

MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



AUGUST 31, 2018

**Submitted by the Governor's Office for Children
on behalf of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council**

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MSAR # 10854

Acknowledgements



On behalf of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council (the Council), it is my absolute pleasure to present the Council's 2017-2018 Annual Report. The report has been developed by the members of the Council and represents the activities, events, and priorities of the Council during the 2017-2018 year. I would like to thank every speaker, servant leader, 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.

Darius Craig
Chair
Maryland Youth Advisory Council

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

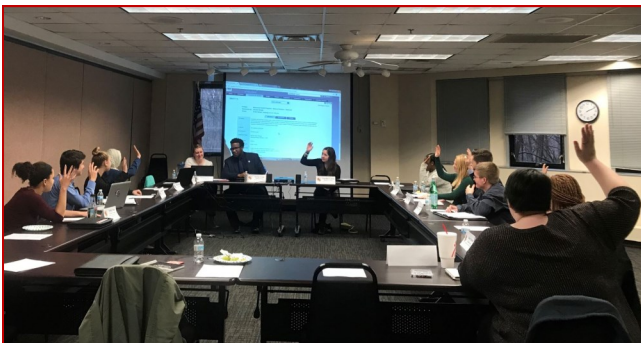
Executive Summary

The Maryland Youth Advisory 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 2017-2018, 23 Council members enjoyed a robust and busy council year, with activities including:

- Holding seven meetings (nearly twice the required number);
- Adopting a broad legislative platform;
- Leading numerous presentations to lawmakers and Agency staff on the Council and its platform;
- Participating in Advocacy Day in Annapolis, which coincided with the Governor's Office for Children's Ice Cream Social;
- Participating in a panel discussion at a joint session of the National Governor Association's Fostering Cross-Sector Collaboration to Address Health and Success of Children and Families: Cross-Sector Collaboration Learning Lab and the Forum for Youth Investment's 2018 State Children's Cabinet Network Roundtable; and
- Tracking and supporting bills of interest, including offering oral and written testimony.

All meeting minutes and bill testimony is available upon request from the Governor's Office for Children.



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Background and Mission of the Council

BACKGROUND:

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council (the Council) was established by the General Assembly in 2008 (Chapter 559, Acts of 2008 and Chapter 69, Acts of 2009) 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:

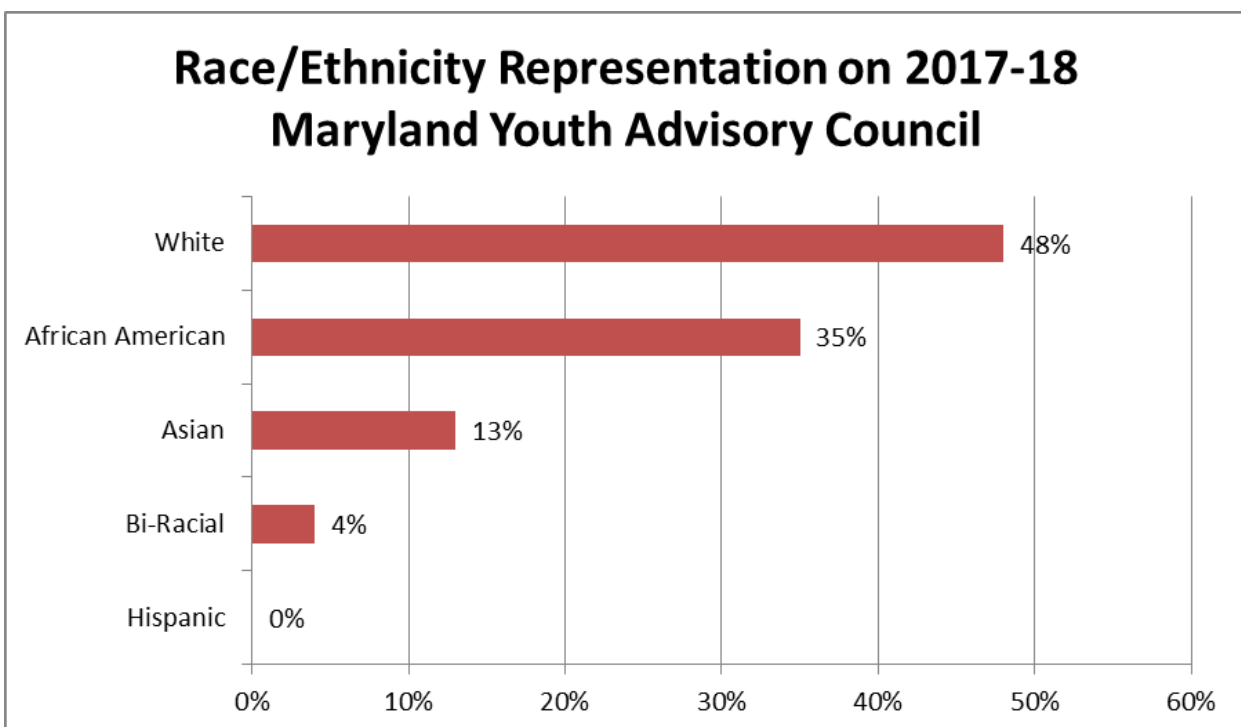
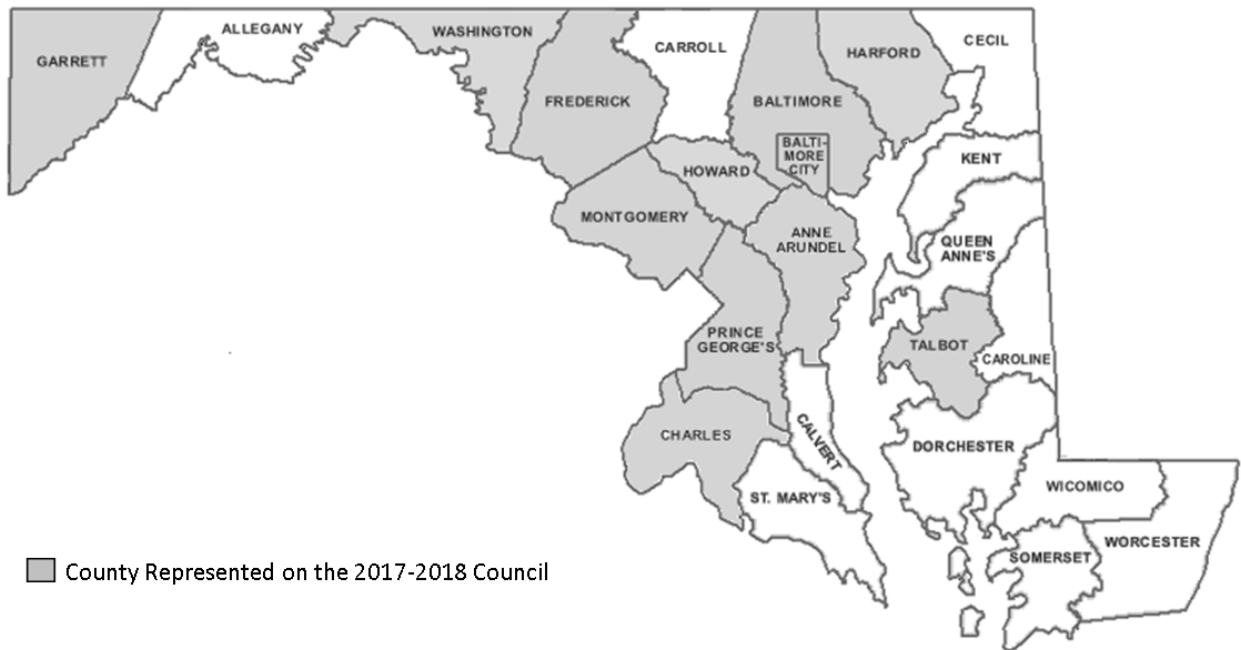
- Incites change for the betterment of Maryland youth,
- Ensures equal opportunity for all youth regardless of background or circumstance,
- Initiates political conversations with youth,
- Educates youth on political issues, and
- Is respected by legislators and other stakeholders on youth issues.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Hold at least four meetings a year;
- Hold at least one public meeting on issues of importance to youth (topics may include: education, a safe learning environment, employment opportunities, increasing youth participation in government, healthcare 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; and
- Provide an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

2017-2018 Council at a Glance

The 2017-2018 Council is composed of 23 members, representing 12 counties, 15 high schools, and five colleges/universities. The Council is 70% female and 30% male. Of the 23 members, nine are returning second-year members and 14 are first-year members. One member resigned from the Council during the Council year; the position was not filled.



