**Appendix A: Draft Protocol**

**Starting the Focus Group (sample language)**

*Thank you for agreeing to be part of the focus group.* [Facilitator(s) introduce themselves]

*We appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts and experiences with us so that we have a better understanding of how to effectively support foster youth on our campus. Our discussion should take about [duration of time].*

*Please know that there are no right or wrong answers. In fact, it is highly likely that many of you have had different experiences on campus and therefore your perspectives on how best to support foster youth may vary. We expect that people will have different views, and it’s important that we learn about all of the views that are represented here. We want to make sure that everyone has a chance to talk, so we ask that only one person speak at a time so that we can be sure to hear everyone’s views. The focus group will be recorded, and we will take notes so that we can be as accurate as possible with the information that everyone provides to us. However, when sharing this information with other professionals we will not use your name, nor any identifiable information. We will only use the recording to flesh out our notes and make sure we understood what you are telling us.*

*The information that you share today will be used to improve the supports to foster youth on our campus, and to share with other campuses and other advocates of foster youth. Our goals is to ensure that you feel comfortable to speak freely about your experiences and so we ask that everyone be respectful of what everyone else has to say. If you accidently share something that you do not want to be shared beyond today, just let us know and we will be happy to remove the information from our notes.*

*Do you have any questions or concerns before we start?*

**Warm Up**

This will give you a little information about the participants, and also gets them talking:

*Please go around, introduce yourselves, and mention how long you’ve been on this campus, and if you transferred from another college.*

**Focus Group Questions**

[**See Appendix C** for the three “lines of inquiry” recommended for each campus, and for tips on developing approximately two additional campus specific “lines of inquiry.” Once you have finalized your questions, you can insert them here.]

**Closing**

*To close, let’s go around once and hear from everyone on a “final thoughts” questions: If there was one (or two) things that the college could be doing differently or better to help more foster students achieve their goals, what would it be*

*Thank you very much for your time. We learned so much from this conversation and we will use this information to improve the supports for foster youth on this campus and other campuses across the state.*

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