



Maryland Youth Advisory Council

Annual
Report

2015

Submitted to Governor Larry Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly
By the Governor's Office for Children on behalf of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council
August 28, 2015

Acknowledgements



On behalf of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), I am pleased to present the Council's 2014-2015 Annual Report. The report has been developed by the members of the MYAC Executive Board and represents the activities and priorities of the council during the 2014-2015 year. I would like to thank all members of the council for their service, dedication, and enthusiasm in representing the youth of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Gayon M. Sampson
Youth Co-Chair
Maryland Youth Advisory Council

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Purpose

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) was established through the State legislature in order to ensure that Maryland youth are given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect their future and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change. MYAC members are appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Maryland Association of Student Councils, University System of Maryland Student Council, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Advisory Council. All youth members must be 14-22 years of age, serve a one year term (September 1 - August 30), and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

As outlined in the parent bill, MYAC:

- Holds at least four meetings a year;
- Holds at least one public meeting on issues of importance to youth;
- Recommends one legislative proposal;
- Provides testimony before legislative bodies on youth issues;
- Conducts a public awareness campaign to raise awareness about the Council among Maryland youth; and
- Provides an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

While MYAC did not propose a specific legislative policy change to the General Assembly this year, the Council submitted written testimony on several bills that were introduced during the legislative session and developed a legislative platform including topics that the Council believed to be important.

Application Process and Outreach

2014-2015 Term

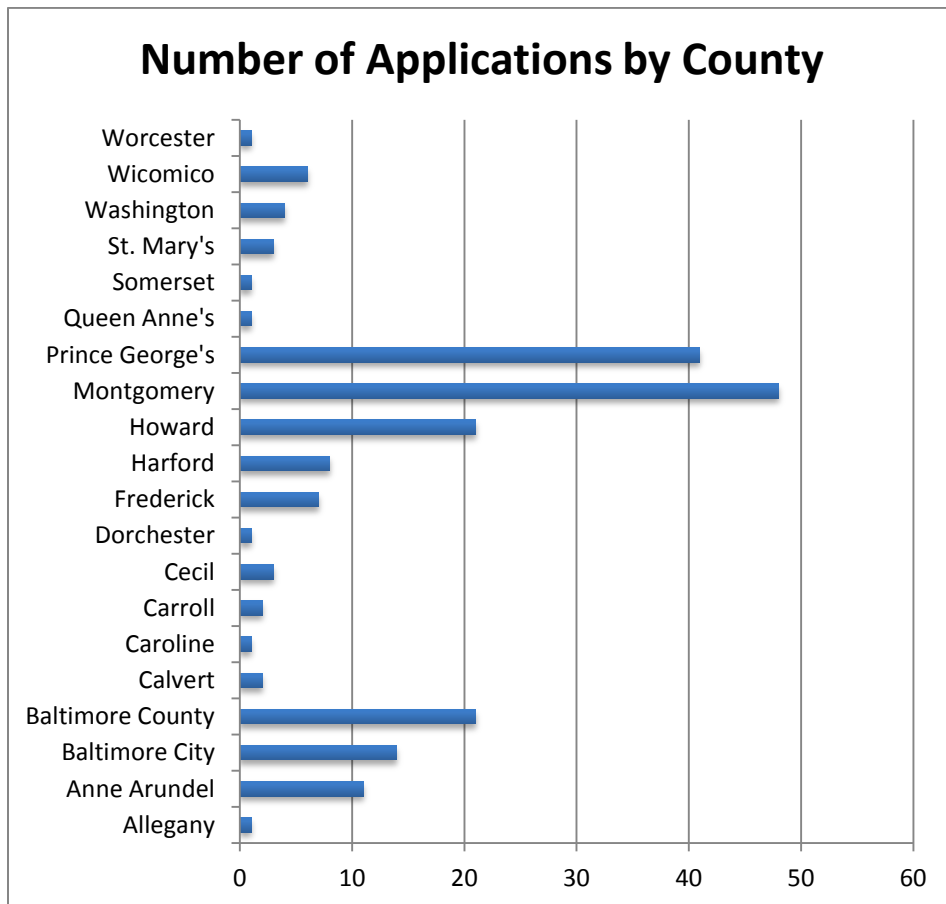
For the 2014-2015 term, the Council revised the application (Appendix I) for the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, which was available online on the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) website beginning April 1, 2014 to July 1, 2014. The Council expanded application outreach presented to numerous organizations to increase awareness of the Council and encourage a more diverse pool of applicants. Christina Drushel Williams and Michael Hawkins presented at the following meetings:

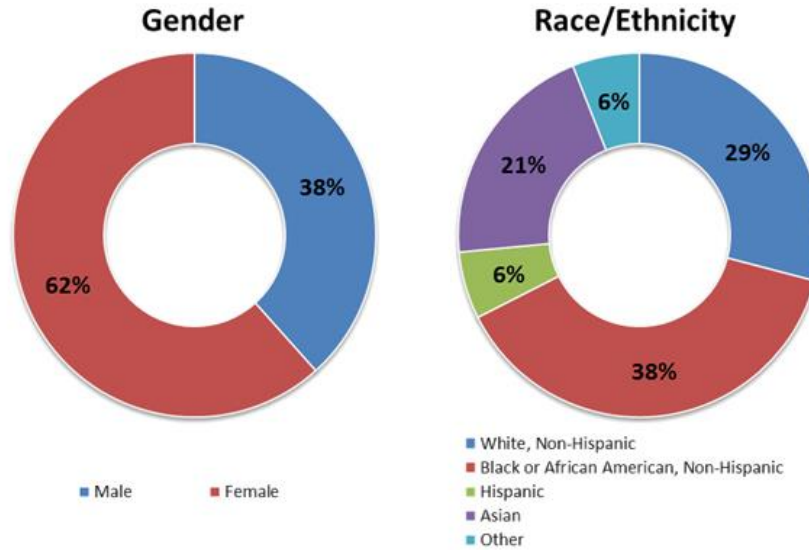
- Local Management Board Meeting – March 4, 2014
- Student Advisory Council to the Maryland Higher Education Commission – March 8, 2014
- University System of Maryland Student Council – March 9, 2014
- Department of Human Resources Quarterly Providers Meeting – April 10 and 17, 2014
- Department of Human Resources State Youth Advisory Board Meeting – April 16, 2014
- Maryland Association of Student Council Executive Board Meeting – May 13, 2014
- The Greater Cumberland Committee – May 15, 2014
- Department of Juvenile Services Quarterly Providers Meeting – May 16, 2014

GOC received 70 applications from 18 counties and 56 schools. The 2014 – 2015 Council will be composed of 52 members (three MHEC appointment slots remained vacant) representing 16 counties and 36 schools; of the 52 members, 9 are returning second-year members, and 43 are first-year members.

2015-2016 Term

For the 2015-2016 term, the Council received 198 applications from 20 counties, representing 108 high schools, colleges, and universities. The majority of applicants were from Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, female, and African American.





The 2015-2016 Council will be composed of 37 members, representing 16 counties and 13 high schools, colleges, and universities. At the submission of this report, the Governor’s first-year appointments are pending and the Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Advisory Council appointments remain unfilled and will be appointed in September. Of the 55 members, 19 are returning second-year members and 36 will be first-year members.

(See Appendix II for 2015-2016 Application Flyer)

Council Meetings

The statute that establishes MYAC requires the Council to meet at least four times each year and each meeting must be open to the public. The Council hosted five meetings and a Public Forum. The meetings were held on Saturday afternoons at various Baltimore County library locations and Towson University. These locations were selected because of their accessibility to the council and members of the public. All meeting dates, times, and locations were available on GOC’s website and meeting materials were also posted on the website before and after meetings.

Meeting #1: Saturday, September 6, 2014 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.), Arbutus Library, 855 Sulphur Spring Road, Arbutus, MD 21227

During the first meeting, the Council reviewed its roles and responsibilities, discussed past Council’s legislative priorities, and voted on leadership positions. Richard Harris from Department of Legislative Services talked to MYAC about how the Maryland General Assembly works. The Council also elected its officers, Co-Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, and its Executive Board. After which, it formed the, Legislative Committee and the Public Awareness Committee. The council members were asked to think about a focus for the year that will drive the Council’s legislative actions.

Meeting #2: Saturday, October 25, 2014 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.), White Marsh Library, 8133 Sandpiper Cir, Baltimore, MD 21236

During the second meeting, Youth as Resources trained the Council on the goals and facilitation of community conversations. The Council then planned for community conversations around Maryland. The Council proceeded by revising its bylaws. Within the bylaws, sections were changed to articles and subsections were changed to sections, many grammar/ parallel structure edits were made, and roles were added to Co-Chair position from Secretary position. Council members were asked to plan community conversations throughout their counties.

