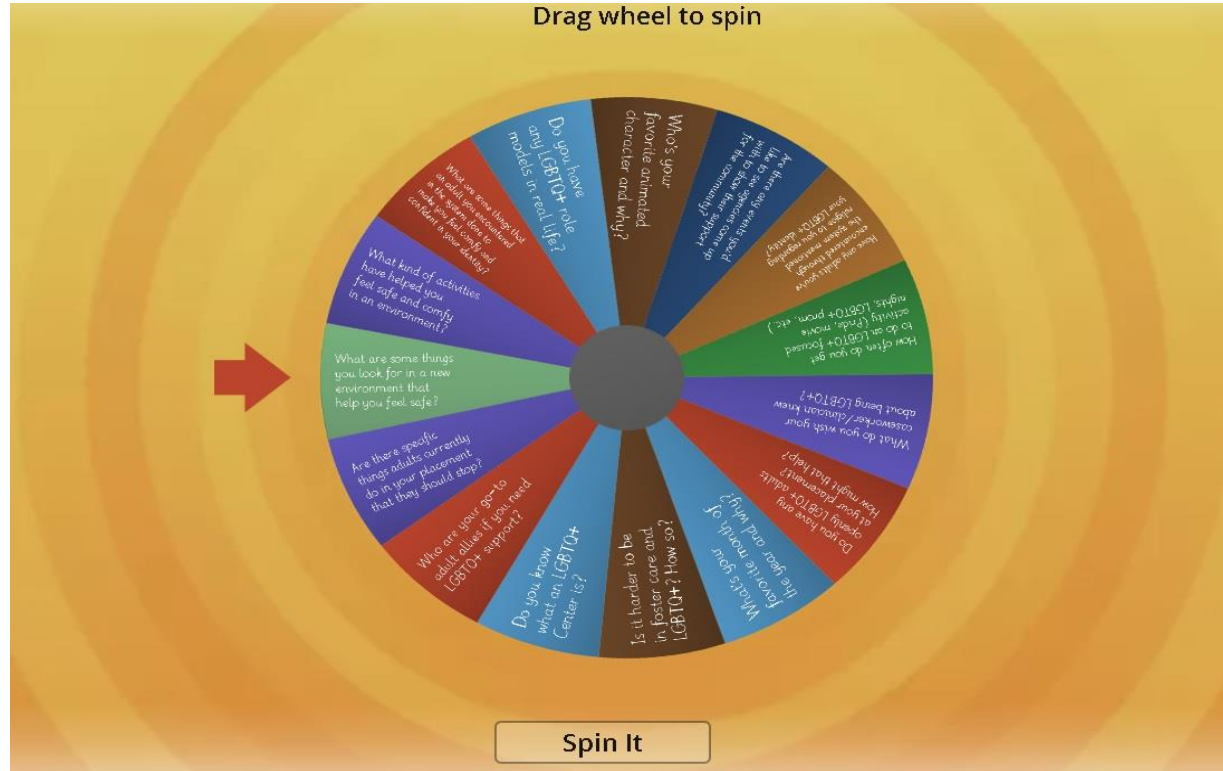
# Listening Sessions Framework

## Who Participated?

- 25 youth living in foster care
- Majority of the youth were age 14 or older
- 9 youth identified as transgender
- 8 youth identified as gay
- 8 youth identified as lesbian
- 50% of the youth identified as gender non-conforming



# Wheel of Questions



Spin It

# Youth Voice Themes

- Safety, comfort and acceptance
- LGBTQ+ role models and organizations
- Family acceptance or rejection  
(both family of origin and foster family)
- Finding joy and belonging



# Recommendations

- Training on LGBTQ+ affirming practices
- Engagement with local LGBTQ+ partners
- Creating and maintaining safe and affirming spaces
- LGBTQ+ and LGBTQ+ affirming foster family recruitment



# Recommendations

- Normalizing LGBTQ+ experiences through LGBTQ+ specific events and programming
- Accessing safety and LGBTQ+ affirming case planning
- Intersectional approach
- Ongoing listening sessions for marginalized populations



# Informing Practice

## SOGIE Data Collection



# Resources and Regional Follow Up

- [OCFS LGBTQ+ Resources](#)
- [YIP Need to Know Resources](#)
- [Chafee Foster Care Program](#)
- [21-OCFS-INF-06 LGBTQ+ Community Practice Model](#)

LGBTQ + friendly



# Thank you and Contact Information

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