2017-2018 Council Roster

2017-2018 MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD (elected by Council members)

Chair — Darius Craig

Vice Chair— Caroline Larkin

Secretary— Nabila Prasetiawan

Legislative Committee Chair— Grace Wu

Public Awareness Committee Chair— Emily Dreszer

Executive Board Members— William Anderson, Makenna Hakim, Angela Lowry, Daniel Osheroff, Dillon Prochnicki

APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR

Appointed in 2017

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

Anton Knight - Baltimore County - Community College of Baltimore County

Nabila Prasetiawan - Frederick County - Middletown High School

Dillon Prochnicki - Talbot County - Easton High School

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Appointed in 2016

Darius Craig - Baltimore City - University of Maryland College Park

Appointed in 2017

Makenna Hakim—Baltimore County - Towson High School

Daniel Osheroff - Howard County - Atholton High School

Jessica Zinderman – Howard County – Atholton High School

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Appointed in 2016

Sydney Williams - Anne Arundel County - Indian Creek Upper School

Gabrielle Shlikas - Harford County - Edgewood High School

Appointed in 2017

Camaren Eure - Baltimore City - Western High School

Caroline Larkin - Baltimore County - University of Maryland College Park

NOMINATED BY THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND STUDENT COUNCIL

Appointed in 2016

Ashley Russell - Howard County - Glenelg High School

Appointed in 2017

No appointment was made

NOMINATED BY MARYLAND ASSOCIATION STUDENT COUNCIL

Appointed in 2016

William Anderson - Fredrick County – Walkersville High School

Grace Wu – Montgomery County - Richard Montgomery High School

Appointed in 2017

Taharat Sheikh - Howard County - Marriotts Ridge High School

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

NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION—STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Appointed in 2016