Meeting #3: Saturday, December 13, 2014 (11 a.m. – 2 p.m.), Towson University, West Village Commons, Ballroom A, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252

In the third meeting, Christine Johnson from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene asked the Council members what their health needs were and how they went about addressing them. They provided members with answers and resources regarding youth health. How they handled their health needs. Then, the Council had its legislative priorities discussion. Some issues included keeping college tuition affordable, ban the box initiative, concussion testing, intern protection, and police training. Finally, the Council members were asked to look out for bills that relate to youth and the legislative priorities discussed at this meeting.

Meeting #4: Sunday, February 8, 2015 (1 p.m. – 5 p.m.), Towson University, Minnegan Room, Johnny Unitas Stadium, Towson, MD 21204

The fourth meeting was focused on the MYAC platform and current Maryland legislation. Within the MYAC platform, the planks Youth Leadership, Education, Health and Social Issues, Youth Safety, Student Discipline, Environmental Issues, and Youth Employment were changed to either reflect MYAC's current position on certain issues or clarify what was already written. Then the Council proceeded to discuss relevant bills before the Maryland legislature. House Bill 28, which states that there should be one school resource officer at each secondary school, enticed a long discussion from the Council. Last year, when a similar bill was proposed, the Council decided to not support it. This debate concluded with the following statement: "The utilization of school resource officers" would remain in the MYAC platform, but only with added provision of "when deemed necessary and appropriate by the school". However, the Council decided not to take any action on the bill itself. The Council had questioned the purpose and effectiveness of Senate Bill 310, which implements a bilingual seal on high school diploma. The Council supported House Bill 86, which would increase the voting rights for the Montgomery County Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB). The Council also supported Senate Bill 183, or the Geographic Cost of Education Index, for which it decided to send a letter of support. Then the Council decided on the audience and purpose for the public forum.

Meeting #5: Saturday, March 21, 2015 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.), Towson University, West Village Commons, Room 305, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252

The fifth meeting consisted, primarily, of a legislative update and public forum planning. First the December 13, 2014 and the February 08, 2015 meeting minutes were approved. Matt Saxton and Alison Smith, Legislative Co-Chairs, gave a legislative update on the bills that interested MYAC. House Bill 86,

which gave full voting rights for the Montgomery County SMOB, passed in the House. Senate Bill 183/House Bill 215 (Geographic Cost of Education), House Bill 28 (Primary and Secondary Education – School Resource Officers), and House Bill 57 (University System of Maryland – Pay It Forward Pilot Program and Tuition Freeze) had unfavorable outlooks. Following the legislative update, members from the different counties within Maryland gave updates on the political and social atmosphere of their regions. Issues regarding English Language Learner students, budget cuts, and SMOB voting rights were discussed. Then, the Council revised the MYAC application with minor adjustments. Afterwards the Council planned its annual public forum. It was decided that the focus will be to inform youth of ways in which youth can lobby, advise MYAC, and create networking opportunities for youth leaders. This was the last official meeting of the MYAC for the 2014-2015 school year.

(See Appendix III for meeting minutes)

Bylaws Revision

On October 25, 2014 the Council reviewed, proposed revisions, and approved changes to the bylaws to reflect current practices regarding the application process and officer duties.

(See Appendix IV for revised bylaws)

Legislative Priority Selection Process

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) has long been actively engaged in promoting the betterment and advancement of policy initiatives that progress the lives, education, and communities of Maryland's youth population. The 2014-2015 membership thoroughly discussed the needs of Maryland youth in order to select a legislative priority for the year. Following deliberation, the Council elected to make the year's priority the "health and well-being of the youth of the State of Maryland." MYAC took a stand during its 2014-2015 term year to advocate for the passage and signage of any actions or bills that promoted a healthier lifestyle, both physically and mentally, of our youth, as well as the affordability and accessibility of a high quality education on all levels. MYAC partnered with other statewide student leaders and advocates, particularly around issues facing our constituency in higher education institutions. Through the work of the MYAC, and its partners, a mandate of full funding for the Geographical Cost of Education Index, stronger employment protections for unpaid interns, and many more of our legislative platform initiatives were successful. The Legislative Committee coordinated an effort to present the important of uniform concussion testing methods for high school athletes in Maryland. Outside of our legislative priority, the MYAC Legislative Committee authored a formal written resolution in support of House Bill 86, which would give a full vote to the Student Member of the Montgomery County Board of Education.

In an effort to codify the views of the Council and Maryland youth, the MYAC Legislative Committee spearheaded the development of a MYAC Legislative Platform during the 2014-2015 term. The platform was initially proposed by the Legislative Committee Co-Chairs to MYAC leadership in December. During the drafting of the document, significant research was conducted into the views, current legislative

actions, and similar documents of other Maryland youth advocacy organizations as well as the past work of the Council. The draft was completed and submitted to MYAC leadership in January. MYAC leadership and the Legislative Co-Chairs discussed the proposed document at length to refine it in preparation for presentation to the Council. After revisions were made, a proposed platform was brought before the Assembly in February. The document was read in full to the Council, questions were taken, amendments proposed, and thorough discussion held. Following full review of the document the Council voted unanimously to adopt the document. In total the platform spans 7 broad subjects: Youth Representation, Youth Leadership, Education, Health and Social Issues, Youth Safety and Student Discipline, Environmental Issues, and Youth Employment. Contained within the platform are over 70 planks indicating either an area of support or opposition in relation to the 7 subjects.

The goal of the platform is multifaceted. Firstly, the platform will allow the Council to share our views and recommendations for Maryland through a central, easy to follow document. Secondly, the adoption of a platform will enable MYAC to advocate more broadly for youth and individual council members will be empowered by this document as youth advocates. Finally, this document serves as a testament to the abilities of youth to be informed on a wide array of subject matters enough so to make specific, action-oriented comments and recommendations.

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council Legislative Platform will serve both the Council and our peers across the State well. The platform will promote informed advocacy, future Council discussions, and ultimately a better defined and organized Council. As a living document, the platform is sure to evolve with the needs of youth and continue to influence change for years to come.

(See Appendix V for Legislative Platform)

2015 Public Forum

Each year, the Council conducts a public forum in which Council members, panel speakers, and guests are encouraged to discuss a current issue important to Maryland youth. During the 2014-15 year, the Council focused on topics of Advocacy, Activism, and Education. The 2015 Public Forum was held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Anne Arundel Community College – Arnold Campus.

Opening remarks were given by the Council co-chair Christina Drushel-Williams, followed by a brief speech from the Vice Chair, Kennard Wallace.

Workshop I

The first workshop was led by Christina Drushel Williams and consisted of Advocacy, Activism, and Education. The workshop focused on ways to advocate, engage in activism, and educate people on the importance of an issue. The workshop separated the Council members and Forum guests into groups of five. The workshop began with a chart that asked the participants to brainstorm ways a person would be able to advocate for a problem/issue, act on the problem/issue, and educate other citizens about why the problems/issue needs to be solved.

This workshop also allowed the Council members and the guests to discuss why these attributes were needed in order to productively promote change. Each group presented their brainstormed ideas

afterwards, which led into a larger group discussion about advocacy, activism, and education towards the change of policy and legislation that currently govern the youth.

Workshop II

After the first workshop, each group then engaged in a roundtable discussion. The attendees wrote down several adjectives that described themselves and their strengths and then briefly explained why they chose those words. After the explanations, each group deliberated why the words used were important in leveraging relationships with peers and co-workers when attending school, academic events, and advocating for legislation. As each and every person is part of multiple networks, whether social or professional, the means through which people could use their strengths to promote change within their communities were discussed.

Public Forum Review

At the end of the Public Forum, attendees were given an evaluation form to fill out concerning the various sections of the Forum and their perceived efficacy. The form consisted of two sections, one with numeric assessments, and the other with short-answer questions. 38 evaluation forms were received, and the following statistics were calculated:

- Usefulness of the Public Forum (out of 5): 4.08
- Percent of expectations met (out of 100): 81.58
- Overall satisfaction with the Forum (out of 5): 4.20
- Overall satisfaction with Workshop 1 (out of 5): 4.08
- Overall satisfaction with Workshop 2 (out of 5): 4.29

(See Appendix VI for Public Forum Materials)

Improvements for 2015-16 Council Year

Location

Members felt that this year's Towson University location was more appealing and accessible than those of previous years. We recommend continued use of this location.

