



Maryland Youth Advisory Council
Saturday, September 14th, 2024
12:00 – 4:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

Council Members:

Qamryn Askew: In-person

O'Marie Barnes: In-person

Shradha Bista: In-person

Aarna Chakarvarty: In-person

Taryn Clemons: Virtual

Alessia Cuba: In-person

Folashade Epebinu: In-person

Thomas Evans: In-person

Diana Flores: Absent

Alexander Hossainkhail: In-person

Kevin Jones: Virtual

Izzah Khan: Virtual

Zaria Naqvi: In-person

Foresight Ogungbe: In-person

Rishi Sheth: In-person

Graham Snyder: In-person

Joyce Yun: In-person

Alex Mayen Velasquez: In-person

Lorena Wu: In-person

Lucia Zaklin: In-person

Staff:

Mysiki Valentine, GOC

Christina Drushel Williams, GOC

Materials Distributed:

- MYAC Legislative Platform 2023-2024
- MYAC Bylaws and Code of Conduct
- MYAC Annual Report 2023-2024
- [Meeting Slides](#)
- Meeting Agenda

Meeting Recorder: Folashade Epebinu, Secretary

Meeting Overview: The first Council meeting of the year began with welcoming remarks and an engaging introduction activity to foster connections among new and returning members and the new and former advisor. Members then engaged in an advocacy-related team-building activity before diving into presentations on the council and member responsibilities, MYAC's legislative priorities and platform, and Maryland state youth policy. Following the presentations were the annual elections for this year's leadership team and committee selections. The meeting concluded with a learning segment on MYAC email templates for outreach, followed by announcements and next steps.

MINUTES

I. Welcoming Remarks

The meeting commenced with a welcome extended to all returning members and new members. Mr. Valentine, MYAC's newest advisor, along with Ms. Drushel Williams introduced themselves and were welcomed by the group.

II. Introduction Activity

To encourage members to get acquainted, attendees participated in a team-building activity. The activity prompted each member to introduce themselves by sharing the following information:

- Name
- Council Year
- County
- One issue they hope the council tackles this year
- Fun or silly fact

Group values were reviewed after the activity.

III. Team Building Activity

In a team building activity that centered around the legislative and outreach work of the Council. The activity required members to delegate tasks, read through a scenario, create a plan to address an issue, and share their plan.

The results of the activity yielded a plan proposal for two different scenarios and insightful discussion and questions surrounding the activity and its relation to MYAC's work.

III. BREAK

IV. Overview of MYAC and Member Responsibilities

Second-year members, Ms. Epebinu and Mr. Evans, presented a breakdown of the Council's functions, member appointments, and term information. Furthermore, they shared information on the structure of Council leadership and opportunities for outreach and advocacy, emphasizing the importance of first-year members being involved with leadership and participating in advocacy initiatives.

The presentation is available on slides 13-22 of the [Meeting Slides](#).

V. Legislative Platform and Priorities Overview

Second-year member, Mr. Hossainkhail, reviewed MYAC's legislative platform and previous legislative priorities. The presentation outlined how MYAC's legislative

priorities are developed and highlighted the work of the Legislative Committee to drive these priorities to the forefront of MYAC’s legislative advocacy.

The presentation can be found on slides 23-27 of the [Meeting Slides](#).

VI. Maryland’s Youth Policy Overview

Ms. Valenting provided the Council with a presentation on the Maryland youth policy structure. The presentation detailed the structure of the different state government entities involved in supporting youth and families.

The presentation is available on slides 29-34 of the [Meeting Slides](#).

VII. BREAK

VIII. Elections

Annual elections took place, and all present members had the opportunity to vote for this year's leadership team. The following members were elected to the leadership team:

Chair	Alexander Hossainkhail
Vice-Chair	Thomas Evans
Secretary	Folashade Epebinu
Legislative Committee Chair	Zaria Naqvi
Public Awareness Committee Chair	Rishi Sheth

IX. Committee Selections

All members must be on one committee, however, they can choose to serve on both committees. Following the elections, members were given the chance to meet with the committee of their top choice.

The newly elected committee chairs discussed the topics listed below with new committee members:

- Meeting dates and times
- Expectations for the year
- Advocacy interests
- Contact information

VI. Learning: Email Templating for Outreach

The newly elected secretary, Ms. Epebinu, briefly gave an overview of MYAC outreach email templates.

Key takeaways:

- CC the Chair, Vice-Chair, and advisor on every external email
- BCC if you're emailing a large group of people
- Ensure the email template is customized for each recipient
- Check for grammatical or formatting errors before sending external emails

VII. Announcements and Next Steps

- RSVP for the MYAC Frederick Town Hall
- Reach out to Mr. Valentine to engage in upcoming opportunities
- Check email for Chair and Committee Chair follow-up information
- Lookout for "Meet the Council" social media posts
- Complete mileage forms
- Apply for Chair-appointed positions
- Next council meeting is October 19th, 2024

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Valentine adjourned the meeting at 4:12 pm.