Emily Dreszer - Anne Arundel County - Anne Arundel Community College

Appointed in 2017

Angela Lowry - Garrett County - Garrett College

NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS

Appointed 2016

Madeline Goldstein - Washington County - Boonsboro High School

Vernon Osborne - Anne Arundel County - Anne Arundel Community College

Appointed 2017

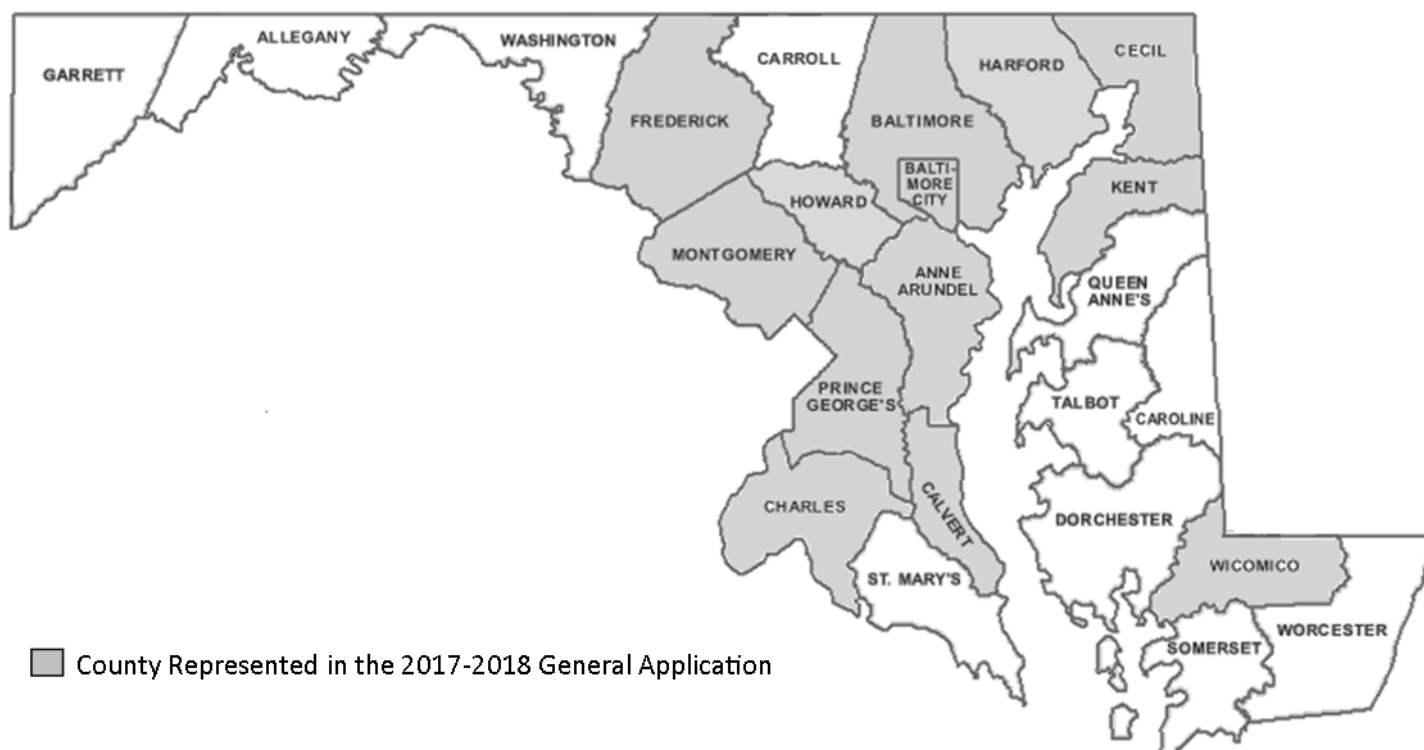
Amber Stewart - Howard County - Atholton High School