Large unspecialized committees had difficulty meeting and accomplishing tasks

This year, for the first time, the Council deviated from its two established committees, Legislative and Public Relations, creating several other, smaller committees to focus on other tasks. Council members generally reacted favorably to this change but believed it could be better-implemented and that more committees should be established. Council members also felt that committees had little time to work during Council meetings.

Suggestion:

- At the beginning of the Council year, work with members to create committees focusing on each area the Council is involved in. Make sure that each member is assigned to a specific committee and that heads of committees communicate with each other and with their staff. Assign each committee specific tasks. To ensure that committees have time to work, set aside additional time at every Council meeting.

Lack of tangible tasks and deadlines

Members often wished to contribute further but did not feel that they knew what needed to be done. Tasks went uncompleted because no specific member had been assigned them and each member assumed someone else was working on it. Committee heads shouldered a disproportionate share of the work.

Suggestion:

- Before the end of each meeting, ensure that concrete, tangible tasks have been assigned to committees and individuals. Do not assume that this will be done over email or through other communication technology after the meeting. Give each task a deadline and keep a master list of tasks to facilitate checking in with members on task status.

Revisions of committee materials took up a disproportionate share of meeting time

The Committee revised several documents during meetings this year, including the MYAC By-Laws and the newly created MYAC Platform. Members often found themselves bogged down in debates over small issues of grammar, syntax, or wording which took a great deal of committee time to resolve.

Suggestion:

- Accomplish such revisions outside meeting times by using online group-editing technology, such as Google Docs.

Improvements for 2016 Public Forum

Attendance

The public forum was held on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at Anne Arundel Community College – Arnold Campus. While more members of the public attended than ever before, MYAC would like to continue to increase attendance from people outside of the Council by better promoting the forum.

Suggestions:

- Social Media Use: The Council should continue to create a Facebook event for the forum and to utilize the Council page and members' pages to disseminate information about the event. The Council should also:

- Print advertisements/flyers: MYAC members should use more flyers to promote the event. Members can post flyers at local high schools and colleges to encourage students to attend the event.
- Concrete tasks: In accordance with the second recommended improvement for the general Council year, committee heads and Council leaders should establish and assign goals and actions to each member. For example, members could be asked to invite a certain number of people, distribute a certain number of flyers, or post advertisements on certain social networks.

Outside Speakers

Members felt that the workshops were informative and engaging and appreciated opportunities for MYAC members and other attendees to interact and discuss the forum topic. However, members felt that having one or more outside speakers could have provided new perspectives and perhaps served as a draw for the general public.

Suggestion:

- Contact multiple speakers earlier. Speakers are generally busy people who require more than a few weeks' notice. Also contacting and engaging multiple speakers provides a cushion in case of cancellation. One outside speaker had planned to give a brief address at this year's forum, but was unable to attend due to illness.

2014-2015 Maryland Youth Advisory Council Roster

Senator Roger Manno, Senate Co-Chair (appointed by the President of the Senate)

Delegate John A. Olszewski, Jr., House Co-Chair (appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates)

Christina Drushel Williams, Governor's Office for Children Co-Chair (appointed the Governor)

Michael Hawkins, Governor's Office for Children Co-Chair (appointed by the Governor)

Gayon Sampson, Youth Co-Chair (elected by Council members to a one-year term)

2014-2015 Maryland Youth Advisory Council Youth Executive Board (elected by Council members)

- Youth Co-Chair: Gayon M. Sampson
- Youth Vice-Chair: Kennard Wallace
- Secretary: Likhitha Butchireddygari
- Legislative Committee Co-Chairs: Matthew Saxton and Alison Smith
- Public Awareness Committee Co-Chairs: Medha Reddy and Carly Weetman
- Governor's Appointees: Sam Choi, Camille Kirsch, Dawnya Johnson, and Randi Williams
- Senate and House Appointees: Joshua Becker, Nihinlolu Fatinikun, Gorti Viswanath, and Sydney Young
- Youth Appointed by Other Youth Appointees: Inuri Abeysekara, Matthew Saxton, Nicholas Schmitz, and Brandon Wharton

Appointed by the Governor

Appointed in 2013

1. Samuel Choi
2. Camille Kirsch
3. Raisa Rauf
4. Medha Reddy

Appointed in 2014

1. Victoria Brown
2. Nyshel Byrd
3. Joseph Coale
4. Noelle Dayal
5. Grace Hageman
6. Tierra Harris
7. Dawnya Johnson
8. Ifetayo Kitwala
9. Gabrielle Nelson
10. Anna Selbrede
11. Carly Weetman
12. Randi Williams

Appointed by the President of the Senate

Appointed in 2013

1. Noah Miller

Appointed in 2014

1. Nihinlolu Fatinikun
2. David Gevarter
3. Viswanath Gorti
4. Daniel Grossman
5. Kendall Hamlin
6. Sareana Kimia
7. Curtis Swanson

Appointed by the Speaker of the House

Appointed in 2013

1. Jamilah Silver

Appointed in 2014

1. Joshua Becker
2. Stacey Garcia
3. Christian Hooker
4. Reines Maliksi
5. Ian McGrory
6. Alison Smith
7. Sydney Young

Appointed by the Maryland Association of Student Councils

Appointed in 2013

1. Likhitha Butchireddygar
2. Alessandra Lowy
3. Shreya Nalubola

Appointed in 2014

1. Inuri Abeysekara
2. Maggie Chen
3. Alisha Desai
4. Omisa Jinsi
5. Michael Keffler
6. Abigail King
7. Thorne Lindsey
8. Jeremy Price
9. Matthew Saxton
10. Nicholas Schmitz
11. Allison Wachen
12. Eric Zhao

Appointed by the University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC)

Appointed in 2014

1. Zachary McGee
2. Gayon M. Sampson
3. Brandon Wharton

Appointed by the Student Advisory Council to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)

Appointed in 2014

1. Sheila Pierre-Louis (resigned)
2. Kennard Wallace
3. Vacant
4. Vacant
5. Vacant

Appendix I: 2014-2015 Maryland Youth Advisory Council Application



MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2014-2015 Application

Maryland Youth Advisory Council

In 2008, the Maryland Youth Advisory Council was established through the Maryland General Assembly to ensure that Maryland youth are given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect their future and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change. By providing testimony in Annapolis and policy recommendations, council members have the opportunity to raise their voices and share their experiences with the Governor, State legislature, agencies, and other youth.

Council members will be expected to:

- Be active and passionate representatives of Maryland youth. Members must attend at least 50% of regular meetings. Any member who does not attend the required number of meetings may be removed from the Council;
- Identify and discuss issues facing youth in Maryland;
- Work with other council members to create strategies that address these issues;
- Serve as liaisons to other affiliated youth organizations and peers in his/her communities;
- Develop leadership skills;
- Meet other Maryland youth; and
- Have fun!

How to Apply:

If you would like to be a voice for youth in Maryland, please fill out the attached application. Council members must be 14-22 years of age on September 1, 2014. Members must serve a one year term (September 1 until August 30) and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

Council members are appointed by the Governor of Maryland, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, the Maryland Association of Student Councils, University System of Maryland Student Council, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Advisory Council.

Council members will be selected with consideration towards gender, race, and geographic area to ensure a diverse representation of Maryland's youth statewide.

Application submissions must include:

1. Completed application;
2. One letter of recommendation; and
3. Resume.

If you have questions, please contact Christina Drushel Williams at christina.drushel@maryland.gov, 410-767-2547. The deadline for applications is **July 1, 2014**.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Christina Drushel Williams
Program & Policy Specialist
Governor's Office for Children
301 West Preston St., Suite 1502
Baltimore, MD 21201
Christina.drushel@maryland.gov

**MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
2014-2015 Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Other Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Age (as of September 1, 2014): _____

Parent / Guardian (if under 18):

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

Cell Phone: () _____

Name of School: _____

Type of School: Public Private Homeschooled

Year in School (during the 2014-15 school year): Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Enrolled in a GED or diploma equivalency program: Yes No

If not currently in school, when did you last attend: _____

1) Briefly explain why you would like to participate in the Maryland Youth Advisory Council and what contributions you would bring as a member.

2) Briefly explain what you hope to gain from your experience with the Maryland Youth Advisory Council.

3) What issues are you most passionate about and why? As a member of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, how would you address these issues?

4) Describe a time when you found yourself in a leadership position and there was conflict or disagreement. How did you respond to the situation?

5) If you are selected, you will be expected to reach out to the youth you represent in your school and community. Please describe some ways you plan to engage your peers.

