

Maryland Youth Advisory Council 2018-2019 Annual Report



August 31, 2019

Submitted by: Governor's Office of Crime Control and
Prevention on behalf of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council

Contact: Christina Drushel Williams
410-697-9242, Christina.Drushel@Maryland.gov

MSAR # 10854

Acknowledgements



On behalf of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), it is my absolute pleasure to present the Council's 2018-2019 Annual Report. The report has been developed by the members of MYAC and represents the activities, events, and priorities of the Council during the 2018-2019 year. I would like to thank every speaker, servant, and all other persons that have contributed to the work of the council. I would also like to thank all members of the Council, and our dedicated advisor, for their service, dedication, and enthusiasm in representing the youth of Maryland.

Caroline Larkin

Caroline Larkin
Chair
Maryland Youth Advisory Council

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Table of Contents	2
Executive Summary	3
Background and Mission of the Council	4
2018-2019 Council at a Glance	5
2018-2019 Maryland Youth Advisory Council Roster	6
2018-2019 Application at a Glance	9
Council Meeting Overview	11
Committees	13
2019 Legislative Session	14
Other Meetings and Events	15
Council Members in the Spotlight	19
Improvements and Recommendations for 2019-2020 Council	20

Executive Summary

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council (Council) provides the opportunity for the State's young people to give feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect their future, and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change.

In 2018-2019, 20 Council members enjoyed a robust and busy year, where their activities included:

- Holding nine meetings (more than twice the required number);
- Adopting a broad legislative platform;
- Meeting with other youth advisory councils;
- Participating in meetings with agency staff on the Council and its platform;
- Participating in the Governor's School Safety Roundtable discussion;
- Participating in a youth panel at Maryland's 30th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference;
- Participating in a youth focus group with the National Academies of Science;
- Providing feedback on materials and editorials for the Maryland Dental Action Coalition; and
- Tracking and supporting bills of interest, including written testimony.

All meeting minutes and bill testimony is available upon request from the Governor's Office for Children, a division of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.



Background and Mission of the Council

BACKGROUND:

The Council was established by the General Assembly in 2008 ([Chapter 559 of 2008](#), [Chapter 69 of 2009](#), and [Chapter 620 of 2016](#)) 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.

Council members are appointed by the:

- Governor of Maryland,
- President of the Maryland Senate,
- Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.
- Governor's Office for Children based on nominations made by the:
 - Maryland Association of Student Councils,
 - University System of Maryland Student Council,
 - Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Advisory Council, and
 - Maryland Association of Local Management Boards.

Council members must be 14-22 years of age and serve a two-year term (September 1 - August 31).

MISSION:

As a coalition of diverse young advocates and leaders from across the State, we, the Maryland Youth Advisory Council address relevant issues by influencing legislation, spreading public awareness, and serving as a liaison between youth and policymakers.

VISION:

We strive to be an effective voice that:

- Incites change for the betterment of Maryland youth,
- Ensures equal opportunity for all youth regardless of background or circumstance,
- Initiates political conversations with youth,
- Educates youth on political issues, and
- Is respected by legislators and other stakeholders on youth issues.

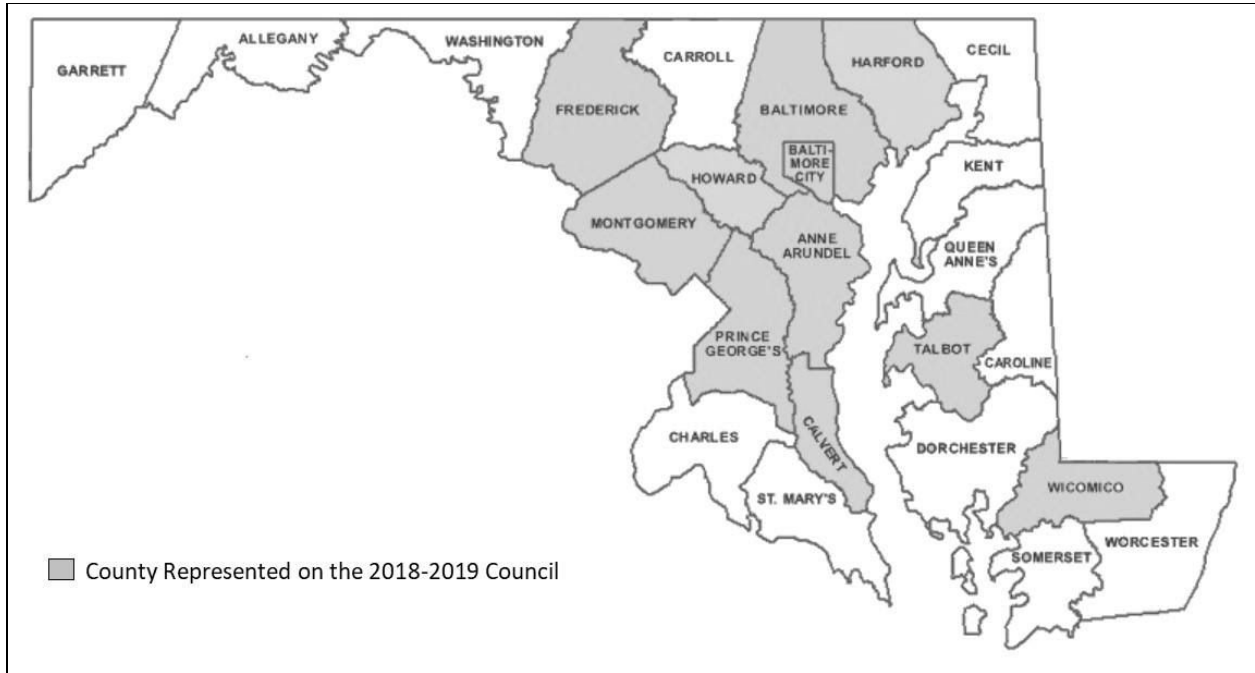
RESPONSIBILITIES:

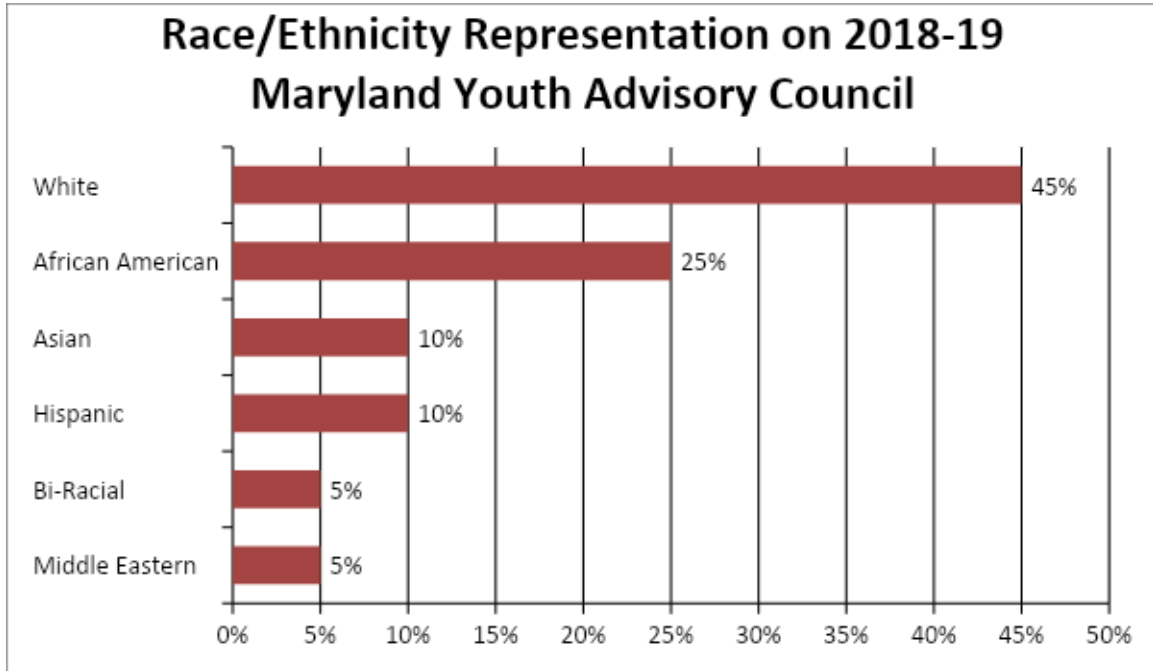
- Inform the Governor and the General Assembly of issues concerning youth, including offering testimony on these issues before legislative bodies
- Examine issues of importance to youth, including: education, a safe learning environment, employment opportunities, strategies to increase youth participation in local and State government, health care access and quality of care, substance abuse and underage drinking, emotional and physical well-being, the environment, poverty, homelessness, youth access to State and local services, suicide prevention, and educational accessibility issues for students with disabilities;
- Recommend one legislative proposal each legislative session concerning an issue of importance;
- Conduct a public campaign to raise awareness about the Council among Maryland youth;
- Participate in local youth activities or organizations;
- Advise local officials and community leaders on youth issues;
- Collect information from other youth groups in order to inform the activities of the Council; and

- Report its activities to the Governor and General Assembly before the last day of the Council year.

2018-2019 Council at a Glance

The 2018-2019 Council is composed of 20 members, representing 11 counties, 14 high schools, and three colleges/universities. The Council is 60% female and 40% male. Of the 20 members, 10 are returning second-year members and 10 are first-year members. 55% of council members identify as a person of color, with African Americans representing a quarter (25%) of the Council.





2018-2019 Maryland Youth Advisory Council Roster

2018-2019 MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD (elected by Council members)

Chair: Caroline Larkin

Vice Chair: Noureen Badwi

Secretary: William Shorter, Jr.