Daniel Walker - Howard County - Wilde Lake High School

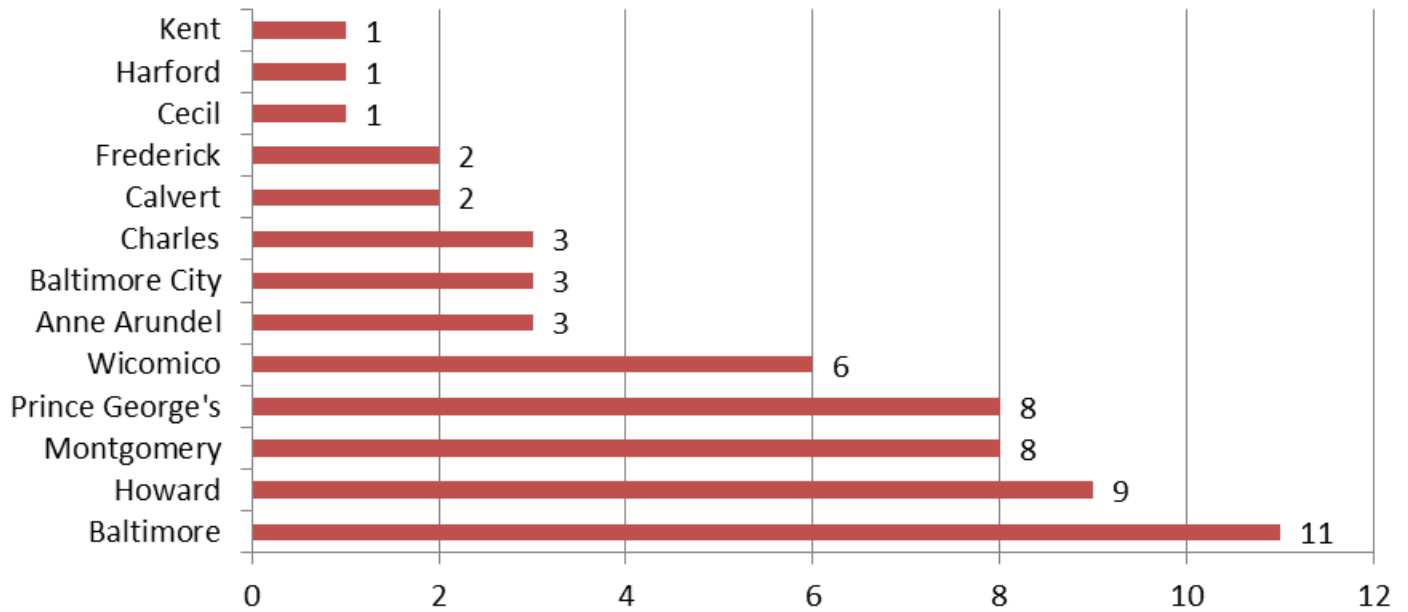
2017-2018 Application at a Glance

For the 2017-2018 term, applications were available online on the Governor's Office for Children website beginning March 1, 2017 to July 1, 2017. The Governor's Office for Children received 57 applications from youth in 13 counties, representing 47 high schools, colleges, and universities. 54% of applicants were female and 46% were male. The majority of applicants were from Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

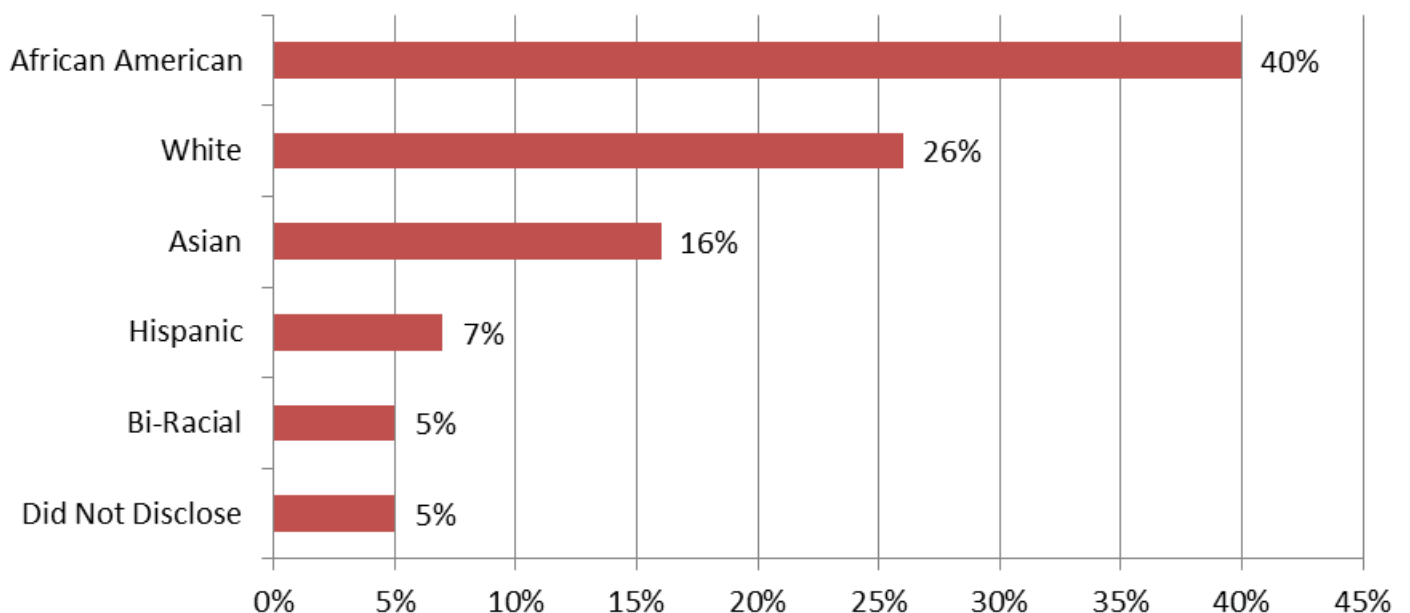
Applications were reviewed by Governor's Office for Children staff. The Council's advisor, Christina Drushel Williams submitted recommendations for appointment to the various appointing bodies as requested. Appointing bodies also conducting requests for applications.