6) List any employment, activities, or groups that you plan to be involved during the year and describe how you will balance your commitment to the Maryland Youth Advisory Council and your other activities.

7) How did you hear about the Maryland Youth Advisory Council? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Office | <input type="checkbox"/> MD Higher Education Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President of the Senate | <input type="checkbox"/> University System of Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker of the House | <input type="checkbox"/> Current Council Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MD Association of Student Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/School Administrator | |

Pursuant to Maryland State Government Code, Annotated, §9-2701, you may consider providing the following information:

a. Gender: (Please check appropriate box)

- Male Female

b. Race/Ethnicity: (Please check appropriate box)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| White, Non Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black or African American, Non Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other: _____ | | | |

c. Disability: (Please check appropriate box)

- Yes No

Please include one letter of reference (teacher, coach, pastor, advisor, professor, principal, etc.) and a resume.


Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if under 18): _____ Date: _____

Appendix II: 2015-2016 Application Flyer

Maryland Youth Advisory Council

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council is a group of young people ages 14-22 that ensures youth are given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations regarding public policies that affect their future and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change.



Like us on Facebook!


Reasons to join MYAC

- Be a voice for youth and share experiences with the Governor, State legislature, and agencies.
- Advocate for issues impacting youth everyday in Maryland by providing testimony before legislative bodies.
- Gain knowledge about the Maryland legislative process.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Network with other student leaders in Maryland.

Testimonials from Council Members

“MYAC is such a fun experience that has provided me with valuable insight into the inside workings of the Maryland General Assembly and lasting friendships!”

“Through my experiences with MYAC, I have not only made great connections, I have also had the ability to better understand the legislative process.”



Where to get the application?

Application forms are available until July 1, 2015 on the MYAC webpage, <http://goc.maryland.gov/myac/>. For more information please contact Christina Drushel Williams at christina.drushel@maryland.gov, or 410-767-2547.

Appendix III: 2014-2015 Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2014

General Meeting
Baltimore County Arbutus Library
855 Sulphur Spring Road, Arbutus, MD 21227

In Attendance

Council Members:

Abigail King
Alisha Desai
Alison Smith
Allie Lowy
Allison Wachen
Anna Selbrede
Brandon Wharton
Camille Kirsch
Carly Weetman
Christian Hooker
Curtis Swanson
Daniel Grossman
David Gevarter
Dawnya Johnson
Eric Zhao
Gabrielle Nelson
Gayon Sampson
Grace Hageman

Ian McGrory
Ifetayo Kitwala
Inuri Abeysekara
Jamilah Silver
Joe Coale
Joshua Becker
Kendall Hamlin
Kennard Wallace
Likhitha Butchireddygar
Maggie Chen
Matthew Saxton
Medha Reddy
Michael Keffler
Nicholas Schmitz
Nihinlolu Fatinikun
Noelle Dayal
Omisa Jinsi
Raisa Rauf
Randi Williams
Reines Maliksi

Sam Choi
Sareana Kimia
Sheila Pierre-Louis
Shreya Nalubola
Stacey Garcia
Sydney Young
Thorne Lindsey
Viswanath Gorti
Zachary McGee

Co-Chairs:

Christina Drushel Williams
Michael Hawkins
LaWanda Edwards
(representing Sen. Manno)

Guests:

Rich Harris

Overview of MYAC and Member Responsibilities

- Reviewed the general history of MYAC and appointment process.
- Examined from which counties MYAC member came (disparities and successes).
- Reviewed the role and responsibilities, by-laws and code-of-conduct for the Maryland Youth Advisory Council. For copies of these materials please see attached documents:
 - MYAC overview presentation
 - By-laws and code-of-conduct
 - Photo release form
 - 2014 Annual Report
- Members were asked to read and sign the code-of-conduct agreement and review the photo consent form to be filled out by members over the age of 18, or parents if member is under the age of 18.

Overview of Legislative Process

- Richard Harris from Department of Legislative Services talked to MYAC about how the general Maryland General Assembly works.
- Note: The best time to provide an opinion is during the Public Hearing within the first reading, of which there are three.
- See [handout](#)

Legislative Priorities Discussion and Public Hearing

- Discussed legislative priorities from previous Council years, and include:
 - SMOB Voting Rights
 - Financial Literacy
 - School Nutrition
 - Technology in School
 - Life Skills, College and Career Readiness
- Public Forums are hosted by the Council to present the selected legislative issue, create an open and meaningful discussion about this topic between youth and decision makers, provide testimony before a panel, and allow the community to engage with the council about the issue.

Election Results

[See Officer Position Description Attachment](#)

Youth Co-Chair – Gayon M. Sampson

- Gayon Sampson - 17
- Likhitha Butchireddygari – 16
- Randi Williams – 9
- Joseph Coale - 3

Youth Vice Chair – Kennard Wallace

- Kennard Wallace - 24
- Medha Reddy - 11
- Alessandra Lowry - 10

Youth Secretary – Likhitha Butchireddygari

- Likhitha Butchireddygari – 22
- Randi Williams – 15
- Ifetayo Kitwala - 8

Youth Executive Board

House and Senate

Joshua Becker
Vishwanath Gorti
Nihinlolu Fatinikun
Sydney Young

Governor

Samuel Choi
Dawnya Johnson
Camille Kirsch
Randi Williams

Youth

Inuri Abeysekara
Matthew Saxton
Nick Schmitz
Brandon Wharton

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

- Matthew Saxton
- Alison Smith

Public Awareness Committee Co-Chairs

- Medha Reddy
- Carly Weetman

Committee Breakouts

Meeting Adjourned

Action Items

- Sign and return Code of Conduct forms and Media Release forms.
- Members are encouraged to talk to other young people in their community, school, church, youth group, etc. about issues impacting youth today. Council members should be prepared to discuss their outreach at the next council meeting.
- Executive Board
 - Organize a way to update bylaws.
- Legislative Committee
 - Establish a system of communication.
- Public Awareness Committee
 - Establish a system of communication.

Next Meeting

- Saturday, October 25th at the White Marsh Library, *8133 Sandpiper Circle, Baltimore, MD 21236.*
- Agenda will focus on legislative issue discussion and next steps.

October 25, 2014

General Meeting
Baltimore County White Marsh Library
8133 Sandpiper Circle, Baltimore, MD 21236

In Attendance

Council Members:

Alisha Desai	Jeremy Price	Sydney Young
Alison Smith	Joe Coale	Thorne Lindsey
Allison Wachen	Joshua Becker	Tierra Harris
Anna Selbrede	Kendall Hamlin	Viswanath Gorti
Brandon Wharton	Likhitha Butchireddygari	Zac McGee
Camille Kirsch	Maggie Chen	<u>Co-Chairs:</u>
Curtis Swanson	Matthew Saxton	Gayon Sampson
David Gevarter	Medha Reddy	Christina Drushel Williams
Dawnya Johnson	Nihimlolu Fatinikun	Michael Hawkins
Eric Zhao	Noelle Dayal	<u>Guests:</u>
Ian McGrory	Omisa Jinsi	Missy Ronan
Ifetayo Kitwala	Randi Williams	Pierce Jaffri
	Reines Maliksi	Youth As Resources

Community Conversations Training

1. Youth as Resources: Baltimore's youth led non-profit grant making organization. They give grants that range from \$500 to \$3500 to youth that would like to improve their communities. These projects must be completely facilitated by youth.
2. Overview of Community Conversations
 - Our Thoughts:
 - Representation from all groups of the community
 - Every person from each home comes to the meeting
 - An opportunity for people from within a specific community to express their ideas on a specific topic so that the people in that community can collaborate on an action plan
 - Young people can be in their own community
 - Actual: A community conversation is a facilitated, guided discussion aimed to engage the community in identifying the most pressing problems and identifying actions to address this problem
3. Goals of community conversations
 - Our Thoughts:
 - Find out the problems that might have been overlooked and then to figure what the possible solutions are
 - To think about how to address the issues
 - If it is structured around a certain issue that involves two groups, community conversations can be used to facilitate mediation

