Maryland Youth Advisory Council

Annual Report 2014

Submitted to Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly
By the Governor's Office for Children on behalf of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council
August 28, 2014

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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 and oral testimony on several bills that were introduced during the legislative session that the Council believed to be important. Council members also participated in a meeting regarding online learning for the Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning.

Application Process and Outreach

2013-2014 Term

The application (Appendix I) for the Maryland Youth Advisory Council was available online on the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) website beginning May 1, 2013 to July 1, 2013. The application was also sent to appointing bodies, the Maryland Children's Cabinet, and other agencies and organizations working with youth. To apply for the Council, applicants were required to submit a completed application, one letter of recommendation, and a resume. GOC received 82 applications from 14 counties and 56 schools.

GOC staff review applications and submit recommendations to each appointing body for approval. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House reviewed applications submitted and recommended by legislators in addition to the GOC recommendations.

The 2013-14 Council was composed of 46 members representing 13 counties and 37 schools; of the 46 members, 14 were returning second-year members, and 32 were first-year members.

2014-2015 Term

The revised application (Appendix II) for the Maryland Youth Advisory Council was available online on the Governor's Office for Children website beginning April 1, 214 to July 1, 2014. This year 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

A copy of the presentation slides can be found in Appendix III

GOC received 70 applications from 18 counties and 56 schools. The 2014 – 2015 Council will be composed of 52 members (at the submission of this report, three member have yet to be appointed by MHEC) representing 16 counties and 36 schools; of the 52 members, 9 are returning second-year members, and 43 are first-year members.

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 Saturdays from either 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm or 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm at various Baltimore County library locations. The library locations were selected because of their accessibility to the council and members of the public. All meeting dates, times, and locations were available on the GOC website and meeting materials were also posted on the website before and after meetings.

Meeting #1: Saturday, September 7, 2013 (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. The Council also formed an Executive Board, and two committees, Legislative and Public Awareness, both of which were asked to establish a means of communication within the 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 26, 2013 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.), Arbutus Library, 855 Sulphur Spring Road, Arbutus, MD 21227

Dennis Teegardin from the Office of Delegate Kirill Reznik attended the meeting to discuss the "Pay it Forward, Pay it Back" bill (HB853) with the Council. The bill sought to make college education more accessible for all Maryland citizens. The Council also discussed the legislative priority for the year. The Council narrowed its choices to driver's education in school, technology, life skills (college and career readiness), and voting issues. Life skills (college and career readiness) was selected to be the issue of focus for the year, with the concentration on what schools do, and to what degree, to prepare students for a career or college after high school. Council members were asked to think about how to approach this focus for the next meeting (i.e. legislatively, through school boards, etc.).

Meeting #3: Saturday, January 25, 2014 (1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.), Perry Hall Library 9685 Honeygo Boulevard Perry Hall, MD 21128

Jenny Bonilla Moreno from The Forum for Youth Investment, a national nonprofit dedicated to helping states and communities ensure all young people are Ready by 21 – ready for college, work, and life – visited MYAC during the third meeting of the year. In Maryland, Governor Martin O'Malley outlined sixteen strategic administration goals, two of which are related to college and career readiness. The Education Goal seeks to improve student achievement in school, college, and career readiness by 25% by the end of 2015 and is "On Track." The Skills Goal, seeks to increase the number of Marylanders who receive skills training by 20% by the end of 2018 and is "In Progress". The Council reviewed and discussed Credentialed by 26, state policy recommendations which the council decided to use as a starting block to further its exploration of life readiness. This led to a brief discussion about where Maryland schools are in the context of Credentialed by 26. The Council also decided to submit opposition testimony for Senate Bill 194 which would remove the voting rights of the Anne Arundel County Student Member on the Board of Education (SMOB). Finally, the Council members were asked to look out for bills that pertain to the yearly focus.

Meeting #4: Saturday, February 22, 2014 (1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.), Baltimore County Essex Branch Library, 1110 Eastern Boulevard, Essex, MD 21221

The fourth meeting was focused almost exclusively on legislative updates. The meeting's first order of business was to elect a new Vice Chair due to the departure of Vice Chair Kamar Perkins. The Council confirmed Breana Echols as the new Vice Chair. Then, the Council proceeded to discuss relevant bills in the Maryland legislature:

- SB 194 - restricted the Anne Arundel County Student Member of the Board Voting Rights. The Council submitted a letter of opposition and provided testimony during the hearing.
- HB 853/SB 626, Pay It Forward Study Bill - aimed at public schools and community college to see if the Pay It Forward program is feasible, was presented by Dennis Teegardin from the Office of Delegate Reznik. The Council voted to submit a letter of support for this bill.
- HB 1324 (Maryland Youth Employment Act of 2014) - upon calling Delegate Alonzo Washington and discussing the bill the Council did not support the bill and took no action.
- HB 885 - sought to give students a tax break on their student loans, was considered, to which the council decided to endorse with a letter of support.
- HB 18 - aimed to place a student resource officer in each school in the state, was, upon discussion. The Council did not support this bill and took no action.
- H.J. Resolution 68 - supported the establishment of the Presidential Youth Council, to which the Council decided to wait until a representative of the bill could talk with members before making a concrete decision of support.

In conclusion, council members were asked to be aware of MYAC presentations and bill hearings in which they were asked to participate.

Meeting #5: Saturday, March 15, 2014 (1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.), Baltimore County Loch Raven Branch Library, 1046 Taylor Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21286

Christine Evans Johnson from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene came to talk to the Council about adolescent health. After a presentation that featured an overview of the Federal Title V Grant and the Federal Title X Grant, Johnson discussed Maryland's Adolescent Sexual Health Programs and Goals, including abstinence education and family planning service for teens and young adults. The Council then proceeded to discuss legislative updates and MYAC presentation updates. Afterwards, the Council reviewed the application to be a member and amended a few questions on the existing MYAC

application. Following this, the legislative committee and public relations committee convened. The legislative committee planned the Public Forum and discussed ways to poll students regarding life readiness. The public awareness committee decided upon which channels the Forum should be advertised and the means to do so. This was the final meeting of the 2013-2014 MYAC year.

(See Appendix IV for meeting minutes)

Legislative Priority Selection Process

Selecting a legislative priority was an important first step for the Council because it would be the center of focus and work for the rest of the year. Council members were asked to examine several critical problems they felt young adults faced today, such as financial literacy and access to education. Jenny Bonilla Moreno from The Forum for Youth Investment, a national nonprofit, and Dennis Teegardin from the Office of Delegate Krill Reznik spoke to the council about Ready by 21 and the Pay It Forward bill, respectively to give the Council some ideas on where to place its focus.

After narrowing down a few topics, members were encouraged to examine and explore probable ways to work towards resolving those problems in order to narrow down the choices, including Driver's Ed in school, technology, and life and college readiness, and voting issues. Discussion on each of the topics and a vote led the council to select Life skills – college and career readiness as the legislative priority.

Following the decision to focus on life and college readiness, council members spent two meetings deciding on ways to work on improving and learning about life and college readiness in Maryland. Among the considered approaches was a report, a curriculum, a website, and an index for guidance counselors. Jenny Bonilla Moreno explained to the council about how a report with information from a student or young adult's point of view would be helpful to legislators. Council members found more information was needed to set a benchmark on where Maryland stood in terms of college and life readiness for guidance counselors, college admissions counselors, and legislators. Based on the need for more comprehensive information from students and young adults, the council decided to make a report.

2014 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 2013-14 year, the Council focused on the topic of Life Skills, College and Career Readiness. The 2014 Public Forum was held on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at the Community College of Baltimore County – Catonsville Campus.

