



**Maryland Youth Advisory Council**  
**Saturday, December 7th, 2024**  
**12:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

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**Council Members:**

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

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

**Staff:**

**Mysiki Valentine,** GOC  
**Christina Drushel Williams,** GOC

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**Materials Distributed:**

- [MYAC Large Discussion Community Conversation Notes .docx](#)
- [Left Group - Discussion Lead & Scribe Guideline - MYAC Community Conversation](#)
- [Virtual Discussion Notes - MYAC Community Conversation 2024](#)
- [MYAC Meeting Slides 12.7.24.pptx](#)
- [MYAC Community Conversation Agenda](#)
- [Discussion Lead & Scribe Guideline - MYAC Community Conversation](#)
- [MYAC Agenda - 12.7.24](#)

**Meeting Recorder:** Folashade Epebinu, Secretary

**Meeting Overview:** The meeting began with brief opening remarks, followed by the approval of last month's meeting minutes. Once the minutes were approved, the Council moved into updates a short rundown of the event. After the overview, the main segment of the meeting, the Community Conversation, took place. During this event, MYAC members listened to students from across the state discuss various issues impacting youth communities a series of both small and large group discussions. Following the event, there was a clean-up session, after which a vote was held to postpone the event debrief to a later date. After the vote, the meeting concluded with adjournment.

## MINUTES

### **I. Welcoming Remarks**

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

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

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

The minutes can be viewed in the following document: [MYAC Meeting Minutes 11.23.24 .docx](#)

### **III. Community Conversation Run-Through and Event Setup**

To kick off preparations for the Community Conversation, MYAC members were given a quick run-through of the event, including its key objectives, were given the opportunity to ask any last-minute questions. Once this was completed, member then began arranging tables and chairs to facilitate both the small and large group discussions. Members crafted handwritten thank-you notes, assembled gift bags, and set up vibrant balloons to welcome attendees at the entrance. Additionally, they verified all technology was functioning ensuring an organized event experience.

### **III. Community Conversation Event**

To open the Community Conversation, Chair Hossainkhail, Vice Chair Evans, and Legislative Committee Chair Zaria, introduced themselves and provided an overview of MYAC and the purpose of the event. After the introduction, attendees and MYAC discussion leads were divided into three small groups, two being in-person and one virtual.

Once the group discussions concluded, everyone reconvened in a larger group to share two key takeaways from each small group. After the shareouts, a new addition to this event's large group discussion, MYAC's analysis team, shared insights into MYAC's past work following previous Community Conversations and outlined how the information gathered at this event will shape MYAC's future advocacy.

Large group discussion notes: [MYAC Large Discussion Community Conversation Notes .docx](#)

Small group discussion notes: [Left Group - Discussion Lead & Scribe Guideline - MYAC Community Conversation](#)

Virtual group discussion notes: [Virtual Discussion Notes - MYAC Community Conversation 2024](#)

Topics of that received the most attention from attendees included the opioid crisis, mental health and well-being, creating safe spaces for youth, school and county budget deficits, school safety, and mentorship for youth.

**IV. Break/Clean-Up**

Following the Community Conversation, Councilmembers assisted with cleanup, reorganized the room to its original setup, and took the opportunity to engage in discussions with fellow members and attendees during a break.

**VI. Announcements and 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 mileage forms
- Next council meeting is on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the \*NEW\* location

**VII. Adjournment**

The Chair motioned to adjourn the current meeting and schedule an interim meeting to debrief the event and address the remaining agenda items. The Council unanimously approved the motion. Following the vote, Chair Hossainkhail adjourned the meeting at 3:36 PM.