- Actual: The goal of a community conversation is to group ideas together to come up actions to address the problems.
4. Facilitation
- Our Thoughts:
 - Modeling and organizing thoughts.
 - Keeping the conversations going.
 - Actual: Facilitation serves the needs of any group who are meeting with a common purpose, whether it be making a decision, solving a problem, or simply exchanging ideas and information. It does not lead the group, nor does it try to distract or entertain.
5. Facilitator: Someone who helps a group of people understand their common objectives and assists them to plan to achieve them without taking a particular position in the discussion.
6. Facilitation Tips and Tricks:
- Introduce what you are going to cover: helps people understand what is in store
 - Use visuals: some people are visual learners
 - Maintain neutrality: be unbiased, don't encourage frivolity
 - Be a spontaneous thinker when necessary: often times, things go wrong, so be ready to correct the situation
 - Smile: helps create a positive environment
 - Use eye contact: helps gauge interest and engages audience
 - Speak slowly and confidently: clarifies the content
 - Keep it short and simple: creates most efficient facilitation
 - Corny is cute: it's a good memory trick
 - Involve your audience: "draw them out" by asking questions and "check in" before you move on, helps gauge understanding
7. Outline of a Community Conversations
- Assets: What do you like about your neighborhood, what are some of the goods things?
 - Problems: What do you think are some problems in your neighborhood, community, school and/or Baltimore?
 - Causes: What causes those problems? Why are things that way? Why it is so? In other words, if violence is a problem, why are people violent? Keep asking why?
 - Solutions: What are some ideas you have to address some of those causes? What can we do together to address some of these causes?
 - What demands can we make? Who has the power to meet those demands? These are your targets.
 - Who else cares about this? What do we want to ask them to do? These are your allies.
 - Developing a Plan: What actions do we want to take? What can we do to influence those with the power to meet our demands? What do we want to first, next, etc.? Who is going to do it, by when? What do we need to get it done? What do we already have? This will help you develop a budget.

- Questions:
 - How general or specific do the conversations get?
 - It is really up to the group.
 - Are the asset walks necessary?
 - No, the assets/problems walks aren't necessary.
 - What are some barriers you have encountered and how have you dealt with them?
 - Some people don't think they have power to enact change, so you have to explain to them that they have power in numbers.
 - What do you do if one or two people are dominating the conversation?
 - Under participators:
Round robins
Small groups
Pre-set a role, forewarning
Ask for feedback without putting anyone on the spot
Use phrases like: tell me more
Ask everyone to write down their thoughts
Introverts take seven seconds longer to respond, live with silence
Don't ask yes or no questions
 - Over participators:
Round robins
Everyone gets first before seconds
Scribe or some other non-verbal role
Diplomacy – let's hear from those who have not spoken
Time keeping
Pass throw an object/group picks the next one to talk
 - What do you do if the group consensus doesn't match your perspective?
 - Deal with it. It is the group's prerogative to decide what they want done.
 - What if the solutions aren't realistic?
 - Tell them it's not realistic and lead them in a new direction
 - How young are kids you work with?
 - They are around seven.

Community Conversation Planning

- How do we find locations to hold conversations?
 - Christina can help find space.
 - Zachary McGee, President of University System of Maryland Student Council can also help locate space.
- What is our paradigm?
 - Goal is to have a community conversation in every county represented.

Discussion and Approval of By-Laws

- See Attached By-Laws with Approved Changes.
- Synopsis:
 - Sections changed to articles and subsections changed to sections.

- Many grammar/ parallel structure changes.
- Added roles to Co-Chair position from Secretary position.
- Robert's Rules of Order is still present.
- Article V. Executive Board Duties has not been approved, due to necessary further discussion by the Executive Board.

Next Steps and Announcements

- Please get Code of Conduct/ Photo Release form signed.
- Christina Drushel Williams will be going on maternity leave sometime this year, so all communication will be done through Michael Hawkins.
- Plan your community conversations through your county.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting

- Saturday, December 13th, 2014, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Location TBD.

December 13, 2014

General Meeting
Towson University
West Village Commons, Ballroom A
8000 York Rd, Towson, MD 21252

In Attendance:

Council Members

Joshua Becker
Likhitha Butchireddygari
Sam Choi
Joe Coale
David Gevarter
Vishy Gorti
Daniel Grossman
Grace Hageman
Kendall Hamlin
Tierra Harris
Michael Keffler
Abigail King
Thorne Lindsey
Zachary McGee
Ian McGrory
Noah Miller

Gabrielle Nelson
Jeremy Price
Matthew Saxton
Nicholas Schmitz
Kennard Wallace
Carly Weetman
Brandon Wharton
Randi Williams

Co-Chairs

Michael Hawkins
Gayon Sampson

Guests

William McCurry, GOC
Christine Johnson, DHMH
Yvette McEachern, DHMH

Minutes:

The group approved the minutes from the October meeting by unanimous consent.

Focus Group:

Christine Johnson, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

DHMH requested an invitation to join MYAC at their meeting to conduct a focus group on health issues facing youth and adolescents. Topics included physical health, mental health, safety, school and community climate, and relationships.

Feedback was provided anonymously. Below is a brief representation of part of the conversation:

1. Who makes your doctors' appointments?
Our Thoughts:
 - Parents – sometimes they will teach their kids to learn how to make appointments, sometimes they don't.
2. Is it uncomfortable for you to make an appointment?
Our Thoughts:

- There isn't enough time to make appointments.
 - Questions about insurance are uncomfortable.
3. If you had an issue, who would you call?
Our Thoughts:
- Some teens have no idea where to start.
4. What do you and your peers consider a healthy relationship?
Our Thoughts:
- It may not be too healthy to make goals and talk about the future at a young age because there is so much that can change.
 - Some teens have unreal expectations.
 - There are so many different types of relationships, so there is confusion about what's appropriate for the relationship and what's not.
5. Where do young people learn about healthy/unhealthy relationships?
Our Thoughts:
- Parents.
 - Through their peers: trial and error.
 - Not talked about enough.
 - People of faith.

Stand Up for Bullying: William McCurry, Governor's Office for Children

- What is it?
 - STAND UP Training & Action Summit 2015:
Bullying Prevention Taking Action for the New Year
 - *"STAND UP to Bullying Maryland has been created to educate, motivate and empower young people to stand up to bullying and to help create a culture of non-tolerance for this behavior. STAND UP to Bullying Maryland empowers youth to actively promote positive social change in their schools and communities. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend STAND UP to Bullying Maryland as a member of a school or organization."*
- When?
 - **Wednesday, March 18, 2015:** 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Where?
 - SECU Arena at Towson University: 8000 York Rd. Towson, Maryland
- Cost?
 - Free. Lunch is provided.

Legislative Priority Discussion

- It's On Us: Conduits of stopping sexual harassment.
 - Decision: MYAC will concentrate on this as a publicity capacity.
- Keeping College Tuition Affordable.
 - Decision: legislative priority.

- Ban the Box Initiative: Prohibiting an employer to inquire about a job applicant’s criminal record until after the initial interview.
 - Concern: This may be a conflict of interest.
 - Decision: MYAC will take no action on this issue by a 10-12 (Yes-No) vote.
- Intern Protection: Providing interns with the basic protection given to paid employees.
 - Decision: MYAC will need more information before making a decision.
- Concussion Testing: baseline testing for all high school athletes.
- Substance Abuse: helping you deal with substance abuse issues.
 - Decision: “Health and Well-Being of Youth” will be a legislative priority for MYAC (including concussions, substance abuse, and mental health) by unanimous vote.
- Police Training: avoiding police brutality.
 - Decision: No decision was made.
- Guidance Counselor v. College Counselor.
 - Decision: No decision was made.

Next Steps and Announcements

- Look out for bills that relate to youth and the legislative priorities discussed at this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting

- Sunday, February 08, 2015: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

February 8, 2015

General Meeting
Towson University
Johnny Unitas Stadium Field House
Towson, MD 21204

In Attendance

Council Members:

Abigail King	Grace Hageman	Omisa Jinsi
Alisha Desaw	Ifetayo Kitwala	Randi Williams
Alison Smith	Inuri Abeysekara	Reines Maliksi
Allison Wachen	Jeremy Price	Sam Choi
Brandon Wharton	Kennard Wallace	Sydney Young
Camille Kirsch	Likhitha Butchireddygar	Thorne Lindsey
Carly Weetman	Maggie Chen	
Christian Hooker	Matthew Saxton	<u>Co-Chairs:</u>
Daniel Grossman	Medha Reddy	Gayon Sampson
David Gevarter	Michael Keffler	Michael Hawkins
Eric Zhao	Nihinlolu Fatinikun	
Gabrielle Nelson	Noelle Dayal	

Legislative Priorities Update – Bills Currently In Consideration

1. **HB 28:** There should be one school resource officer at each secondary school.
2. **HB 57:** Pay It Forward initiative (students will pay a fixed percentage of their future income in exchange for an interest-free income).
3. **SB 131:** Homeless Baltimore City Public Schools graduates receive tuition waivers to attend certain in-state schools.
4. **SB 75:** There would be a task force to Study a Program for Interest-Free Loans to STEM College Students in Maryland.
5. **Intern Protection Bill:** Chamber of Commerce introduced this to protect interns as regular employees.
6. **Purple Line and Red Line Connection Plans.**
7. **HB86:** Establishes full voting rights for the Montgomery County Public Schools Student Member of the Board of Education with the exception of teacher discipline and review.