Opening remarks were given by the Youth Co-Chair Diane D'Costa. The remarks included a brief summary of the history and establishment of the Council, as well as a couple notes on current Career and College Readiness in Maryland. The opening panel participants included:

- **Jenny Bonilla Moreno**, Policy Associate, Forum for Youth Investment
- **Pat Mikos**, Program Manager, Division of Career and College Readiness, Maryland State Department of Education

Workshop I

The first workshop was led by Jonaye Ford, the Vice-President of Education & Outreach, Junior Achievement of Central Maryland. The workshop focused on financial literacy, and ethics of the workplace/professional life. Ms. Ford asked difficult questions such as, "Would you fire an employee that

has shown up 15 minutes late for work every day of the week?" The workshop helped attendees to understand the implications of starting up a business, as well as financial aspects of everyday life.

Workshop II

Afterwards, attendees had a choice of attending one of two workshops. The Job Skills workshop led by Tracy Queen, Early Intervention Facilitator, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation or the College Access workshop led by, Jerome Cole, Assistant Head of Upper School for College Counseling, Sandy Spring Friends Schools.

When surveyed, the Job Skills workshop was given an average of 5/5. The workshop provided attendees information on how to make a resume/cover letter, how to be tech-savvy when it comes to professional life, as well as how to put oneself out there so that employers can find you. When surveyed, the College Access workshop was given an average of 4.83. Other survey results included

- Usefulness of public forum: 4.47,
- Expectations met: 85%,
- Overall satisfaction: 4.57, and
- Satisfaction of Financial Literacy Workshop: 3.87.

This data leads the Council to conclude that the Public Forum was a successful event in which attendees gained insightful knowledge, about financial literacy, college access, or job skills.

(See Appendix V for Public Forum Materials)

Improvements for 2014-15 Council Year

The Council's focus was broad

Life skills –college and career readiness was a relatively broad topic, which is why the Council had difficulty determining how to approach the issue. However, this equipped the Council with the power to continue work on their issue throughout the term instead of reaching a halt after a sole bill pertaining to its work failed. Hence, overall productivity was higher during the year.

Suggestion: Encourage incoming members to pick a "theme" versus a "focus" to allow the Council to address a wider array of legislation. If a narrow "focus" is selected, Members should also consider creating a back-up plan of other topics or bills they would like to address during their tenure.

Lack of access to informative materials pertaining to the Council's work

Many of the attendees of the Public Forum noted that they felt ill-informed regarding many facets of life and college readiness. On the contrary, Council Members received many brief informative materials pertaining to the field of focus from both guest speakers and the Co-Chairs.

Suggestion: Throughout the year, upload the documents to the Council's website and social media pages. Consult the Public Relations Committee, once established, to discuss other ways in which this information could be shared with students.

No established procedures regarding replacement of Officers

In February 2014, Vice Chair Kamar Perkins resigned from the Council. Due to no established procedure in the case of resignation of an officer, Co-Chair Diane D'Costa appointed Breana Echols to the vacancy. This appointment was confirmed by the Council at the next meeting.

Suggestion: Given that the appointment procedures posed no opposition by Council Members, it is recommended that such a process be repeated, if necessary, in the future.

Committees often had little time to meet

Due to the Council's busy agenda, particularly during legislative session, the committee's delegated time was often shortened to discuss other matters. In effect, committees had to handle many of their responsibilities outside of meetings.

Suggestion: Prompt chairs of committees to establish discussion priorities prior to meetings, particularly during legislative session.

Improvements for 2015 Public Forum

Attendance

The Public Forum was held on Saturday, May 31, 2014, with a total of 36 attendees, including 19 MYAC members and staff, 6 presenters, and 11 other attendees. In the future, MYAC would like to have higher attendance from people outside of the Council by better promoting the Forum.

Suggestions:

- **Promotion on Social Media**: MYAC should make it a priority to promote the Forum on social media in order to distribute information to a wide audience. MYAC members could create a Facebook event to advertise the Forum and post information about the Forum on Facebook or Twitter.
- **Greater Use of 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. An electronic version of the flyer can also be used as a simple way to promote the event through e-mail or social media.
- **Length of Promotion:** MYAC should begin promoting the Forum at least one month in advance. This will allow more time for the Forum to gain publicity and increase the number of people who are available for the event.
- **Promotion Goals**: MYAC should establish a set number of people that each Council member must invite. Each member should also be required to distribute a certain number of flyers in their county. This will help increase attendance from more different counties in the state.

Interaction

While the panel and workshops were informative and engaging, there were not enough opportunities for MYAC members and other attendees to interact and discuss issues related to Life Skills –College and Career Readiness.

Suggestions:

- **Small group discussions**: The Forum should include discussions in smaller groups that include MYAC members and other attendees. It would also be beneficial for the members of each group to change between discussions. This would allow attendees to speak with more people and hear more perspectives on the topic.
- **Social Media**: MYAC should better use social media during the Forum, such as live Tweeting or live broadcasting, to involve those unable to attend. A larger group of people would be able to join the discussion and contribute their ideas.

Recommendations for the Topic of Life Skills, College and Career Readiness

The Council spent multiple meetings narrowing down its legislative topic and in October reached a consensus that it would focus on college and career readiness. This subject became the focus of our annual public forum, meetings with guest speakers, and legislative bills that we as a Council chose to support or oppose.

If the Council is to retain the 2013-2014 topic of college and career readiness, it must focus its limited time and resources on specific actions that can make a significant difference to Maryland youth. This topic is extremely important to our future, and in order for progress to be made, the broad topic must be narrowed down and action must be taken.

The best way for the Council to efficiently create a specific focus within the topic of college and career readiness will be to draft and disseminate a survey to a sample of Maryland youth, addressing their concerns about the transition from high school to a career or higher education. Some topics that could be covered in the survey might be resume building, college applications, job interviews, etc. Once the results are in, the Council can assess the needs of its constituency, and address them through a proposed piece of legislation to the General Assembly, college and career readiness information booklets for students, and the annual public forum.

2013-2014 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)
Diane D'Costa, Youth Co-Chair (elected by Council members to a one-year term)

2013-2014 Maryland Youth Advisory Council Youth Executive Board (elected by Council members)

- *Youth Co-Chair:* Diane D'Costa
- *Youth Vice-Chair:* Kamar Perkins (resigned), Breana Echols
- *Secretary:* Likhitha Butchireddygari
- *Legislative Committee Co-Chairs:* Eva Dickerson, Ben Feshbach
- *Public Awareness Committee Co-Chairs:* Stephanie Chill, Devan Ogburn
- *Governor's Appointees:* Erin Chase, Tina Huang, Dhurv Patel, Medha Reddy
- *Senate and House Appointees:* Beatriz Atsavapranee, Rachel Carroll, Karla Talley, John Ten Eyck

- *Youth Appointed by Other Youth Appointees:* Breana Echols, Christian Hodges, Alessandra Lowy, Shreya Nalubola

Appointed by the Governor

Appointed in 2012

1. Stephanie Chill
2. Jingyi "Tina" Huang
3. Michael Moore

Appointed in 2013

1. Kate Campbell
2. Erin Chase
3. Samuel Choi
4. Keya Duncan (Resigned)
5. Eugenie Hughes
6. Camille Kirsch
7. Elijiah Miles
8. Dhruv Patel
9. Kamar Perkins (Resigned)
10. Raisa Rauf
11. Medha Reddy
12. Edgar Vasquez
13. Nathan Xie

Appointed by the President of the Senate

Appointed in 2012

1. Tyler Argubright (Resigned)
2. Chris Eyo
3. Karla Talley

Appointed in 2013

1. Rachel Carroll
2. Eva Dickerson
3. Noah Miller
4. John Ten Eyck
5. Pascal Tessier

Appointed by the Speaker of the House

Appointed in 2012

1. Beatriz Atsavapranee
2. Thaara Shankar

Appointed in 2013

1. Delanee-Alexis Coley
2. Jamilah Silver
3. Kennedy Taylor
4. Brittany Wangel
5. Vacant
6. Vacant

Appointed by the Maryland Association of Student Councils

Appointed in 2012

1. Diane D'Costa
2. Ben Feshbach
3. Rico Lizbinski
4. Devan Ogburn
5. Calvin Yeh (Resigned)

Appointed in 2013

1. Likhitha Butchireddygari
2. Phoenix Do
3. Christian Hodges
4. Athena Kan
5. Daniel Kim
6. Alessandra Lowy
7. Shreya Nalubola
8. Karen Ni
9. McKenna Porter
10. Christy Tse

