



Maryland Youth Advisory Council
Saturday, November 23rd, 2024
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

Council Members:

Qamryn Askew: Absent
O'Marie Barnes: Absent
Shradha Bista: Absent
Aarna Chakarvarty: Absent
Taryn Clemons: Virtual
Alessia Cuba: Absent
David Renderos: In-person
Folashade Epebinu: Virtual
Thomas Evans: In-person
Diana Flores: Virtual
Alexander Hossainkhail: In-person
Kevin Jones: Virtual

Izzah Khan: Absent
Zaria Naqvi: Absent
Foresight Ogungbe: Absent
Rishi Sheth: Virtual
Graham Snyder: In-person
Joyce Yun: In-person
Alex Mayen Velasquez: Absent
Lorena Wu: Absent
Lucia Zaklin: In-person

Staff:

Mysiki Valentine, GOC
Christina Drushel Williams, GOC

Materials Distributed:

- [Meeting Slides](#)
- [MYAC Meeting Minutes 10.19.24 .docx](#)
- [MYAC Community Conversation Agenda](#)
- Meeting Agenda

Meeting Recorder: Folashade Epebinu, Secretary

Meeting Overview: The third Council meeting of the year began with welcoming remarks and a review of the agenda. Members then approved the meeting minutes and proceeded with updates on Council business since the last meeting. Next, a presentation was given on the Maryland General Assembly, providing essential information to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Following the presentation, members participated in a review and suggestion session for the Community Conversation agenda and event logistics. The meeting concluded with a meaningful reflection on why members chose to join the Council, followed by partnership announcements, event updates, and next steps.

MINUTES

I. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all members and providing a brief overview of the agenda and key discussion objectives.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved by the Council.

The minutes can be viewed in the following document: [MYAC Meeting Minutes 10.19.24 .docx](#)

III. Council Business

● MYAC Small Grant Applications

Each year, MYAC issues 5 \$1000 grants to youth-led adult-supported groups. These grants support a specific project these groups are working on that address the needs of youth in their community. The projects typically relate to MYAC's legislative priorities but are not limited to the priorities. In the coming weeks, the Executive Board will meet to discuss the grant.

● Chair updates

Chair Hossainkhail began his update by discussing an opportunity to participate in a conflict resolution workshop series hosted by MidShore Mediation Center, located in Easton, MD. The conflict resolution workshops are open to the entire council, and the organization may attend a MYAC meeting to share the information or present a workshop for members who are unable to attend the full series. Additionally, the Chair reminded everyone to complete their Google Classroom assignments and stay up-to-date on events and meetings by following the MYAC calendar.

● Legislative Updates

In the absence of Legislative Committee Chair Naqvi, Chair Hossainkhail reported on the work of the Legislative Committee. The updates are shared below:

- The committee is in the process of organizing meetings with legislators for the upcoming legislative session

● Public Awareness

Public Awareness Committee Chair Sheth reported on the work of the Public Awareness Committee. The updates are shared below:

- The committee is preparing more social media posts to promote the Community Conversation and highlight new incentives for the event

IV. Maryland General Assembly Overview

Chair Hossainkahil and Secretary Epebinu presented an overview of the Maryland General Assembly to the Council. The presentation covered key aspects of bill language and structure, while also outlining the legislative process and highlighting important figures in the Maryland General Assembly.

The presentation can be found on slides 8-31 of the [Meeting Slides](#).

III. Community Conversation Discussion

In preparation for the upcoming Community Conversation, a significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing and editing the [MYAC Community Conversation Agenda](#). Members were reminded that the MYAC meeting will run from 12 PM - 4 PM and the event will run from 1 PM - 3 PM. The 12 PM - 1 PM session is for event preparation, while the 3 PM - 4 PM session is for debriefing and beginning the creation of legislative priorities.

Recommendations from members are listed below:

Recommendation	Agenda/Event Area Focus
Create specific guiding questions	Small and Large Group Discussions
Use a Google slide on the main screen to post the key discussion topics and solutions from each small group	Discussion of Solutions
Removing 5 minutes out of the Background Information section	Background Information
Introduce an in-person and online feedback method	Post-Community Conversation
Provide notetaking material for attendees	Small and Large Group Discussions
Send a post-Community Conversation text about topics and solutions discussed	Post-Community Conversation
Attendees share an issue they want to discuss or an issue impacting their community when they sign-in	Pre-Community Conversation
Record the event to post on social media platforms	Entire Event
Create raffle items for virtual participants	Incentives

The group also discussed various approaches to the event found below:

- Virtual and in-person participants may participate in an activity to explore their passions and identify how they can leverage their connections and strengths to take action
- Although specific topics have been identified, members were encouraged to stay open to discussing a variety of topics
- All prompting questions should be open-ended to foster free thinking and encourage diverse perspectives

The group also discussed the structure of the discussion. It shared that the conversation should begin with an open dialogue on relevant issues. Toward the end, the focus should shift to what MYAC has accomplished in the past using the priorities developed from the last Community Conversation. Flexibility with timing was emphasized. Finally, members were reminded to bring two friends to the event.

IV. BREAK

V. Group Reflection and Share Out

Chair Hossainkail led the Council in a reflection activity to wrap up the meeting. Members had the opportunity to reflect on why they joined the Council, their previous experiences with the government, and how they believe they can achieve their goals. Each member then shared their reflections with the group. Members emphasized the importance of having a voice and expressed how their involvement in the Council stemmed from a passion for advocacy, personal experiences, a strong desire to make a meaningful impact, and the drive to be a voice for others.

VI. Announcements

Chair Hossainkhail met with a representative from the Maryland Civic Education Coalition to discuss the potential for a partnership in hosting town halls with the organization. They also explored a grant opportunity that MYAC could leverage to fund projects such as town halls. Additionally, Mr. Valentine shared that MYAC is a member of the Coalition.

Regarding town halls, Executive Board members are planning a town hall in Washington County, with more details to follow. Furthermore, two additional town halls may be scheduled after the legislative session, and former grant recipients might have the opportunity to present their experience with the grant process.

VII. Next Steps

- Reach out to Mr. Valentine to engage in upcoming opportunities
- Stay tuned for updates on the 2024-2025 MYAC small grant
- Check email for Chair and Committee Chair communications
- Complete the NEW mileage reimbursement form
- The next meeting/Community Conversation is on December 7th, 2024

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Hossainkhail adjourned the meeting at 3:49 PM.