Platform Discussion and Revision

- Definition: the declared policy of Maryland Youth Advisory Council.
- Paradigm: set to be flexible due to our varied interests (Youth Representation, Youth Leadership, Education – General, Primary and Secondary Education, and Higher Education, Health and

Social Issues, Youth Safety and Student Discipline, Environmental Issues, and Youth Employment).

- Revisions:
 - Plank II: Youth Leadership
 - Two grammatical changes were made for clarification.
 - Plank III: Education
 - Primary and Secondary Education (We Support)
 - “Initiatives which encourage students to become educators in Maryland” was struck because it was small in scope.
 - “Availability and implementation of AP and IB programs” was added
 - Other clarifying measures were taken.
 - Higher Education (We Support)
 - Concern with Subsection D: Graduation rates in community college are different than those in other higher education institutions, so “four year” was struck to broaden scope.
 - One clarifying measure was taken.
 - Plank IV: Health and Social Issues
 - “Initiatives to prevent all forms of bullying in and out of schools” was added.
 - Three clarifying measures were taken.
 - Plank V: Youth Safety and Student Discipline (We Support)
 - “Inclusion of anger and stress management in school curricula” was struck
 - “The utilization of school resource officers” was tabled.
 - “Efforts to prevent sexual assault among youth” was combined with “including publicized procedures for reporting sexual assault”.
 - One clarifying measure was taken.
 - Plank VI: Environmental Issues
 - Two grammatical changes were made for clarification.
 - Plank VII: Youth Employment
 - One clarifying measure was taken.

School Resource Officer Discussion

- Support:
 - They sometimes act as community liaisons.
 - They can be very effective in certain schools with increased violence.
- Concerns:
 - Bill in Legislature says “retired officers”.
 - Effectiveness is questionable in certain cases.
 - Guns in schools were opposed by members.
 - Apathetic officers create more tension within schools.
- Conclusion: “The utilization of school resource officers” would remain in the Platform, but only with added provision of “when deemed necessary and appropriate by the school”. This decision was made by 25-5 vote (support-oppose).

Bill Discussion

- HB 76: MYAC supports all measures to increase student participation and voting rights on Boards of Education.
 - Conclusion: Letter of support and testimonial to be sent.
- SB 37: Increases tobacco tax.
- SB 310: Bilingual seal on high school diploma,
 - Concern: what is the purpose? Is it effective in any way?
- SB 183: Geographic Cost of Education Index.
 - dontshortchangeMD.com
 - Conclusion: Letter of support to be sent.
- HB 28: Student Resource Officers
 - Conclusion: MYAC will take no stance on bill.

Public Forum Discussion

- April 25th: panel discussion.
- Audience: house delegates and local officials.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting

- Saturday, March 21st, 2015, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Location (**Towson University, West Village Commons - Room 305**).
- Agenda will focus on Public Forum planning.

March 21, 2015

General Meeting
Towson University
West Village Commons, Room 305
8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252

In Attendance

Council Members:

Abby King	Joe Coale	Reines Maliksi
Alisha Desai	Joshua Becker	Samuel Choi
Allison Wachen	Kendall Hamlin	Sydney Young
Alison Smith	Kennard Wallace	Thorne Lindsey
Anna Selbrede	Likhitha Butchireddygari	Tierra Harris
Brandon Wharton	Maggie Chen	
Curtis Swanson	Matthew Saxton	<u>Co-Chairs:</u>
Gabby Nelson	Michael Keffler	Gayon Sampson
Ian McGrory	Noah Miller	Christina Drushel Williams
Inuri Abeysekara	Omisa Jinsi	Michael Hawkins

December 13, 2014 and February 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes Approved

Legislative Update

1. HB 86 (Montgomery County Board of Education – Student Member):
 - Description: Full voting rights for the Montgomery County SMOB.
 - Passed in the House.
 - Hearing in Senate scheduled for March 25th.
2. SB 183/HB 215 (Geographic Cost of Education):
 - Heard in Budget and Taxation Committee on February 11th.
 - Failed in Senate.
 - Money was allocated appropriately in budget.
3. HB 28 (Primary and Secondary Education – School Resource Officers):
 - House hearing in Ways and Means Committee was on January 28th.
 - Unfavorable outlook.
4. HB 57 (University System of Maryland – Pay It Forward Pilot Program and Tuition Freeze):
 - Heard February 3rd.
 - Unfavorable report – withdrawn.
5. SB 131 (Baltimore City Community College – Tuition Waiver):
 - Hearing on February 4th cancelled.
 - Hearing on February 11th – no progress since.

6. SB 75 (Task Force to Study a Program for Interest-Free Loans to STEM College Students in Maryland):
 - Passed Unanimously in Senate.
 - Hearing in House on March 26th.
7. HB 229 (Employment Discrimination – Protecting for Interns):
 - Passed 136-0 in House.
 - Hearing in Senate – unknown; first reading was March 9th.
 - Reasonable progress – favorable.
8. SB 37 (Tobacco Taxes – Healthy Maryland Initiative):
 - Hearing in Budget and Taxation Committee on February 4th.
 - No progress since.
9. SB 310/ HB 166 (Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Act – Establishment):
 - Passed 46-0 in Senate.
 - House hearing in Ways and Means committee on March 26th.

County Updates

- Prince George’s County
 - Only county in which most of its money for education comes from the state.
 - 15% increase in property taxes.
 - Two new schools with ELL programs for non-English speaking students have been planned.
 - 48% increase in Hispanic students.
- Caroline County
 - Budget cuts, where school system budget is greater than county budget.
- Harford County
 - Title IX issues: girls can’t use weight room.
 - Teachers’ union has gone on strike.
 - Route 40 debate.
- Baltimore County
 - County student council is trying to increase student participation in SMOB selection process.
- Carroll County
 - Appointment struggles with Governor Hogan.

MYAC 2015-2016 Application

- See Attached Application.
- Will be made more accessible through the option to submit online.
- Will be advertised via:
 - Libraries.

- Executive Directors of Student Councils.
- Local SGA programs.
- Assistant Superintendents of High Schools.
- Members who want a 2nd term must:
 - Have 50% attendance to all meetings and events.
 - Express interest by July 1st.
 - Indicate if they are graduating high school/college.

Public Forum 2015 Planning:

Focus

- ways in which youth can lobby
- advertise MYAC
- networking opportunity

Engagement

- round tables
- guest speakers/panel discussion:
 - SMOBs
 - student leaders/youth leaders
 - governments and education leaders

Potential Names

- Student Leadership Summit
- Youth Advocacy Forum

Maryland Youth Advisory Council Annual Report

- The Executive Board provide the different sections.
- This year, we revised our documents, so they will be included in the appendix.

Next Steps and Announcements

- Opportunity from Christine Johnson, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:
 - Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network: accessing preventative health care: 3-5 hours per month (18 months).
 - Contact Ms. Drushel by April 13th.

Meeting Adjourned

Appendix IV: Maryland Youth Advisory Council Revised Bylaws



Maryland Youth Advisory Council

Foreword

Maryland State Government Article, §9-2701, Annotated Code of Maryland (ch. 559, Acts 2008 and ch. 69, Acts of 2009) established in statute the Maryland Youth Advisory Council (the “Council”), and provides for its membership, powers, operation, and functions. These functions include informing the Governor and General Assembly of issues concerning youth, examining issues of importance to youth, recommending legislative proposals, and conducting a public awareness campaign to raise awareness about the Council among Maryland youth. The Council is empowered to set priorities and determine the function of subcommittees, standards of conduct, procedures, and the use of technology to facilitate meetings and communications.

Article I **Membership**

Section 1 Representation: The Council shall seek in its membership a diverse representation reflecting the community. A total of no more than fifty-eight (58) members will serve on the council. Members to be selected to the Council will be selected with awareness of gender, race, and geographic area represented.

Section 2 Membership Qualifications: Members to be selected to the Council must be 14-22 years old and attending secondary or post-secondary institutions. Thirty-nine (39) members shall be high school students, and sixteen (16) members must be students at institutions of postsecondary education located in the State of Maryland.