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

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Vacant

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

Appointed in 2013

1. Breana Echols
2. Vacant
3. Vacant
4. Vacant
5. Vacant

Appendix I: 2013-2014 Maryland Youth Advisory Council Application

MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
2013-2014 Application

Maryland Youth Advisory Council

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council 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. The Maryland Advisory Youth Council will be 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, 2013 until August 31, 2014) and they cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

Purpose

The Council's purpose and responsibility is to:

- Hold at least 4 meetings a year
- Hold at least one public meeting on issues of importance to youth (topics can include: education, a safe learning environment, employment opportunities, increasing youth participation in 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 services, suicide prevention, and educational accessibility issues for students with disabilities.
- Recommend one legislative proposal
- Provide testimony before legislative bodies on youth issues
- Conduct a public awareness campaign to raise awareness about the Council among Maryland youth
- Provide an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly

How to Apply:

If you think that you would like to be a voice for youth in Maryland, fill out the attached application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christina Drushel at christina.drushel@maryland.gov or at 410-767-2547. We are requesting that applicants e-mail their application, as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is **July 1, 2013.**

Christina Drushel, Prevention Specialist
Governor's Office for Children
301 West Preston St., Suite 1502
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

2013-2014 Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

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

Name of School: _____

Type of School: _____ _____ _____

Year in School: _____ If not in school, when did you last attend full time: _____

Age: _____

Email: _____

Are you currently employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No Hours Worked Per Week:

Attach Resume if available

Parent / Guardian (if 18 years or under):

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Cellular Phone: ( ) _____

1) Please describe any current or previous involvement in a youth organization/council:

_____

_____

_____

_____

2) Please list any current or previous extracurricular, volunteer experiences or leadership roles you have had in your school or community:

_____

_____

_____

_____

3) Briefly explain why you would like to participate in the Maryland Youth Advisory Council:

_____

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_____

_____

_____

4) If you could make one change in your school, community, or the State of Maryland, what would it be?

_____

_____

_____

5) What other problems or issues are most important to you?

_____

_____

_____

6) If you are selected, you will be expected to reach out to your peers in the youth leadership organization that you represent. Please describe some ways you plan to engage your peers.

_____

_____

_____

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	☐	Black or African American, Non Hispanic	☐
American Indian or Alaska Native	☐	Asian	☐
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	☐	Hispanic	☐
Other: _____			___

c. Disability: (Please check appropriate box)

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

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

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SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Christina Drushel, Prevention Specialist
Governor's Office for Children
301 West Preston St., Suite 1502
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-767-2547
Fax: 410-333-5248
Christina.drushel@maryland.gov

Appendix II: 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 your most passionate about and why? As a member of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, how would you address these issues?

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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)

- ☐ Governor's Office
- ☐ President of the Senate
- ☐ Speaker of the House
- ☐ MD Association of Student Councils
- ☐ MD Higher Education Commission
- ☐ University System of Maryland
- ☐ Current Council Member
- ☐ Teacher/School Administrator
- ☐ Flyer
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Other: _____

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 ☐
- American Indian or Alaska Native ☐
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐
- Other: _____
- Black or African American, Non Hispanic ☐
- Asian ☐
- Hispanic ☐

c. Disability: (Please check appropriate box)

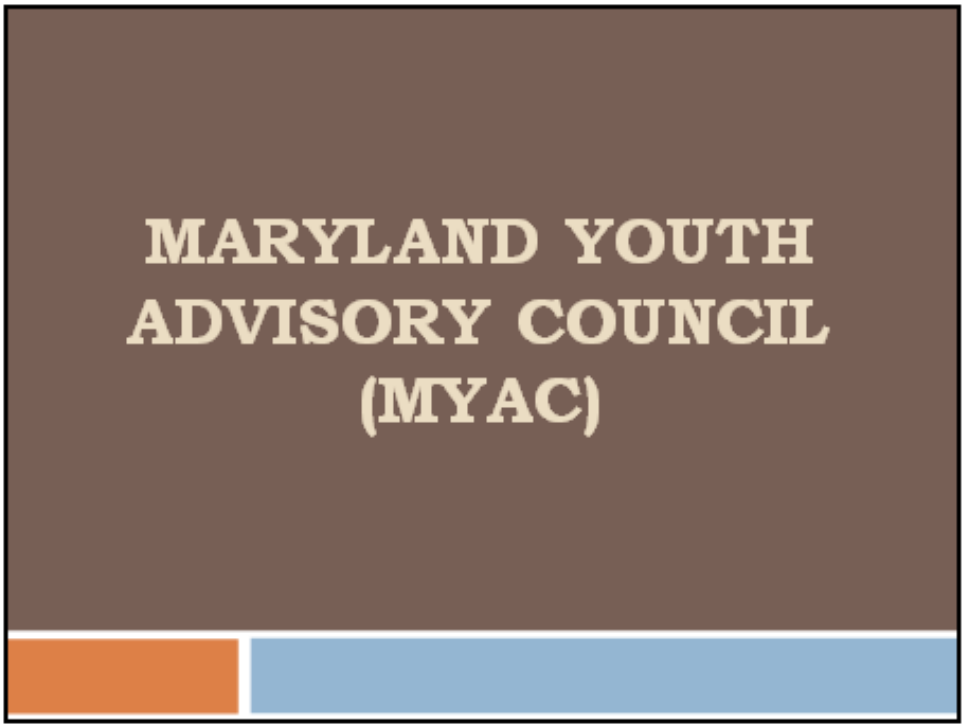
☐ Yes ☐ No

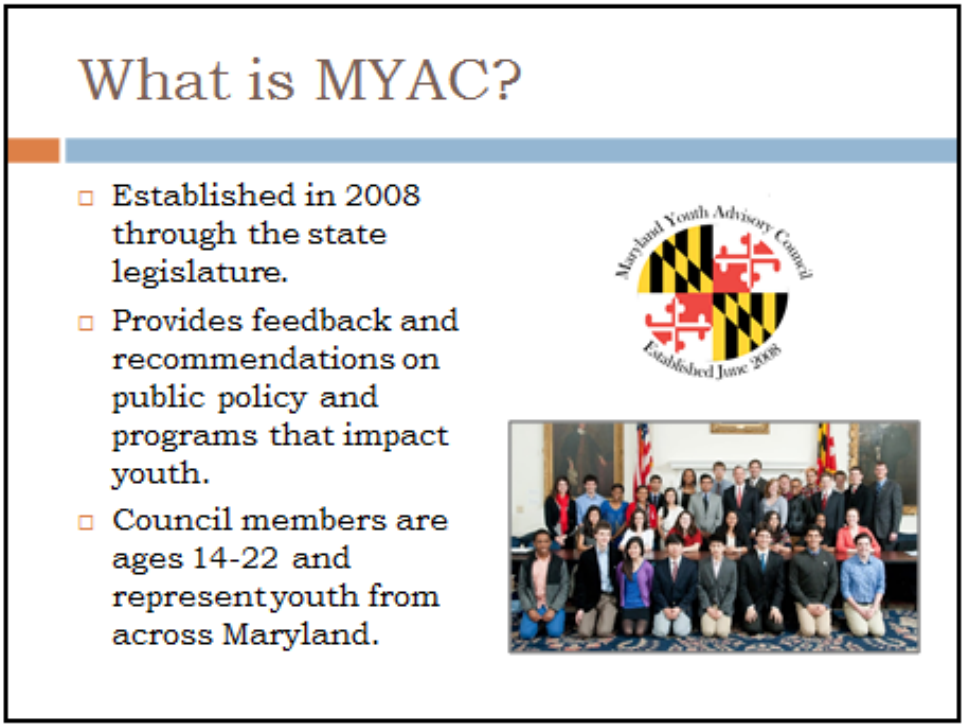
Please include one letter of reference (teacher, coach, pastor, advisor, professor, principal, etc.) and a resume.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