Legislative Committee Chair: Dillon Prochnicki

Public Awareness Committee Chair: Nabila Prasetiwan

Executive Board Members: Daniel Walker, Amber Stewart, Makenna Hakim, Andrew Skilton

APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR

Appointed in 2017

Amaya Horace: Prince George's County - Bishop McNamara High School

Nabila Prasetiawan: Frederick County - Middletown High School

Dillon Prochnicki: Talbot County - Easton High School

Appointed in 2018

Aidan Douglass: Montgomery County - Seneca Valley High School

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Appointed in 2017

Makenna Hakim: Baltimore County - Towson High School

Daniel Osheroff: Howard County - Atholton High School

Appointed in 2018

Kennedy Smith: Anne Arundel County - Annapolis High School

Sean Woolums: Anne Arundel County - University of Maryland Baltimore County

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Appointed in 2017

Camaren Eure: Baltimore City - Western High School

Caroline Larkin: Baltimore County - University of Maryland College Park

Appointed in 2018

Noureen Badwi: Baltimore County - Towson High School

William Shorter, Jr.: Anne Arundel County - University of Baltimore

NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

Appointed in 2017

Sydney Neal: Calvert County - St. Mary's Ryken High School

Appointed in 2018

Ryan Blosser: Harford County - North Harford High School

Carmelli Leal: Baltimore County - Eastern Technical High School

Andrew Skilton: Montgomery County - Walter Johnson High School

NOMINATED BY THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND STUDENT COUNCIL

Appointed in 2017

No appointments were made.

Appointed in 2018

No appointment were made.

NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION—STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Appointed in 2017

No appointments were made.

Appointed in 2018

No appointments were made.

NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS

Appointed 2017

Amber Stewart: Howard County - Atholton High School

Daniel Walker: Howard County - Wilde Lake High School

Appointed in 2018

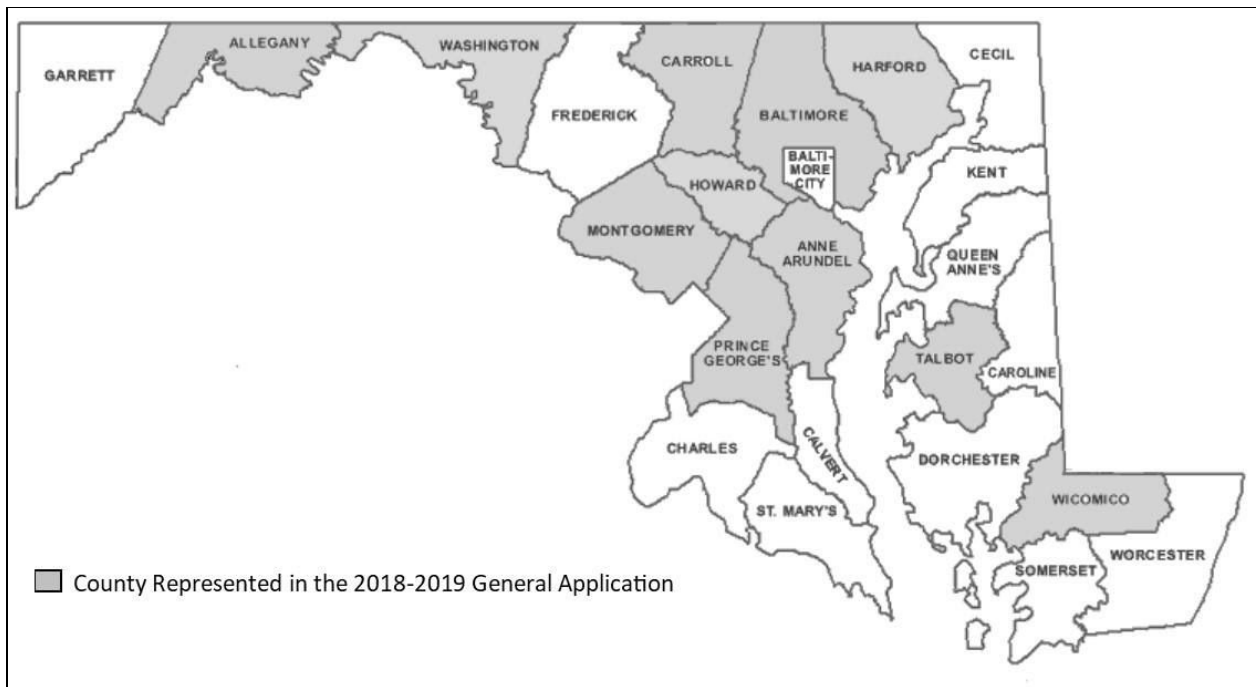
Renee Gomez: Talbot County - St. Michael's High School

