This chart serves as a reference tool or "cheat sheet" designed to assist OCFS Representatives and Youth Bureau Directors when completing or reviewing the eight features of Positive Youth Development. It aims to promote greater consistency and accuracy in applying the eight features, enhancing our ability to assess program effectiveness.

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	STRONG RESPONSE EXAMPLE	WEAK RESPONSE EXAMPLE
1. PHYSICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY	Safe and health-promoting facilities; practice that increases safe peer group interaction and decreases unsafe or confrontational peer interactions.	Staff monitor youth/adult ratios; mentors trained in safety procedures; dietary restrictions tracked; emergency plans in place; spaces accessible to all.	Building is safe and lit. Emergency plan exists
2. APPROPRIATE STRUCTURE	Clear and consistent rules, expectations, and age-appropriate monitoring.	Consistent schedules: clear rules co-created with youth; structured activities with monitoring and feedback.	Program staff are trained to work with youth and will provide a sound environment. Public spaces are free from inappropriate or degrading materials.
3. SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS	Caring, encouraging adult-youth interactions, peer support, and mentoring.	Youth paired with mentors; staff trained in youth engagement; weekly check-ins; peer groups foster belonging.	We ensure that we support children, families, schools and staff at all times. Our program has an open-door policy at all times.

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	STRONG RESPONSE EXAMPLE	WEAK RESPONSE EXAMPLE
4. OPPORTUNITIES TO BELONG	Opportunities for meaningful inclusion, regardless of one's gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disabilities; social inclusion, social engagement and integration; opportunities for socio-cultural identity formation; and support for cultural and bicultural competence.	Staff is trained and skilled in methods to ensure all participants are involved and not excluded due to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Space and activities are handicap accessible. There is both a designated bulletin board and a display case in the Community Center for the members to share their activities and interests. Participants are given opportunities to share stories and experience from their families or cultural/ethnic groups. generational relationships and bonds with other members of our community.	Will increase knowledge about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs Staff and campers represent different cultures and nationalities All youth are welcome as long as they meet the age requirements
5. POSITIVE SOCIAL NORMS	Rules of behavior; expectations; injunctions; ways of doing things; values and morals; and obligations for service.	Youth develop a code of conduct; positive behavior celebrated; community service recognized.	Youth told to behave; no recognition system in place.
6. SUPPORT FOR EFFICACY & MATTERING	Youth-based; empowerment practices that support autonomy; making a real difference in one's community; and being taken seriously. Practices that include enabling; responsibility granting; and meaningful challenge. Practices that focus on improvement rather than on relative current performance levels.	Youth advisory boards; youth lead projects; input used to change program design.	Youth asked for opinions sometimes, but no follow-up or decision-making power.

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	STRONG RESPONSE EXAMPLE	WEAK RESPONSE EXAMPLE
7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILL BUILDING	Youth gain and apply new skills in real-world contexts.	Workshops on life skills; internships; applied peer projects.	Some skills introduced, but no practice or application outside program.
8. INTEGRATION OF FAMILY, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY EFFORTS	Strong connections with families, schools, and community partners.	Regular parent communication; school collaboration; community partnerships for service and learning.	Parents receive flyers; minimal collaboration with schools or community.