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

Appendix III: Maryland Youth Advisory Council Presentation Slides





MYAC Role

- Conduct Public Meetings at least four times a year
- Hold one or two Public Hearings on issues of importance to youth
- Conduct one educational meeting concerning the legislative process
- Provide testimony before legislative bodies on youth related issues
- Recommend one legislative proposal each legislative session concerning issues on slide 4
- Conduct a Public Awareness campaign to raise awareness about the Council among Maryland Youth
- Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly

Legislative Topics…

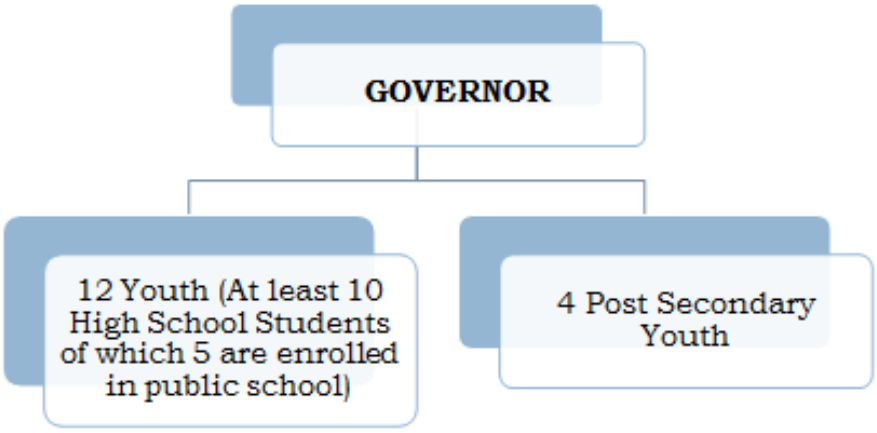
- Education
- A Safe Learning Environment
- Employment Opportunities
- Strategies to Increase Youth Participation in Local and State Government
- Health Care Access and Quality of Care
- Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking
- Emotional and Physical Well-Being
- The Environment
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Youth Access to State and Local Services
- Suicide Prevention
- Educational Accessibility Issues for Students with Disabilities, Including Access to
  - Schools
  - School-Related Activities
  - Classes

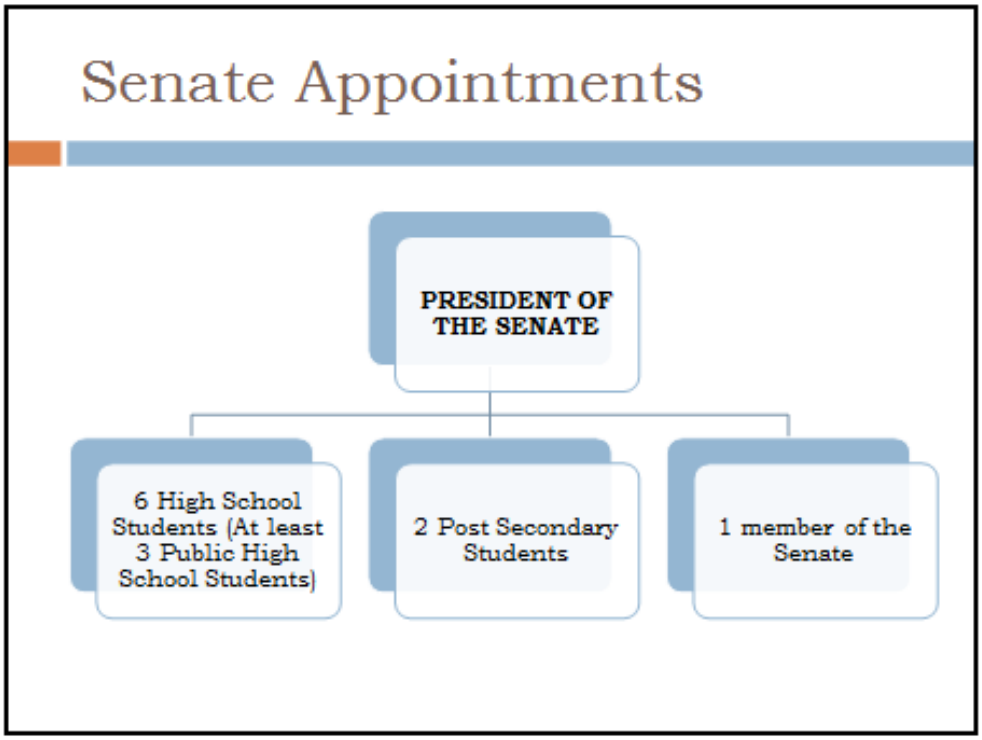
- Past issues include:
  - SMOB Voting Rights
  - Financial Literacy
  - School Nutrition
  - Technology in School
  - Life Skills, College and Career Readiness

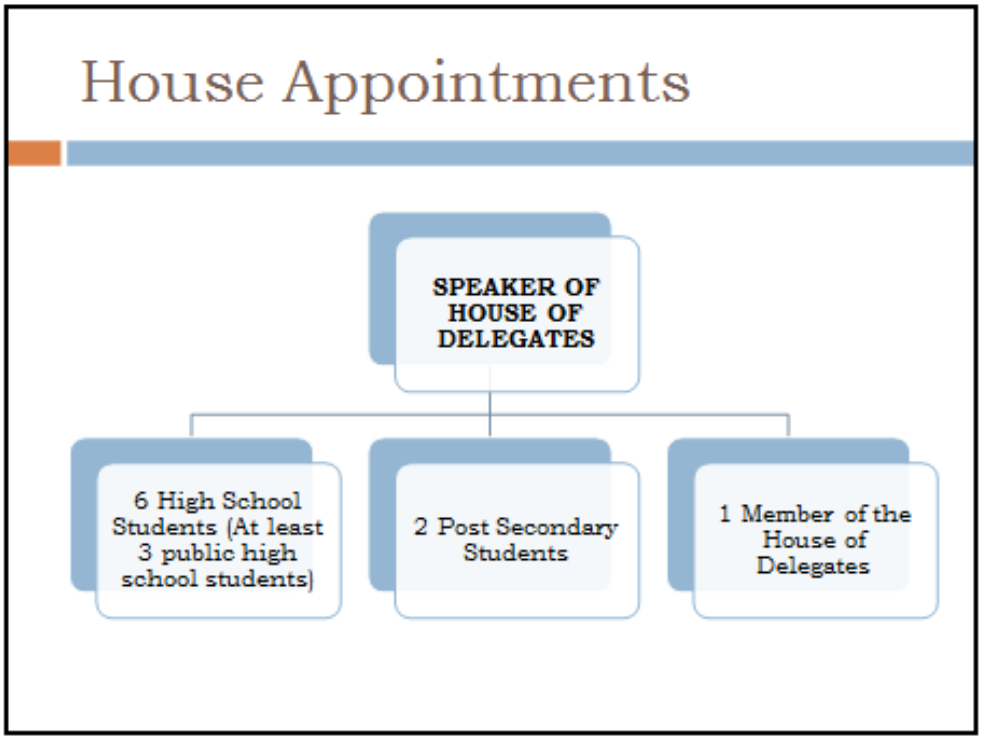
Youth Membership

- Youth must be 14-22 years of age
- The term of a Youth Advisory Council member is from September 1st to August 30th of the following year
- A youth member may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- Youth are provided with 4 excused school absences to fulfill their Council duties