Grace Acl: Wicomico County - James M. Bennett High School

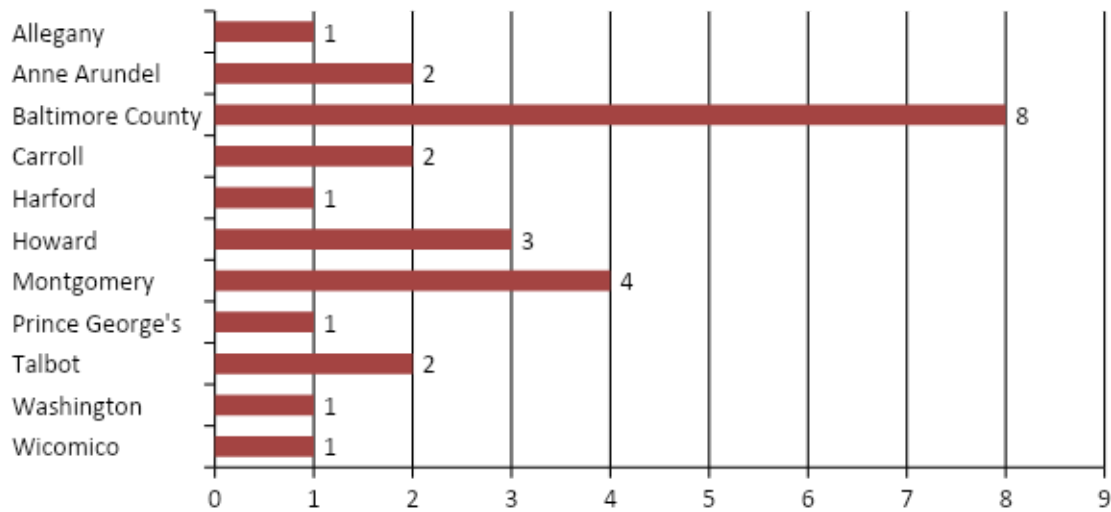
2018-2019 Application at a Glance

For the 2018-2019 term, applications were available online on the Governor’s Office for Children website from March 1, 2018 through July 1, 2018. The Governor’s Office for Children received 26 applications from 10 counties, representing 20 high schools, colleges, and universities. Fifty-four percent of applicants were female, 42% were male, and 4% were transgender. The majority of applicants were from Baltimore County. Half (50%) of the applicants identified as a person of color, with 19% identifying as African American. 4% of the applicants did not disclose their race/ethnicity.

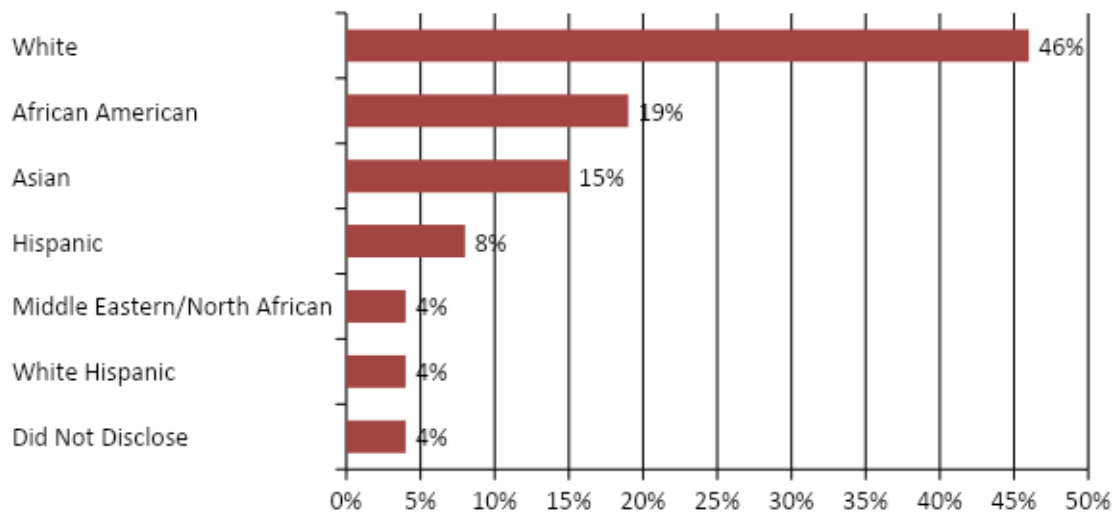
Applications were reviewed by the Governor’s Office for Children staff. Ms. Drushel Williams submitted recommendations for appointment to the appointing bodies as needed.



County Representation in 2018-2019 General Application



Race/Ethnicity Representation in 2018-2019 General Application



Council Meeting Overview

[Chapter 559 of 2008](#), [Chapter 69 of 2009](#), and [Chapter 620 of 2016](#) require the Council to meet at least four times each year in which each meeting must be open to the public. However, and because meeting only four times a year was not sufficient to complete the Council's intended work, the members decided to meet on a monthly basis. During the 2018-19 term, the Council met once a month from September to May. Meetings were held on Saturday afternoons at the Governor's Coordinating Offices located in Crownsville, Maryland. All meeting dates, times, and locations are available on the Governor's Office for Children's website at <https://goc.maryland.gov/myac/>.