Section 3 Term Limits: Terms will be limited to one year (12 months), from September 1 to August 30th of the following year. A youth member who is selected after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is selected and qualifies. Members may serve up to two (2) consecutive terms, provided he/she remain within the age limits, maintain 50% attendance of council meetings, and attend an academic institution as outlined in membership qualifications.

Section 4 Attendance: Attendance at Council meetings is expected from all members. Anyone unable to attend a meeting must contact a Co-Chair or the Secretary in order for his/her absence to be deemed excused. Two (2) unexcused absences by a council member will result in contact from their appointing entity and may lead to dismissal from the Council.

Article II **Application Process**

Members of the Council shall be chosen through an application process. Interested parties shall complete an application form for the appointing entities: Governor's Office for Children, President of the Senate's Office, Speaker of the House's Office, Maryland Association of Student Councils, Maryland Higher Education Commission and the University System of Maryland. A designee of each appointing body, who will follow membership guidelines, shall appoint members.

Applications shall be made available beginning April 1st with a due date of July 1st. The application shall be available online via the council's webpage on the Governor's Office for Children website.

Applications shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Governor's Office for Children. Recommendations shall be made to the designee of each appointing body for approval.

Council members wishing to serve a second term shall inform the Governor's Office for Children co-chair by July 1st.

Article III **Officers**

The officers of the Council shall be four Co-Chairs, one Vice Chair, and one Secretary. The three Youth officers shall be appointed by the Council.

Article IV **Officer Duties**

The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

Section 1 **Co-Chairs**

A. The Co-Chairs shall be charged with the administration of the affairs of the Council.

B. The Co-Chairs shall preside over all meetings of the Council.

C. The Co-Chairs shall communicate upcoming issues to the Council, so the Council may respond accordingly.

D. The Co-Chairs shall provide support staff to the Council to assist the Council in carrying out its duties.

E. The Co-Chair representing the Governor's Office for Children shall disseminate and maintain the minutes of all Council meetings.

F. The Co-Chair representing the Governor's Office for Children shall prepare and receive correspondence for the Council and maintain proper files.

G. The Co-Chair representing the Governor's Office for Children shall manage and follow up with Council members on RSVPs and other communication items.

Section 2 Vice Chair

A. The Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Youth Co-Chair during his/her absence.

B. The Vice Chair shall assist the Co-Chairs in performing his/her duties when requested.

Section 3 Secretary

A. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all Council meetings.

B. The Secretary shall perform other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.

Section V. Executive Board Duties

The duties of the Executive Board shall be as follows:

1. The Executive Board shall appoint committees when necessary to research issues.
2. The Executive Board shall prepare an annual report summarizing the activities of the Council, to be submitted to the Governor on or before the last day of the youth members' terms.

Article VI
Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Officers, the Executive Board, and standing committees; the responsibilities and code of conduct for all Council members shall be as detailed in Appendix A, as amended from time to time.

Article VII
Elections of Officers

The adult co-chairs are appointed by Governor's Office for Children, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The Youth Co-Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and members of the Executive Board shall be elected annually.

The officers of the Council shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting members present during the first meeting of the year.

In the event that an officer (vice-chair or secretary) cannot fulfill his/her duties or resigns from the council, the youth co-chair will recommend a replacement to be approved by the council with a majority vote at the next council meeting.

In the event that the youth co-chair cannot fulfill his/her duties or resigns from the council, the vice-chair shall become youth co-chair and shall recommend a replacement vice-chair to be approved by the council with a majority vote at the next council meeting.

Article VIII **Meetings**

Section 1 Annual Organizational Meeting: The annual organizational meeting of the Council shall be held as soon as practical after appointments have been made.

Section 2 Regular Meetings: The council shall meet a minimum of four (4) times a year. The agenda of the meetings shall include reading of the roll call and minutes of the previous meeting.

Section 3 Educational Meeting: The Council shall conduct one educational meeting concerning the legislative process to which the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services, or their designees, shall be invited to speak.

Section 4 Special Meetings: The Co-Chairs may call special meetings of the Council with at least one week's prior notice. The call to the special meeting shall state the subject matter to be considered at the meeting. Such considerations at a special meeting shall be limited.

All meetings shall be open to the public.

Article IX **General Rules**

All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. The presence of 50% + 1 voting members shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is necessary to conduct official business at any meeting.

From time to time, the Council may initiate or carry out activities addressing community concerns it deems relevant and important.

Additions to the agenda may be made by a majority vote of the Council at any meeting.

Article X
By-Laws and Amendments

These by-laws may be amended at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council, provided a quorum is present, and provided further that the amendment is part of the agenda for the meeting and the Council membership has been notified of the proposed amendment(s) in writing.

The Council shall be required to review the By-Laws bi-annually.



Maryland Youth Advisory Council

- Members are required to attend at least 50% of meetings.
- Members will have their membership reviewed by the appointing agency upon being absent two consecutive meetings and may be asked to resign.
- Members will arrive on time to meetings.
- Members will arrive prepared for meetings.
- Members will conduct themselves in a professional and responsible manner.
- Members will treat each other with respect.
- Members will work in the best interest of all youth in Maryland.
- Members understand that their behavior reflects the State of Maryland. The perception of youth during public events, in public spaces, and online through social media, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, should reflect the seriousness of the role members have accepted. Members should avoid any unprofessional conduct in public, and be very careful about things they post on the internet.
- Members shall comply with the Maryland Appointed Officials Ethics Laws, as applicable.
- Members will actively participate in meetings.
- Members will communicate via e-mail, phone, or social media. Members are expected to check their e-mail on a daily basis.
- Members will serve as a liaison to other youth organizations they are affiliated with.
- Members will provide their own transportation to and from meetings.
- Members will be encouraged have fun and learn from this valuable opportunity.

By signing this document I understand my role and responsibilities as a member of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council.

Member's Name

Date

Appendix V: Maryland Youth Advisory Council Legislative Platform

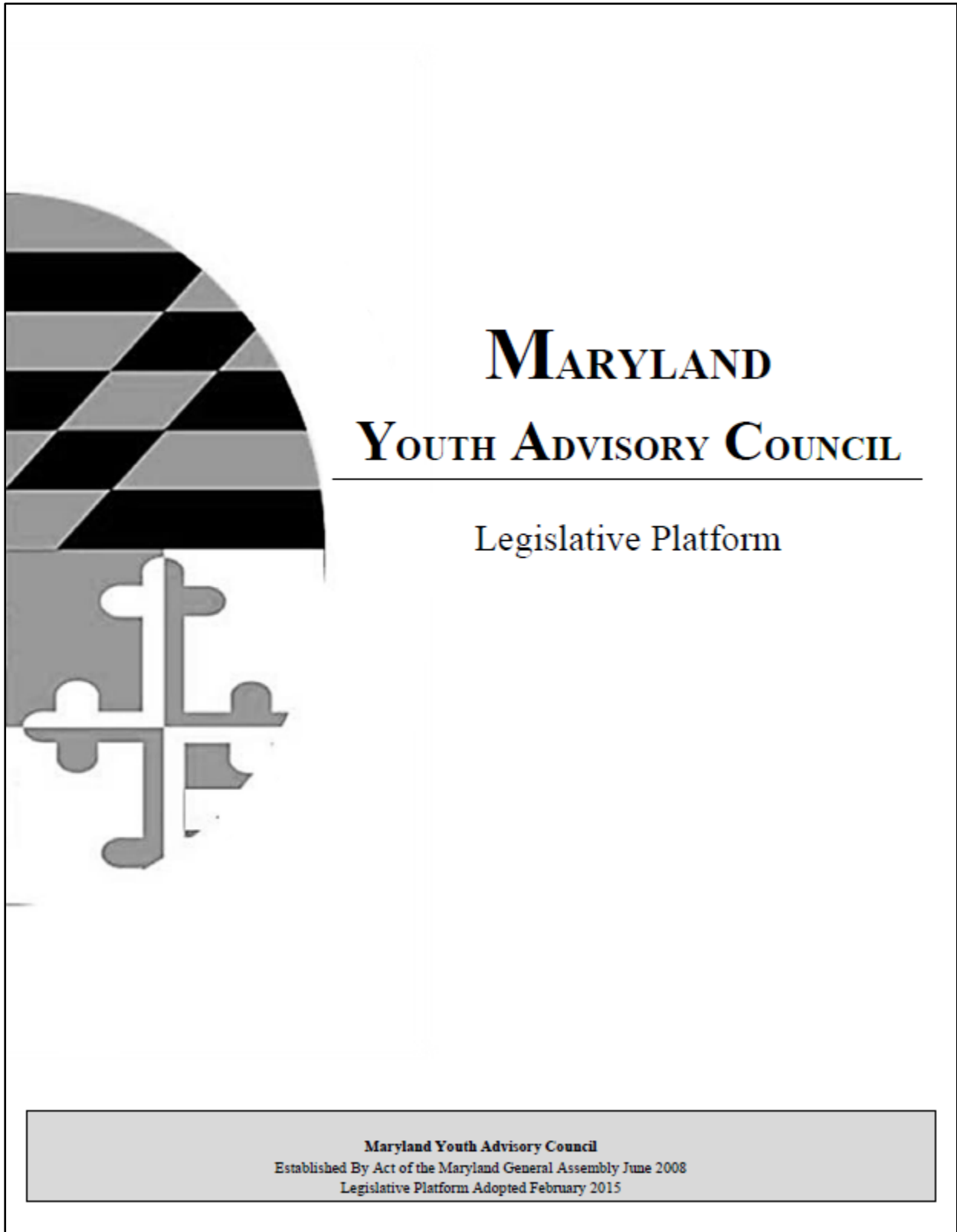


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I. YOUTH REPRESENTATION

We Support:

- A. Appointment, with youth input, of youth representatives or members to boards, commissions, and task forces at the local and state level which deal with youth-related issues and concerns.
- B. Student election of student members to all local boards of education and the Maryland State Board of Education.
- C. Allotment of full membership and voting rights for student representatives and members of state and local boards, panels, commissions, and task forces.
- D. Youth involvement in the creation and revision of legislation impacting students.
- E. Providing outlets and opportunities for youth to speak out about issues that may affect them.
- F. Opportunities for youth to be a part of community and statewide decisions.

II. YOUTH LEADERSHIP

We Support:

- A. Establishment of local, regional, and statewide student leadership and advocacy organizations for secondary and higher education students.
- B. Establishment of peer counseling, mediation, and tutoring programs in educational institutions.
- C. Youth led community service initiatives.
- D. Opportunities for youth to serve in leadership roles in local and state government.
- E. Opportunities for youth to serve in leadership roles in secondary schools and institutions of higher education.

Maryland Youth Advisory Council
Established June 2008
Platform Adopted February 2015

III. EDUCATION

GENERAL

We Support:

- A. High standards of learning in all curricula in all schools for all students.
- B. Providing specialized educational opportunities to meet every student's individual needs and abilities.
- C. Funding for and full utilization of up-to-date technology and educational resources for the classroom.
- D. Improved educator training and other measures that improve quality instruction for students.
- E. Educators providing instruction only in subjects for which they are qualified.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

We Support:

- A. Availability of visual, performing arts, and voluntary biliteracy programs for all students.
- B. Early intervention programs designed to allow children to start school ready to learn.
- C. Infusion of service learning into course curricula.
- D. Health and physical education courses for all students.
- E. Maximizing the variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities offered to students.
- F. Equitable funding per student across the state except in the case of special education students, pupils with limited English proficiency and students eligible for free and reduced priced meals.
- G. Full funding for programs mandated by the state or federal government.
- H. Reduction of class size where necessary or beneficial.
- I. Initiatives to encourage youth to stay in school and continue their education.
- J. Financial literacy curriculum in publicly funded secondary schools.
- K. Availability and implementation of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and magnet programs.

Maryland Youth Advisory Council
Established June 2008
Platform Adopted February 2015

HIGHER EDUCATION

We Support:

- A. Initiatives designed to keep college education affordable for Marylanders.
- B. Inclusion of student groups in discussions regarding adjustments to the in-state college tuition rate for Maryland public universities.
- C. Diverse curricula that allow for specialized areas of study.
- D. Initiatives and practices designed to promote graduation from college.
- E. Access to financial aid for students with financial need.
- F. Initiatives designed to reduce the volume of student loans needed by college students.
- G. Programs that keep high achieving secondary school students in Maryland for higher education.
- H. Access to accurate figures and statistics regarding the costs associated with attending institutions of higher education.

IV. HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES

We Support:

- A. Availability of wellness centers and health service professionals in all schools.
- B. Efforts to eliminate illegal youth use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.
- C. Providing youth access to drug counseling.
- D. Initiatives to prevent driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs..
- E. Providing education to students on healthy stress and anxiety management.
- F. Initiatives designed to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in youth.
- G. Mandatory baseline concussion testing for youth participation in athletics.
- H. Establishment of statewide consistent concussion testing procedures.
- I. Providing all youth access to sports medicine.

- J. Full time guidance counselors at all schools proportionate to the school's population and reduction of the ratio of students to guidance counselors where needed or beneficial.
- K. Establishment and utilization of mental health counseling professionals in schools.
- L. Efforts to prevent youth suicide.
- M. Providing access to mental health counseling.
- N. Providing access to affordable healthcare.
- O. Initiatives designed to prevent bullying among youth both in and out of school.

V. YOUTH SAFETY AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE

We Support:

- A. Proactive measures to ensure student and school personnel safety and to prevent school violence and vandalism.
- B. Inclusion of anger and stress management in school curricula.
- C. Early intervention and prevention programs to help students with behavioral problems.
- D. Alternative educational and community service programs for students facing expulsion or other severe disciplinary actions.
- E. Efforts to prevent sexual assault among youth and publicized procedures for reporting sexual assault at all schools.
- F. Publicization of discipline programs in schools.
- G. The utilization of school resource officers when deemed necessary or beneficial to the school, students, or community.
- H. Programs designed to promote positive relationships between youth and law enforcement.

We Oppose:

- A. Disciplining students in school for out of school behavior that would not otherwise disrupt the educational environment.

- B. Penalizing adults for inconsequential misdemeanors crimes committed as minors when searching for employment or applying to institutions of higher education.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

We Support:

- A. Practices and instruction that support environmental protection at all schools.
- B. Maintaining a comprehensive recycling program in schools and communities.
- C. Offering student activities that focus on the environment.
- D. State and local initiatives that encourage a cleaner environment.
- E. Teaching environmental literacy in secondary schools.

VII. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

We Support:

- A. Initiatives designed to increase youth employment opportunities.
- B. Providing youth interns with equal workplace protection as their fully employed counterparts.
- C. Opportunities designed to expose youth to the workplace.
- D. Academic credit for co-curricular employment and internships.
- E. Initiatives to increase Maryland youth preparedness to function effectively in the workplace.
- F. Fair compensation of employees regardless of age, color, national origin, citizenship status, physical or mental disability, race, religion, creed, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES UNDER PLATFORM BY SESSION

General Session 2015

Health and wellbeing of the youth of the State of Maryland



Legislative Platform Authored By
2014-15 MYAC Legislative Committee

Legislative Platform Adopted Unanimously on
Sunday, February 8th, 2015

Maryland Youth Advisory Council
Established June 2008
Platform Adopted February 2015

Appendix VI: 2015 Public Forum Materials

2015 Public Forum Flyer

THE MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENTS

The 2015 Public Forum: Advocacy, Activism, and Education

WHERE Anne Arundel Community College
Cade Center for Fine Arts
101 College Parkway
Arnold, MD 21012


DATE Saturday, April 25, 2015

TIME 1:00—4:00 pm

RSVP <https://eventbrite.com/event/16516996782/>

The 2015 Public Forum will feature a workshop entitled **Advocacy, Activism, and Education** where participants will learn about different forms of action for sharing policy and legislative recommendations and how those forms of action fit within the larger social action landscape. This will be followed by roundtable discussions about **Personal Asset Mapping** and how youth can leverage their relationships to share information with their peers, schools, and communities.

Lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 12:45 pm.



For more information please contact Christina Drushel Williams at christina.drushel@maryland.gov or 410-767-2547.

2015 Public Forum Agenda



Maryland Youth Advisory Council 2015 Public Forum

Saturday, April 25, 2015
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Anne Arundel Community College – Arnold Campus
101 College Parkway, Arnold, MD 21012
Cade Center for Fine Arts

AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 12:45 pm – 1:00 pm | Registration |
| 1:00 pm – 1:15 pm | Opening Remarks |
| 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm | Workshop: Advocacy, Activism, and Education

Participants will learn about different forms of action for sharing policy and legislative recommendations and how those forms of action fit within the larger social action landscape. |
| 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm | Lunch & Guest Speaker

Arlene Lee, Executive Director, Governor's Office for Children |
| 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm | Roundtable Discussion: Personal Asset Mapping

Participants will discuss how youth can leverage their relationships and networks to share information with their peers, schools, and communities. |
| 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm | Closing Remarks |