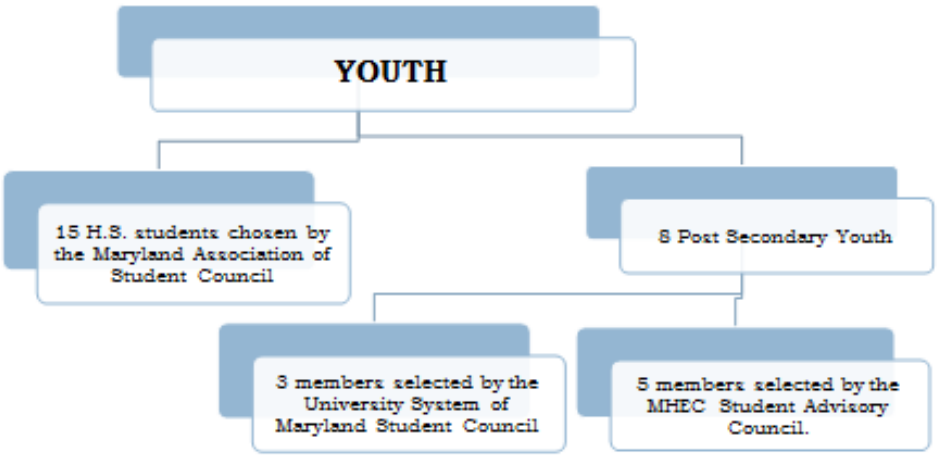
Governor Appointments




Senate Appointments
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
6 High School Students (At least 3 Public High School Students)
2 Post Secondary Students
1 member of the Senate


House Appointments
SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES
6 High School Students (At least 3 public high school students)
2 Post Secondary Students
1 Member of the House of Delegates

Youth Appointments



MYAC Members by County

	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009
Allegany	-	-	2	2	-	-
Anne Arundel	2	5	8	7	2	2
Baltimore City	2	2	2	1	1	2
Baltimore County	4	5	2	5	5	6
Calvert	1	1	1	-	-	2
Caroline	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carroll	1	2	2	1	2	1
Cecil	1	1	-	1	-	-
Charles	-	1	1	1	2	2
Dorchester	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frederick	2	2	1	1	-	1
Garrett	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harford	1	2	4	1	2	2
Howard	7	2	9	6	4	-
Kent	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montgomery	14	14	9	11	11	11
Prince George's	4	4	4	7	9	6
Queen Anne's	-	-	-	-	-	1
St. Mary's	-	1	1	1	1	2
Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Talbot	-	-	-	-	-	-
Washington	-	1	-	1	2	1
Wicomico	2	2	-	2	2	1
Worcester	1	-	-	-	2	2
County Total	12	16	12	15	12	15

Applications

- Applications will be available beginning **April 1, 2014** through **July 1, 2014**.
- Forms will be available online at http://goc.maryland.gov/MarylandYouthAdvisoryCouncil.html
- Application submissions must include:
  - Completed application form
  - Letter of recommendation
  - Resume

Contact Information

Christina Drushel Williams
Program & Policy Specialist
Governor's Office for Children
Christina.drushel@maryland.gov, 410-767-2547

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/MarylandYouthAdvisoryCouncil

Appendix IV: 2013-2014 Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2013

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

In Attendance

Council Members:
Rachel Carroll
Kamar Perkins
Likhitha Butchireddygari
Karla Talley
Eugenie Hughes
Stephanie Chill
Diane D'Costa
Medha Reddy
Christy Tse
Dhruv Patel
Breana Echols
Sam Choi
Thaara Shankar
Michael Moore
Kate Campbell
John Ten Eyck
Eva Dickerson
Raisa Rauf
Pascal Tessier
Noah Miller
Nathan Xie
Shreya Nalubola
Athena Kan
Ben Feshbach
Alessandra Lowy
Phoenix Do
Devan Ogburn
Daniel Kim
Erin Chase
Beatriz Atsavapranee
Christian Hodges
Tina Huang
Karen Ni

Co-Chairs:
Christina Drushel Williams
Michael Hawkins

Overview of MYAC and Member Responsibilities

- 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
- 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

- See handout

Legislative Priorities Discussion and Public Hearing

- Discussed legislative priorities from previous Council years, and include:
  - 2009-2010
    - Mandatory financial literacy education in public schools (main focus)
    - Supporting full voting rights for Student Members of the Boards of Education (SMOB)
    - Community service requirements
  - 2010-2011
    - Youth violence (main focus)
    - Bullying
    - Improving nutrition of school meals
  - 2011-2012
    - Mandatory financial literacy education in public schools (main focus)
    - Bullying
  - 2012-13

        - Use of technology in schools
- Public Forums are hosted by the Council to present selected legislative issue, provide testimony before a panel, and allow the community to engage with the council about the issue.

Election Results

Youth Co-Chair – **Diane D'Costa**
- Diane D'Costa – 19
- Kamar Perkins - 14

Youth Vice Chair – **Kamar Perkins**
- Kamar Perkins – 19
- Eva Dickerson – 10
- Athena Kan - 4

Youth Secretary – **Likhitha Butchireddygari**
- Likhitha Butchireddygari – 12
- Breana Echols – 9
- Medha Reddy – 5
- Shreye Nalubola – 5
- Erin Chase - 2

Youth Executive Board

House and Senate	Governor	Youth
Karla Talley	Medha Reddy	Christian Hodges
John Ten Eyck	Dhruv Patel	Shreya Nalubola
Beatriz Atsavapranee	Tina Huang	Alessandra Lowy
Rachel Carroll	Erin Chase	Breana Echols

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs
- Eva Dickerson
- Ben Feshbach

Public Awareness Committee Co-Chairs
- Devan Ogburn
- Stephanie Chill

Committee Breakouts

Announcements
- The Maryland Virtual Learning Advisory Council is looking for students who have taken an online course to share their experiences and participate in a roundtable discussion.
    - Thursday, September 12, 2013
    - 9:30am – 3:30pm
    - Arlington Echo Outdoor Educational Center
    - 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville, MD 21108

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.
- Legislative Committee
    - Develop a preferred means of communication: email and Facebook group.
    - Find someone to be a secretary of sorts for our legislative break outs.
    - Create a list of bills that we may find interesting to look into.
    - Connect with the delegate from each county and begin to build a professional relationship with them.
    - Brainstorm some legislation we'd like to push as a group.
- Public Awareness Committee

Develop a poll to be put on Facebook and shared by members asking what topics and issues are most important to young people today.

Next Meeting

- Saturday, October 26th from 1:00-4:0pm at the Arbutus Library, *855 Sulphur Spring Road, Arbutus, MD 21227.*
- Agenda will focus on legislative issue discussion and next steps.

Meeting Adjourned

October 26, 2013

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

In Attendance

Council Members:
Jamilah Silver
Dhruv Patel
Erin Chase
Kate Campbell
Noah Miller
Sam Choi
Kennedy Taylor
Tina Huang
Phoenix Do
Beatriz Atsavapranee
Christy Tse
Pascal Tessier
Shreya Nalubola
Medha Ready
Delanee-Alexis Coley
Breana Echols
Devan Ogburn
Ben Feshbach
Likhitha Butchireddygari
John Ten Eyck
Camille Kirsch
Chris Eyo

Co-Chairs:
Christina Drushel Williams
Michael Hawkins

Guests:
Dennis Teegardin

Committee Reports

- **Legislative Committee**: Committee chairs thought about some ideas for legislative activity this year: Maintenance of Effort (MOE) law and Driver's Ed back in schools.
- **Public Awareness Committee**: Committee chairs want to put a poll on the Facebook page for legislative priorities. Goal – want more people to know about the legislative topic.

Dennis Teegardin, Office of the Delegate Krill Reznik

- See handouts
- Explained Pay It Forward Bill, introduced in Oregon by students from Portland State University: Prospective state university students sign a contract specifying that they will give a percent of their salary for an X amount of years after receiving their education, during which time; they will have paid no money.

Legislative Priorities Discussion

- Council members shared ideas for the legislative priority. The table below captures the ideas and the number in parentheses indicates the number of times the topic was mentioned.