MEETING #1: SEPTEMBER (11:00 AM – 4:00 PM) GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

The Council kicked off the year with an invigorating icebreaker activity—members sharing with others what they were excited for, nervous about, and wanted to learn. While becoming acquainted with their fellow teammates, new and old members learned the ins and outs of the Council, member responsibilities, the legislative process, Maryland youth policy structure, and parliamentary procedures. Furthermore, the Council elected its Officers and Executive Board members while members opted to participate in either the Legislative or Public Awareness Committee.

MEETING #2: OCTOBER 13, 2018 (1:00 PM - 4:00 PM) GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

Prior to the October meeting, Ms. Kate Schechter from the Maryland Dental Action Coalition contacted Ms. Drushel Williams for an opportunity to speak with the Council and solicit feedback. During the October meeting, Ms. Schechter presented to the members about the mission of the organization, the importance of dental health, and its connections to overall health. Council members shared personal experiences with dental health and dental professionals. Ms. Schechter asked if she could return for additional feedback on marketing and informational materials. The Council debriefed from the Governor's School Safety Press Conference and Roundtable event. Finally, Ms. Durshel Williams facilitated a Community Conversation with members to discuss issues of importance to them. Topic areas included health education, diversion and inclusion, life skills, civic engagement, and politics.

MEETING #3: NOVEMBER 10, 2018 (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM) GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

The Council reviewed and approved the Legislative Platform and the 2019 Legislative Priority. Members voted to continue focusing on mental health and substance use, but added school and community safety. Members also prepared for the meeting with the Children's Cabinet.

MEETING #4: DECEMBER 8, 2018 (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM) GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

The Council continued to prepare for the Children's Cabinet meeting. Members discussed possible Advocacy Day activities for the Council during the legislative session. There was interest in collaborating with the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) during its advocacy week. The Council and MASC are often aligned in support of legislative bills and would like to demonstrate a strong and united youth voice. Ms. Drushel Williams gave members a tutorial of the Maryland General Assembly website in preparation for the legislative session.

MEETING #5: JANUARY 12, 2019 (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM) GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

Members discussed and voted on legislative bills. The Council would like to partner with the Maryland Association of Student Councils to co-host legislative forums to discuss legislation and policy priorities, including school safety and mental health. Both councils will explore room availability, resources, and scheduling. Finally, the Council discussed future opportunities to meet with other groups and councils.

MEETING #6: FEBRUARY 9, 2019 (12:00 PM – 3:00 PM) GOVERNOR’S COORDINATING OFFICES

Members met with the Tangier Youth Council which provided an opportunity to share information on the work of each organization, and to share personal and cultural experiences. Both councils focus on civic engagement, education, and jobs.

MEETING #7: MARCH 9, 2019 (12:00 PM – 3:00PM) GOVERNOR’S COORDINATING OFFICES

Members shared their experiences with the Tangier Youth Council. The members also discussed and voted on bills for the legislative session. Members from the Maryland Association of Student Councils also shared the bills supported by student councils. In addition, Ms. Schechter from the Maryland Dental Action Coalition returned to discuss the recent announcement of vaping/juuling/e-cigarettes use by young people as a public health epidemic. Members also provided feedback on a draft infographic.

MEETING #8: APRIL 13, 2019 (12:00 PM - 3:00 PM) GOVERNOR’S COORDINATING OFFICES

The Council recapped the legislative session and discussed opportunities for the 2020 legislative session. The Council was also joined by members of the Howard County Police Department Youth Advisory Council which allowed both councils to share information as it relates to the work of each organization, and opportunities to work together in the future. Members of both councils discussed School Resource Officers, their role in schools, and interactions with students that are both positive and negative.

MEETING #9: MAY 11, 2019 (12:00 PM—3:00 PM) GOVERNOR’S COORDINATING OFFICES

To end of successful year, members participated in a reflection activity, discussing what worked, what did not, what could be improved, and what was learned. As the Council said goodbye to its second-year members, the end of the year celebration symbolized both the passing of the baton and the high hopes for incoming Council members.

Committees

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee tracked the progress of bills and recommended specific bills that the Council could support. The Legislative Committee also provided written testimony on supported bills. The Council will continue to monitor current and future bills of interest during the 2020 legislative session.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE

The Public Awareness Committee continued its efforts to expand the Council's online presence by examining ways to connect and engage with youth more effectively. Many ideas were discussed to expand the Council's online visibility and spread the word about the Council's mission. The Public Awareness Committee continued the #HumansofMYAC blog series, based on the successful #HumansofNewYork photo project. Humans of MYAC began as an initiative to share the lives and portraits of the important people participating in the legislative process. In the Council's vision to become an active voice that advocates change, ensures equal opportunity for all youth, and encourages political conversation, the Council aims to share the journeys and the stories of the people working behind the scenes. By amplifying the voices of those legislators, council members, and public servants, the Public Awareness Committee hopes that viewers will gain an understanding of who the Council is and what they stand for.

