



Maryland Youth Advisory Council
Saturday, February 15th, 2025
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

Council Members:

Qamryn Askew: In-person

O'Marie Barnes: Virtual

Shradha Bista: In-person

Aarna Chakarvarty: Virtual

Taryn Clemons: Virtual

Alessia Cuba: In-person

David Renderos: Virtual

Folashade Epebinu: Virtual

Thomas Evans: Virtual

Diana Flores: Virtual

Alexander Hossainkhail: In-person

Kevin Jones: Absent

Izzah Khan: Absent

Zaria Naqvi: Virtual

Foresight Ogungbe: Virtual

Rishi Sheth: Absent

Graham Snyder: In-person

Joyce Yun: In-person

Alex Mayen Velasquez: Absent

Lorena Wu: Absent

Lucia Zaklin: Absent

Jefferson Aldair Vasquez- Reyes:
In-person

Staff:

Mysiki Valentine, GOC

Christina Drushel Williams, GOC

Materials Distributed:

- [MYAC Agenda - 1.18.24](#)

Meeting Recorder: Folashade Epebinu, Secretary

Meeting Overview: The meeting began with a warm welcome to all members, with a special introduction of MYAC's newest member, followed by updates from each member. Council business was then discussed, including roll call, chair updates, and committee updates. After a brief break, the group reviewed and voted on several bills shared by the Legislative Committee before moving into a conversation about proposed by-law introductions and changes. After this discussion, the Council briefly conversed about the focus group for the MYAC 25-26 application. The meeting concluded with final reminders about Advocacy Day and adjournment.

MINUTES

I. Welcoming Remarks

The Vice Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all members and providing a brief overview of the agenda. Members also welcomed MYAC's newest member, Jefferson Aldair Vasquez- Reyes.

II. Member Updates

Councilmembers shared personal updates and advocacy progress, creating a chance to celebrate each other and acknowledge their collective accomplishments.

III. Council Updates

- **Roll Call**

Vice Chair Evans confirmed quorum for the Council to proceed with Council business.

- **Chair Updates**

Chair Hossainkhail has been communicating with different legislators to discuss support for the Maryland Blueprint and the possibility of town halls during the week of crossover in the legislative session. Currently, there are ideas surrounding potential town halls in Montgomery County and Anne Arundel County two weeks following the end of the legislative session. A Hagerstown town hall is also in the works with multiple members taking the lead on this initiative. Additionally, the memo to the Governor about a roundtable meeting with MYAC is in progress. Looking forward, the Council can expect discussions on the Council bylaws.

- **Legislative Committee Announcements**

The Committee will continue to hold meetings with legislators and submit testimony.

- **Public Awareness Committee Announcements**

During the bylaw review that will take place at the next meeting, there will be changes made to the oversight and functions of the Public Awareness Committee.

- **Youth Grants Committee**

The YGO Committee has its first meeting detailing changes to the application process and a timeline. At the upcoming advocacy day the Committee plans to speak with legislators about the grant and ways they can communicate the opportunity to youth in their constituency. The Committee has sent out 65+ emails, looking to reach counties MYAC has little to no representation for on the Council.

III. Bill Review

Shradha and Zaria, the Legislative Committee Chair, lead the bill review process for the

Council, based on the E-votes from the Legislative Committee. Below is the bill that MYAC has reviewed.

Bill Number	Bill Title	Legislative Committee Stance	Council Stance
HB 0005	Criminal Law - Child Pornography - Artificial Intelligence Software	Favorable	Favorable
HB 0293	Criminal Procedure - Child Victims - Testimony in Child Abuse Cases	Favorable	Favorable
HB 0421	Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline	Favorable	Favorable
SB 0098	Baltimore County, Frederick County, Howard County, and Washington County Boards of Education – Student Members – Alterations	Favorable	Favorable
SB 0161	State Department of Education - Driver Education and Career and Technical Education - Funding (Driver Education and Career Education Act of 2025)	Favorable	Favorable
HB 0282	Public Schools - Sexually Explicit	Unfavorable	Unfavorable

	Materials - Prohibited in Libraries and Media Centers		
HB 0283	Public Safety - Safe Neighborhoods - Pilot Program	Favorable	Favorable
SB 0062	Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth	Favorable	Favorable
HB 0156	Fairness in Girls' Sports Act	Unfavorable	Unfavorable
SB 0095	Our Kids Play Safe Playground Safety Act of 2025	Favorable	Favorable
HB 0128	RENEW Act of 2025	Favorable	Favorable
SB 0029	Education - Phone-Free Schools Pilot Program - Establishment	Unfavorable	Unfavorable
HB 0612	Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment	Favorable	Favorable
SB 0429	Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act	Unfavorable	Unfavorable

The Council then voted on the four bills below.

Bill Number	Bill Title	Favorable Council Vote	Council Stance
HB 1346	PACE Act	13	Favorable

HB 0853	Maryland Second Look Act	13	Favorable
HB 0556	Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization	13	Favorable
HB 0017	Internet Gaming - Authorization and Implementation	12	Favorable

IV. BREAK

V. Approval of Minutes

Councilmembers reviewed and approved the [January Meeting Minutes](#).

VI. By-Laws: Introductions and Changes Conversation

To improve the efficiency and flow of MYAC in future years, several bylaw changes were proposed. One of the changes includes adding a mandated Council training day, which will be held before the second Council meeting each year to review operational procedures, legislative items, and the structure of MYAC. Community partners will also be invited to this event, which will be required and included in the MYAC application process.

Another proposed change is establishing temporary committee procedures, along with providing clarity on member appointment positions and delegations. Additionally, the media role in public awareness will be removed, and media will be directed to two officer positions. Lastly, a MYAC guidebook which can be used to support MYAC members and outside organizations or youth groups interested in the functions of MYAC.

VII. MYAC 25 Application Focus Group

In coming meetings, the Executive Board and the full Council will be looking at the MYAC application. The application is set to open on March 1st using a newer system called Submittable. The goal is for all MYAC members to have an opportunity to engage with the application process and promote the application.

VIII. Advocacy Day

MYAC Advocacy Day will be on February 17th in partnership with The MOST Network. Members must inform Mr. Valentine of their attendance to ensure there is an accurate count of MYAC members participating.

VI. Announcements and Next Steps

- Reach out to Mr. Valentine to engage in upcoming opportunities
- Continue to promote the 2024-2025 MYAC grant
- Check email for Chair and Committee Chair communications
- Complete mileage forms
- Prepare for MYAC Advocacy Day
- Stay tuned for the Executive Board meeting in two weeks
- Next council meeting is on March 8th, 2025

VII. Adjournment

Chair Hossainkhail adjourned the meeting at 3:54 PM.