Driver's Ed in School (9)	Financial Literacy in Life Skills (5)	Remove Tech Credit (8)	School Start Times (2)	Driving Curfew (1)	Energy Drinks in School (1)
Bullying	Mental Health Issues in Schools (2)	Health Curriculum	Registering to Vote	Wi-Fi in schools (2)	MD Distinguished Scholar
Clarifying In-State Tuition	Graduation Requirements (1)	Integration of ESOL students	Peer Counseling	Student Evaluation of Teachers (3)	Tolerance and Diversity (1)
Common Core Standards	Online Safety/ privacy	Virtual Learning	Grading System (1)	College Counselling	Peer Mediation
Student Involvement w/ MSDE	College Readiness Programs (2)	Environmental (Save the Bay)	Sports -> Gym Credit	GPA & Disciplinary Requirements for Athletes	Workforce Development

Voting Results

Topic for the Year – Life/ College Readiness

- Driver's Ed - 3
  - In school, free as a class?
  - Homeschool/ Private?
  - Actual requirements for Driver's Ed?
  - Need based?
- Technology – 1
  - What does it mean?
  - Teacher training
  - What does Tech Credit mean?
  - Application use?
  - Curriculum
- Life/ College Readiness – 11
  - Website (Virtual Learning)
  - Curriculum
  - Optional?
  - Integration v. separation?
- Voting Issues – 5
  - Supporting Tacoma Park
  - Get Involved in Local Council
  - Lower Voting Age (16)

Announcements

- Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning
  - Likhitha attended the meeting on behalf of the Council and reported back the discussion.
  - Options: Level based experience, high school course, graduation requirement, and pilot program.
  - State-by-state research: Florida (Virtual School), Virginia (Apex, BYU), Michigan (state virtual school)
  - Issues: Accessibility, Definition, and Range.

Next Steps

- Think about issues that could make an impact on the community.
- Think about steps that MYAC could take with legislative topic.

Next Meeting

December 14, 2013 (**Possible**)

January 25, 2014

General Meeting
Baltimore County Perry Hall Library
9685 Honeygo Blvd, Perry Hall, MD 21128

In Attendance

Council Members:
Kennedy Taylor
Breana Echols
Chris Eyo
Michael Moore
Devan Ogburn
Eugenie Hughes
Kate Campbell
Noah Miller
Likhitha Butchireddygari
Beatriz Atsavapranee
Christy Tse
Thaara Shankar
Karla Talley
Jamilah Silver
Raisa Rauf
Eva Dickerson
Athena Kan
Dhruv Patel
Camille Kirsch
Rachel Carroll

Co-Chairs:
Diane D'Costa
Christina Drushel Williams
Michael Hawkins

Guests:
Jenny Bonilla Moreno

Committee Reports

- **Legislative Committee**: Look out for legislative news from Eva and Ben.
- **Public Awareness Committee**: Committee chairs want to re-vamp the Facebook page and the website to put out more information in a timely manner. They also want to get outside input through online polls. It was also mentioned that that flyers and publications be put in libraries to attract bigger audience.

Jenny Bonilla Moreno, The Forum for Youth Investment

- What is it? A national nonprofit dedicated to helping states and communities make sure all young people are Ready by 21 – ready for college, work, and life.
- Child & Youth Serving Entities: current situation – disastrous mixture of services without interconnected service.
- Ready by 21 in Maryland:
    - January 2007 – October 2007: worked with Governor's Office of Children to make 5 year Action Agenda
    - January 2008 – 16 strategic goals
- Education Goal (On track), Skills Goal (In Progress)
    - Education: Improve student achievement in school, college, and career readiness by 25% by the end of 2015
    - Skills: Increase the number of Marylanders who receive skills training by 20% by the end of 2018
- Supporting Student Success
    - Academic Supports – Proactive academic advising, learning communities and other cohort models, and accelerated/contextualized remediation
    - Social and Civil Supports – High expectations, positive relationships, college know-how, service-learning/ leadership development
    - Basic Supports – Financial aid, emergency funds, healthcare, college-friendly employment, access to food, housing, transportation, child care
- The Other Statistics
    - 1/5 of students who begin in community college graduate with an associate's degree within three years, while over 7/10 young people from high income families earn a bachelor's degree

Review and Discussion of Credentialed by 26: State Policy Recommendations

- Purpose: To help transition from high school to further life.
- On what were the policy scans based?
    - Interviews with 10 practioners in Maryland
    - Experience with Montgomery County Credentialed by 26 website
    - National best practices
- #5: College 411? 81 page document on information of universities in Maryland. On the ground: a valuable tool; however, not offered to all schools.
- #12: SNAP program is in the process of losing funding
- Use this as a starting block? Yes (19), No (3)
    - Concerns: What is our focus? There are many questions. Can we add on? There is also vagueness in the recommendations.

Where are MD school systems?

- Consolidation: Communication across the board.
- Offices of College Counselling
- Naviance accounts/ Accuplacer: online portal for college. How is this implemented in schools?
- Financial Literacy: AP Economics v. practical economics. How can we create opportunities in the community to access this information?
- College and Career Research

Final Thoughts

- One main hub for all information regarding life transitions (including how to use a dishwasher): mdtransition.org.
- Senate bill that is trying to rid the Anne Arundel Student Member on the Board of Education of his/ her voting rights -> Opinion Letter dissenting this bill's approval.

Next Steps

- Look out for bills (legislative involvement).
- Come up with potential question for a survey.

Next Meeting

February 22, 2014 from 1:30 – 4:30 pm at the Essex Branch Library - 1110 Eastern Boulevard Essex, MD 21221

February 22, 2014

General Meeting
Baltimore County Essex Library
1110 Eastern Blvd, Essex, MD 21221

In Attendance

Council Members:
Pascal Tessier
Jamilah Silver
Eugenie Hughes
Kate Campbell
Michael Moore
Dhruv Patel
Christy Tse
Delanee-Alexis Coley
Chris Eyo
John Ten Eyck
Medha Reddy
Likhitha Butchreddygari
Raisa Rauf
Karen Ni
Camille Kirsch
Breana Echols
Allie Lowy
Ben Feshbach
Christina Hodges

Co-Chairs:
Diane D'Costa
Christina Drushel Williams

Guests:
Dennis Teegardin
Del. Alonzo Washington (phone)

Vice-Chair Confirmation

- Kamar Perkins, Vice-Chair of the Council asked to resign due to personal reasons.
- The current bylaws have no guidance on succession following the resignation of a leadership position. After consultation between the Diane and Ms. Christina, it was decided that the Youth Chair would select a Council member to fill the position and the Council would vote to confirm.
- Breana Echols was confirmed as new Vice Chair.

Legislative Updates:

- SB 194 – ACCEBOE SMOB Voting Rights: MYAC submitted written and oral testimony in opposition of restricting the student member of the board's voting rights.
    - The committee had an unfavorable report
- HB 853/ SB 626 – Pay It Forward Study Bill:
    - Denis Teegardin from Delegate Resnik's office attended to answer questions.
    - Purpose: Aimed at public schools and community college to see if the Pay It Forward program is feasible – would last a year.
    - How can we expand access?
    - How can we reach out to high achieving, but low income students?
    - What questions need to be asked?
        - Students who move out of state?
        - Students who can pay part of tuition?
        - Conclusions from the Oregon study?
        - How to fund the bill? Marijuana legalization? Raising taxes? Cigarette tax?
    - See Pay It Forward Bill Q & A (supplement) for further information.
    - Letter of Support? **Yes** (16) **No** (2) **Abstain** (2)
- HB 1324 – Maryland Youth Employment Act of 2014:
    - Called Delegate Alonzo Washington.
    - Purpose: Providing jobs for youth, who have suffered doubled unemployment rates.
    - Cause: There are too many people out on the street, who have nothing to do. When asked what would motivate them, they asked for jobs.
    - Cost: $2 million from budget
    - Questions fielded:

        - Why specifically STEM careers? The STEM industry is very prominent and growing. Since this is only the pilot program, there scope of this initiative will be expanded in later years.
        - What/ Who is the mechanism to coordinate the employers and tax credit process? TBD
        - What happens if the pilot program is successful? Hopefully, $25 million can be used for training and other resources.
    - Thoughts of members:
        - Doesn't encourage people to better themselves through higher education.
        - This could potentially be a re-engaging opportunity for youth.
        - There is no initiative to reach the troubled youth. How is it advertised?
        - STEM jobs require a certain set of skills.
        - This STEM job could be a stepping stone to something greater.
    - Letter of Support? **Yes** (4) **No** (13) **Abstain** (2)
- HB 885 – Income Tax Credit – Student Loan Payments:
    - Purpose: Give students a tax break on their student loans.
    - Continuing conversation about college affordability/ accessibility.
    - Thoughts: makes sense to alleviate huge financial burden.
    - Letter of Support? **Yes** (18) **No** (1) **Abstain** (0)
- HB 18 – Institutions of Higher Education – Student Notification:
    - History: Already passed House, now in Senate (Bill 74)
    - Purpose: Requires transparency of university.
    - Letter of Support? **Yes** (20)
- HB 20 – Primary and Secondary Education – Secretary – School Resource Officers:
    - Purpose: For each school in the state to have a student resource officer.
    - Cost: $100 million a year
    - Concern: Taking conversation away from school climate and emotional environment of teenagers to security officers.
    - Support? **Yes** (2) **No** (16) **Abstain** (2)
    - Letter of Opposition? **Yes** (1) **No** (8) **Abstain** (10)
- H.J. Resolution 68 – Supporting the establishment of a Presidential Youth Council:
    - Purpose: To get student representation at the national level.
    - Concerns: Too political (12 Democrats, 12 Republicans)? Only 24 people, when there 50 states. Where are they going to meet when they live all over the country? Only people who have policy experience can apply.
    - Decision: Waiting for a representative to speak with us

Committee Break Outs

- Legislative Committee:
    - **Decisions:** To compile a survey with questions regarding college/life readiness.
- Public Awareness Committee:
    - **Decisions**: Advertise date forms come out. Make flyers to advertise. Share with schools, libraries, and other community outlets.

Announcements

- MYAC is on the agenda for a number of meetings in March. Ms. Christina will be present but is looking for council members also present. Below are the upcoming dates:
    - **Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 pm -** Local Management Board Directors Meeting - Baltimore County Public Library- Catonsville Branch, 1100 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228.

    - **Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:00 am** - MHEC Student Advisory Council Meeting - Morgan State University
    - **Sunday, March 9, 2014, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm** - University System of Maryland Student Council - Coppin State University
- Upcoming Bill Hearing Dates:
    - **Tuesday, February 25, 2014 1:00pm**
        - HB 853 (Pay It Forward) – House Appropriations
        - HB 885 (Student Loan Payment) – House Ways and Means
    - **Wednesday, February 26, 1:30pm**
        - SB 632 (Student Loan Payment) – Senate Budget and Tax
    - **Wednesday, March 5, 2014 2:30 pm**
        - SB 626 (Pay It Forward) – Senate Budget and Tax
    - **Friday, March 7, 2014 1:00 pm**
        - HB 1324 (Youth Employment Act) – House Ways and Means
- Leadership opportunity: Maryland Leadership Workshop
    - See attached flyer
    - Scholarships are available
    - Visit website for more information, www.mlw.org

Next Steps

- Work on tasks within individual committees.
- Look out for times and places for MYAC presentations and bill hearings.

Next Meeting

March 15, 2014 1:30 – 4:30pm, Loch Raven Branch Library, 1046 Taylor Avenue Towson, Maryland 21286.

March 15, 2014

General Meeting
Baltimore County Loch Raven Library
1046 Taylor Avenue Towson, Maryland

In Attendance

Council Members:
Devan Ogburn
Thaara Shankar
Michael Moore
Stephanie Chill
Genie Hughes
Dhruv Patel
Christy Tse
Karla Talley
Noah Miller
Likhitha Butchireddygari
Kennedy Taylor
Raisa Rauf
Eva Dickerson
Sam Choi
Medha Reddy
Chris Eyo
Rachel Carroll
Camille Kirsch

Co-Chairs:
Diane D'Costa
Christina Drushel Williams
Michael Hawkins

Guests:
Christine Evans Johnson

Christine Evans Johnson – Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – State Adolescent Health Council

- Purpose: to show the state health plan for youth, answer questions, and get feedback.
- Maternal Child Health Bureau
  - Block Grant: adolescent health program. Federally Funded Teen Pregnancy and Prevention Programs
  - Personal Responsibility Education Program Grant: afterschool programs
  - Abstinence Education Grant (schools pick curriculum)
- Federal Title V Grant
  - Enacted in 1935 as part of the Social Security Act
  - Assured access to care especially for low income persons
  - Access to caring adults
  - Reduced teen births and STIs
  - Injury, violence, and suicide prevention
  - Drug and alcohol prevention
  - Obesity prevention
  - Access to healthcare for adolescents
- Federal Title X Grant
  - Enacted in 1970 as the Public Health Service Act
  - Only federal grant program dedicated solely to family planning and related preventive health services.
- Maryland's Teen Birth Rate by Percent over the Past Decade: Decreased within all ethnicities.
- Maryland's Adolescent Sexual Health Programs and Goals
  - Encouraging delay of early sexual activity using Abstinence Education Program grant.
  - Providing comprehensive sex education through PREP grant.
  - Assuring access to contraception for sexually active teens through Title S family planning clinics.
- Abstinence Education
  - Funds must be used by states to fund abstinence education programs which provide mentoring counseling and/ or adult supervision as a means of promoting abstinence from sexual activity.
  - All programs must ensure that abstinence is achieved.
  - Target population in adolescent ages 10-19.

    - Programs must be medically accurate.
    - Cannot contradict A-H provisions (any religious conflicts).
- Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)
    - PREP programs replicate evidence based effective program models which have been proven to change behavior (i.e. delay sexual activity, increase condom or contraceptive use for sexually active youth, or reduce teen pregnancy).
    - Targets foster care and high risk youth at 10-19.
    - Grants are given to several local health departments across the state.
- Family Planning Service for Teens and Young Adults
    - Family planning is an effective strategy for reducing unintended teen pregnancies by increasing personal responsibility.
- Questions?
    - How is this manifested through afterschool programs? Ex. Girls, Inc. in Washington County: girls' afterschool club in middle school.

Legislative Updates:

- SB 194 – ACCEBOE SMOB Voting Rights: Unfavorable Report (Failed).
- HB 853/ SB 626 – Pay It Forward Study Bill: Unfavorable report. USM provided testimony saying it does not want to study Pay It Forward and feels that the study would not answer the necessary questions.
- HB 885/SB 632 – Income Tax Credit – Student Loan Payments: Hearings held in both the House and Senate; have not been voted on.
- HB 18/SB74 – Institutions of Higher Education – Student Notification: The bills passed with amendments in both the House and the Senate.

MYAC Presentations Update

- Christina Williams did presentations about MYAC and the 2014-15 application process for three groups:
    - Local Management Board Directors Meeting
    - MHEC Student Advisory Council Meeting
    - University System of MD Student Council
- The groups were interested in learning more about the Council and providing the application to youth in the community and involved in the organizations.
- Please let Ms. Christina know if you have suggestions for organizations who may be interested in a MYAC presentation.

Application Review

- New: Expandable text boxes and modified questions.
- Feedback:
    - Question 1: Really solidifies candidate's intentions.
    - Question 4: There should be more specified situation, instead of just leadership, and a question that deals with how a candidate works in a team environment.
    - Question 5: Should be clarified (explanation: how a candidate interprets this question says something about him/ her).
    - Question 6: There should be an addition or modification to attends to how the candidate manages his extracurricular.
    - Question 7: Shouldn't be suggestions (explanation: the appointing committees would like more information about with whom the candidate is associated).
- Questions/Suggestions from members:
    - Where are the disparities? Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, and smaller counties.
    - How to decide between candidates: alumni can interview candidates.