The Public Awareness Committee also seeks to expand its presence on social media by creating an Instagram and Snapchat accounts. The initiative for a Council Instagram was in the process of being developed at the end of the year and hopes to be created in the near future.

2019 Legislative Session

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM REVIEW

Every year, the Council determines an area to which it will dedicate particular attention to serve as its Legislative Priority. From information collected Statewide through community conversations, mental health and substance abuse emerged as issues of great importance. The Council recognizes that our peers, are concerned with and are often impacted by anxiety, depression, suicide, and substance abuse—particularly with the rapid rise of opioid use. During the 2018-2019 Council year, the Council voted to maintain mental health and substance abuse as its focus and added school and community safety due to the rise in violence in Maryland’s schools and communities.

2019 LEGISLATIVE BILLS

During the 2019 legislative session, the Council voted to support four bills (*as illustrated below*). The Council also focused on school and community safety by supporting the school system in responding to issues of safety and school climate and reducing access to firearms.

HB 45/SB 92 – Accountability in Education Act of 2019

Summary: This emergency Administration bill would have established the Education Monitoring Unit as an independent unit in the State to investigate, analyze, and report on upholding of teacher, student, and parent civil rights; on fraud, abuse, and waste regarding public funds and property; on child abuse, neglect, and safety; and on a range of specified matters relating to public schools and public school facilities.¹

Outcome: The bill failed to advance beyond hearings in the House and the Senate.

SB 165/HB 148 - Safe Schools Maryland Act of 2019

Summary: This Administration bill established the Safe Schools Maryland program within the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) to establish procedures for anonymous reporting of behaviors of concern and other dangerous, violent, or unlawful activities, or the threat of these activities, involving one or more students. Participation in the program is voluntary for local school systems, public schools, and nonpublic schools.²

Outcome: The bill passed the Senate and the House with amendments.

HB 367/SB 536 – Public Safety – Education – Firearm Funding

¹ Maryland General Assembly. (2019). [House Bill 45/Senate Bill 92 \(2019\), Accountability in Education Act of 2019 \(Fiscal and Policy Note First Reader\)](#).

² Maryland General Assembly. (2019). [Senate Bill 165 \(2019\) Safe Schools Maryland Act of 2019 \(Fiscal and Policy Note Third Reader\)](#).

Summary: This bill would have prohibited a local school board or public school from using funds from any source to directly or indirectly provide a teacher with a firearm or train a teacher in the use of a firearm. The bill would not apply to a school-approved sport or club that uses firearms.³

Outcome: The bill passed the House but failed to advance beyond hearings in the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and the Judicial Proceedings committees.

HB 468/SB 441 – Public Safety – Access to Firearms – Storage Requirements

Summary: This bill would have modified an existing prohibition related to a child’s access to firearms. Specifically, it would have required that a person may not store or leave a loaded *or unloaded* firearm in a location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised child *could gain access to the firearm unless the firearm is locked (1) by an “external safety lock” or an integrated mechanical safety device” or (2) in a “safe storage depository.”* The bill also would have modified the misdemeanor penalty for a violation of that prohibition by adding a maximum term of imprisonment of two years that would have applied in addition to, or instead of the existing monetary penalty. In addition, the bill would have altered the definition of “child” to mean an individual younger than age 18.⁴

Outcome: The bill failed to advance beyond hearings in the House and the Senate.

Other Meetings and Events

GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL SAFETY EVENT AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



On October 3, 2018, the Council, along with members of MASC, attended a press conference with Governor Larry Hogan, where he announced the release of the “Safe Schools Maryland” tip-line and app which is designed to streamline reports of “possible threats to students school facilities.”⁵ After the press conference, the Council and select MASC members were invited to attend a roundtable discussion with the Superintendent of the Maryland State Department of Education, the Director of Maryland Center for School Safety, and the Governor’s Chief Legislative Officer. At the

roundtable, Council members were able to ask questions about the tip-line in order to clarify its use and purpose, and were able to discuss other concerns regarding school psychologists and Student Resource Officers.

³ Maryland General Assembly. (2019). [House Bill 367 \(2019\), Public Safety - Education - Firearm Funding \(Fiscal and Policy Note Third Reader\)/Senate Bill 536 \(2019\), Public Safety - Education - Firearm Funding \(Fiscal and Policy Note First Reader\)](#).

⁴ Maryland General Assembly. (2019). [House Bill 468/Senate Bill 441 \(2019\) Public Safety - Access to Firearms - Storage Requirements \(Fiscal and Policy Note First Reader\)](#).

⁵ Maryland Emergency Management Agency. [Governor Larry Hogan Announces "Safe Schools Maryland" School Safety Initiative](#).

During the event, members learned that the tip-line is anonymous and is not solely for threats to a school's safety, but anything that puts a person at risk of harm such as: suicide, substance abuse, bullying, cyber-bullying, etc. Members also learned that the tip-line is not meant to replace hotlines that schools and/or communities currently use, and it should not replace the use of 911 if someone experiences an immediate emergency. Given its use and purpose, members of the Council promoted the tip-line and app throughout their respective schools and counties. Two members have also used the app through the text and call functions.

MARYLAND'S 30TH ANNUAL SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE – YOUTH PANEL

During the 2017-18 Council year, Darius Craig, Chair of the Council, and Council member Amber Stewart, met with representatives of the Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to discuss partnering efforts to ensure the Council provides a voice for youth in adolescent health-related initiatives. As a result, the group decided that the Council would moderate a youth-led session at the annual Suicide Prevention Conference in October 2018. The session would focus



on youth experiences that highlight both successes and challenges in accessing mental health services. On October 3, 2018, Mr. Craig, Maxwell Beauboeuf from the Maryland Coalition of Families, and Rowan Powell from On Our Own of Maryland, facilitated the youth-led session titled, "Youth Visionaries: Stories of Struggle, Passions for Change."

MARYLAND DENTAL ACTION COALITION



Ms. Drushel Williams was contacted by Kate Schechter from the Maryland Dental Action Coalition who was looking for an opportunity to learn from youth and young adults about dental health routines, general oral health knowledge, and experiences with dental health professionals. At the October 2018 meeting, Ms. Schechter presented to the Council and shared information about the mission of the organization, the importance of oral health, and how oral health can

impact overall health. Ms. Schechter returned for the March 2019 meeting to discuss vaping/juuling/e-cigarettes with members as it was recently declared a public health epidemic and was discussed with the Children's Cabinet as an area of concern for youth. The Council provided feedback in developing an infographic and other informational materials for youth. One member contributed a youth editorial for the Coalition's monthly newsletter. The editorial and infographic feedback was well received and the Coalition indicated its intent to incorporate it into future materials. Ms. Schechter will return to the Council in the Fall of the 2019-2020 Council year to ask members to provide feedback and help develop training materials.

CHILDREN'S CABINET MEETING

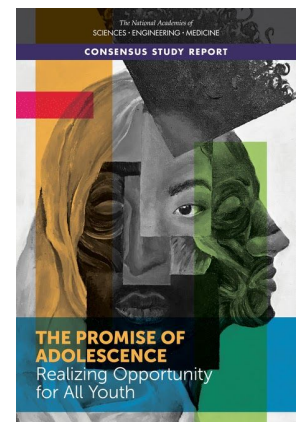
Every December, the Council presents to the Children's Cabinet. At the December 2018 meeting, the Council spoke with the secretaries of Maryland's child-serving agencies regarding the Council's legislative platform for the 2019 legislative session and community conversation initiatives..



Members provided an overview of the Council's mission, vision, history, past legislative priorities, and accomplishments. Members also presented the results of their community conversations and shared the issues discussed by youth and young adults throughout Maryland. In addition, the Council provided the Children's Cabinet with feedback on the "Safe Schools Maryland" app and their concerns around school safety. The lack of responses from school administrators regarding vaping/juuling was also discussed, as well as the importance of a variety of youth voices in policy discussions. At the conclusion of the meeting, Council members noted that the less formal setting, as compared to previous years, allowed for a more open and honest conversation.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES RECOMMENDATIONS FOCUS GROUP

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee on the Neurobiological and Socio-behavioral Science of Adolescent Development and its Applications was interested in interviewing members of the Council to discuss and provide feedback on research and recommendations to be published in an upcoming publication titled, "The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth." In December 2018, one current (Caroline Larkin) and two alumni members (Zachary Caplan and Darius Craig) participated in the focus group. Council members, along with other youth participants, identified the "need for supports for taking on adult responsibilities, better mental health resources, and authentic and respectful engagement from adults as their priorities."⁶



TANGIER-TETOUAN-AL HOCIEMA YOUTH COUNCIL

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability

⁶ The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2019). [The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth](#).

in government.⁷ NDI supports countries to create youth council and opportunities for youth voice. Ms. Drushel Williams was contacted by NDI to learn more about the Council and its structures and procedures to help inform and support the creation of a youth council in Morocco. At the February 2019 meeting, the youth council representing the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hociema region hosted a virtual meeting with members of MYAC. The councils discussed similarities with the two regions and noted similar areas of concern for youth including access to jobs and quality education. Council member Daniel Walker reflected on his experience:

“At first it was a bit awkward to get the conversation started because of the language barrier. We had a translator present to help us along. We soon became acclimated to the set-up and started discussing topics such as education and the similarities and differences between the two councils. Through this dialogue, MYAC learned more about the Moroccan culture and political system, and we exchanged ideas about how best to get youth representatives incorporated into the policy-making process.”



One major similarity between MYAC and the Tangier youth council is that both councils select members on a regional basis. Morocco has 12 distinct local regions which all have some level of political autonomy, and national council representation draws members from each one. The greatest difference we discovered is that the cultural definition of “youth” that Morocco uses is very different from how America defines it. Whereas in America, youth typically refers to people who are not yet adults, anyone can be a youth in Morocco if he or she has not yet independently started a new family. It is a cultural custom for people to remain living with parents, even into adulthood, until they get married and/or have kids of their own. Membership in MYAC follows the American definition of youth, which is why our members are between the ages of 14 and 22. Members of the Tangier youth council, however, ranges in age from 18 to 40.”