- The application will be available April 1st.
- How to re-apply? As long as the current member is in good standing and meets the 50% attendance requirement, he/she just has to declare to the chairs the want to be on the council for a second year.

Public Forum Planning

- Schedule:
  - Diane and Introductions (15 minutes).
  - Panel (30 minutes)
  - Workshop 1 (40 minutes)
  - Break (10 minutes)
  - Workshop 2 (40 minutes)
  - Debrief/ Feedback (15 minutes)
- Workshop Topics:

Adolescent Health
Civic Engagement
College Survival Financial Literacy Home Economics
College Readiness Career Readiness

- Boxed topics are the grouping recommendations of the Legislative Committee.
- Hopefully, the forum will be at the end of April/beginning of May.

Committee Break Outs

- **Legislative Committee**:
  - By March 23, the survey will be completely edited and ready for dispersal.
  - By April 20, the committee will stop collecting surveys.
  - By the Forum, a statistical analysis with a graphics presentation and one page handout will be completed.
  - Next Steps: Share and publicize survey and think about to whom the results should be presented.
- **Public Awareness Committee**:
  - Edited flyers to advertise MYAC.
  - Discussed where to advertise and to which groups.
  - Next Steps: Advertise date forms come out. Share with schools, libraries, and other community outlets. Make invitations for the forum.

Next Steps

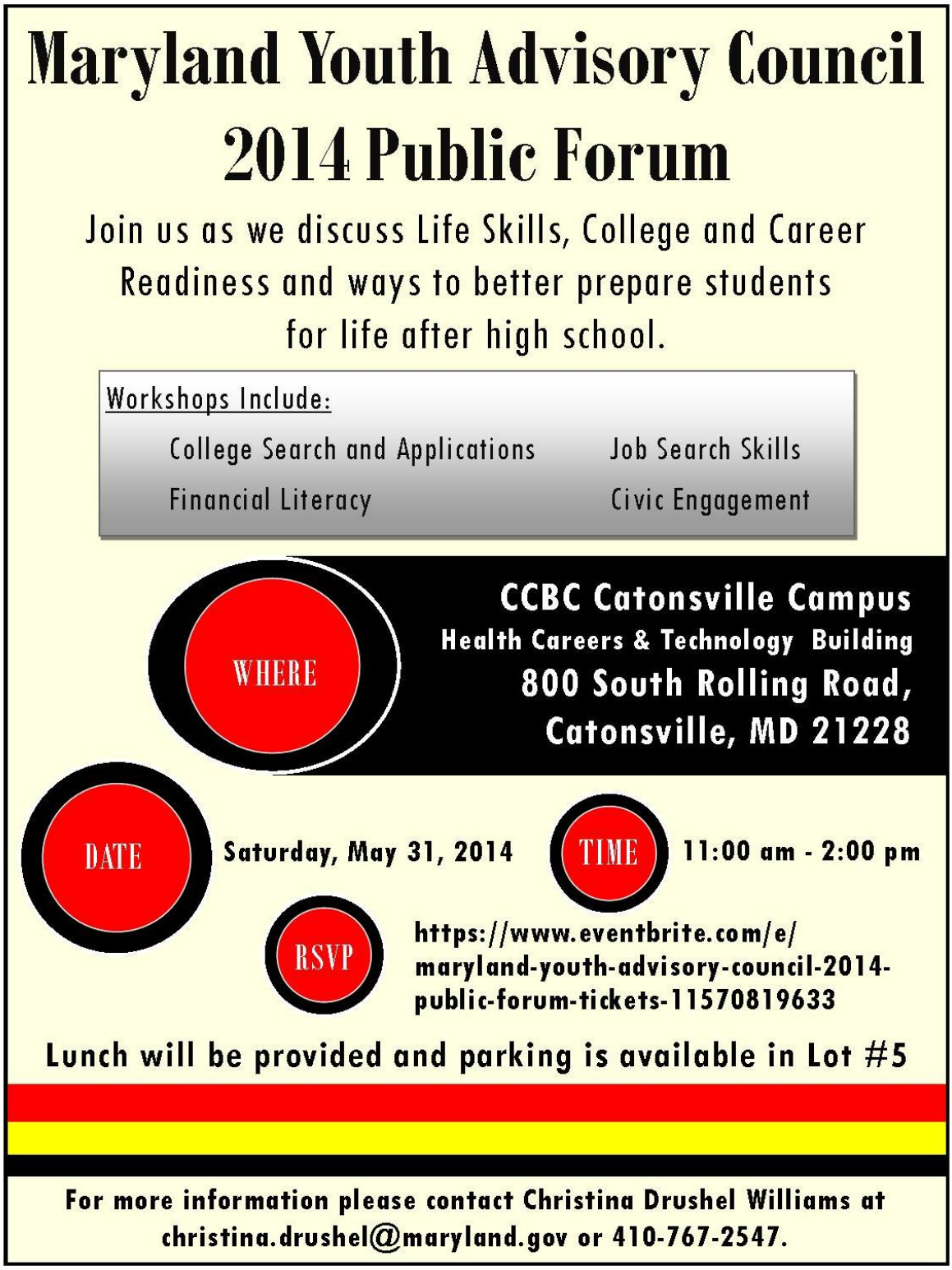
- Work on tasks within individual committees.
- Look out for times and ideas for the Public Forum.

Next Meeting

TBD

Appendix V: 2014 Public Forum Materials

2014 Public Forum Flyer



2014 Public Forum Invitation Letter

Maryland Youth Advisory Council
c/o Governor's Office for Children
301 West Preston St., Suite 1502,
Baltimore, MD 21201

Senator Roger Manno, *Co-Chair*
Delegate John A. Olszewski, Jr., *Co-Chair*
Christina Drushel Williams, *Co-Chair*

Diane D'Costa, *Youth Co-Chair*
Breana Echols, *Vice-Chair*
Likhitha Butchireddygari, *Secretary*

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) is pleased to invite you to our Public Forum on Saturday, May 31, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Community College of Baltimore County at Catonsville in the Health Careers & Technology Building located at 800 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, MD 21228.

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.

Each year MYAC selects a legislative priority of importance to youth. The legislative priority chosen by MYAC for the 2013-2014 term is Life Skills, College and Career Readiness. The Public Forum will feature a panel discussion about what is currently happening on the national, state and local level as well as workshops on college search and applications, job search skills, financial literacy, and civic engagement.

Lunch will be provided and free parking is available in Lot #5.

Please register for this event online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maryland-youth-advisory-council-2014-public-forum-tickets-11570819633.

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

Sincerely,

Diane D'Costa
Youth Co-Chair
Maryland Youth Advisory Council

2014 Public Forum Agenda

Maryland Youth Advisory Council 2014 Public Forum: Life Skills, College and Career Readiness

Saturday, May 31, 2014
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Community College of Baltimore County – Catonsville Campus
800 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, MD 21228
Health Careers & Technology Building
Room 308 and 313

AGENDA

10:45 am – 11:00 am	Registration
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Opening Remarks
11:15 am – 11:45 am	Panel Discussion
	Jenny Bonilla Moreno, Policy Associate, Forum for Youth Investment
	Pat Mikos, Program Manager, Division of Career and College Readiness, Maryland State Department of Education
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	Lunch
12:15 pm – 12:55 pm	Workshop I
	Financial Literacy
	Jonaye Ford, Vice-President of Education & Outreach, Junior Achievement of Central Maryland
12:55 pm – 1:05 pm	Break
1:05 pm – 1:45 pm	Workshop II
	College Access
	Jerome Cole, Assistant Head of Upper School for College Counseling, Sandy Spring Friends Schools
	Job Skills
	Tracy Queen, Early Intervention Facilitator, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Closing Remarks