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

On April 13, 2019, the Council met with the Howard County Police Department’s (HCPD’s) Youth Advisory Council in order to learn from each other and find opportunities to work with one another in the future. HCPD’s Youth Advisory Council was formed two years ago at the request of the Chief of Police to form a better connection between the youth and the police. This allows the youth to voice their opinion in regard to their local police department and foster better community relations. There are currently fifty members, about twenty of which are active. They meet twice a month from September to May to discuss pertinent topics with guest speakers. The Council was able to speak with HCPD’s Youth Advisory Council about department policies regarding tattoos and piercings, bringing police education to schools, and School Resource Officers.

⁷ National Democratic Institute. (2019), Who We Are.

Council Members in the Spotlight

GRACE ACLE

Grace Acle is a first year Council member, representing Wicomico County, who was honored as a 2019 Community Champion of the Year by Children's Mental Health Matters. Ms. Acle, a rising senior at James M. Bennett High School, hosted a community conversation for youth and young adults to discuss concerns on the issues of mental health and stigma. The community conversation was part of the activities for the local eRACE the Stigma 5K and Children's Mental Health Awareness Month.

NOUREEN BADWI

Noureen Badwim is a first year Council members, representing Baltimore County, who was elected to serve as the State Student Member of the Board of Education for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Badwi is a rising junior at Towson High School and was elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Council.

DARIUS CRAIG

Darius Craig, former Chair of the Council from 2017-2019, is included in the book, "Generation Citizen: The Power of Youth in Our Politics" by Scott Warren, along with other youth activists throughout the country. Mr. Craig participated in the book tour event in Washington, D.C.

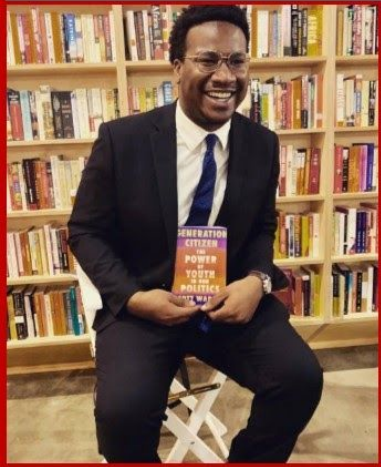
Mr. Craig also ran in 2018 to serve on the Maryland Democratic Central Committee representing district 45; however, he did not receive enough votes to be elected.

CODY DORSEY

Cody Dorsey, former Chair of the Council, representing Baltimore City, served from 2011-2013. Mr. Dorsey ran to represent Baltimore City's 2nd district and, unfortunately did not receive enough votes to be elected. Mr. Dorsey accepted a fellowship with the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation.

TYLER HAGEN

Tyler Hagen, former Council member, representing Baltimore County, served from 2015-2017. Mr. Hagen was elected to serve on the Democratic Central Committee, representing District 7. Mr. Hagen is a graduate of McDaniel College.



Improvements and Recommendations for 2019-2020 Council

At the final meeting of the year, Ms. Drushel Williams facilitated a reflection activity for members to think about the Council year, focusing on 1.) What worked, 2.) What did not work and 3.) Recommendations for improvement next year. Below are the results of the reflection activity.

WHAT WORKED? WHAT DID YOU LIKE?

- Roberts Rules
- Guest speakers at meetings including other youth councils
- Snacks
- Different opinions from members during discussion and respect shown to those with differing opinions
- Non-meeting events – Children’s Cabinet, Safe Schools Event
- Voting online/over the phone
- Voting on bill stances was easier
- Good communication from Ms. Christina’s monthly/periodic email messages
- Social media and outreach - communication

WHAT DID NOT WORK? WHAT DID YOU NOT LIKE?

- Between meeting communication
- Transportation
- The planning process for community conversations - did not happen this year
- Talking with Moroccan Youth Council consistently
- Committee members did not work as a group
- Regular attendance of members
- Feeling disconnected from MYAC – not focused on college students

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR? WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE?

- Explore different meeting locations – travel throughout the State
- Better use of the Humans of MYAC blog, social media, and outreach
- Consider a new legislative priority - current priority for three years
- Develop policies and procedures to better enforce attendance and incentivize good attendance of members
- More active legislative session with public forums, meetings with legislators, and bill testimony
- Skype or Video Chat options for meetings
- Incorporate an interview component for the application review process
- Online application info session – members can share experiences – opportunity for applicants to ask questions and understand the expectations and time commitment of members
- Incorporate goal setting opportunities with members, and follow-up based on interests outline in their application

The Council recommends to the 2019-2020 Council to review and consider these ideas for the improvement of the Council and related activities during the 2019-2020 term.