County Representation in 2017-2018 General Application



Race/Ethnicity Representation in 2017-18 General Application



Council Meeting Overview

The establishing Statute requires the Council to meet at least four times each year and each meeting must be open to the public. Over the Council years, members have reflected that only meeting four times a year was not sufficient to complete its intended work and have chosen to meet monthly. During the 2017-18 term, the Council met once a month from November to June; the Council was unable to meet in September and October due to the Council's Advisor being on medical leave. Meetings were held on Saturday afternoons at the Governor's Office for Children's office located in Crownsville, Maryland. All meeting dates, times, and locations were available on the Governor's Office for Children's website.

MEETING #1: NOVEMBER 4, 2017 (11:00 – 4:00PM) GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

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: DECEMBER 16, 2017 (1:00 - 4:00 PM) GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

In their second meeting of the year, the Council reflected on a successful get-together with the Governor's Children's Cabinet in Annapolis, which took place on December 14, 2017. Although a quorum was not met, the remaining members of the Council reviewed the legislative platform, and drafted any needed alterations. Approval for the platform was pushed to the January meeting. For the 2017 - 2018 Council year, the Council selected Mental Health as the legislative priority. To end the meeting, the Council was thoroughly briefed and trained on the Maryland General Assembly website.

MEETING #3: JANUARY 20, 2018 (1:00 – 4:00PM) GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

With the 2018 Legislative Session in full force, the Council voted on bill recommendations presented by the Legislative Committee. Council members could decide to support, oppose, or table suggestions. In the latter half of the day, the Council discussed assignments for agency liaisons and upcoming advocacy days in Annapolis, including the Governor's Office for Children's Ice Cream Social and the Mental Health Association of Maryland's Mental Health Awareness Advocacy Day.

MEETING #4: FEBRUARY 10, 2018 (1:00 – 4:00PM) GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

Council members continued their work through the Legislative Session and voted on bill recommendations, sent out written testimony assignments, and contacted Agency liaisons. The Council prepared for its upcoming advocacy days in Annapolis on February 20th and 22nd, and discussed the planned events. Furthermore, the Council reviewed Community Conversations, an initiative that started last year. The top priority areas for the Council include Howard, Talbot and Garrett County because Community Conversations were not held last year due to scheduling and no representation on the Council.

MEETING #5: MARCH 17, 2018 (11:00 – 4:00PM) GOVERNOR’S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

The Council hosted two special guests from On Our Own Maryland, Lauren Grimes and Rowan Powell. Council members participated in an anti-stigma training and reflected on how stigma had affected them personally. After the gracious visit from the advocates, the Council reviewed Agency reports from liaisons and reflected on the February advocacy days. Council members also heard accounts from meetings with representatives from the Department of Health’s Behavioral Health Administration and the Children’s Mental Health Awareness Campaign. Moreover, members were briefed on Community Conversations, a great opportunity for the Council to gauge the issues in a given area and help facilitate and implement solutions.

MEETING #6: APRIL 14, 2018 (1:00 – 4:00PM) GOVERNOR’S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

Now with the adjournment of the 2018 Legislative Session, the Council utilized the meeting to reflect on the Council’s accomplishments and draft a plan for next year’s session. This year, two bills supported by the Council were passed by the Maryland General Assembly. The bills that failed to pass in committee are unlikely to be submitted for the 2019 Legislative Session. As the year is winding down, Council members planned the Council’s application outreach and Annual Report, and continued Community Conversation planning.

MEETING #7: MAY 12, 2018 (1:00 – 4:00PM) GOVERNOR’S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

To end of a successful year, Council members participated in a reflection activity, discussing what worked, what didn’t, 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 the passing of the baton and high hopes for incoming Council members.

Committees

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Council’s Legislative Committee tracked the progress of bills and recommended specific bills that the Council could support. The Committee also provided oral and written testimony on bills of interest to the Council. The Council provided oral testimony in favor of HB251/SB402, which established curriculum content on consent and personal boundaries in school-based health education. The inclusion of the Council’s testimony helped to pass this bill into law.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE

This year, the Council’s Public Awareness Committee focused on expanding the Council’s online presence. Many ideas were discussed to expand the Council’s online visibility and spread the word about the Council’s mission.

One way in which the Council expanded its online presence was creating the Humans of MYAC blog series, based on the successful *Humans of New York* photo project. *Humans of MYAC* is 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 effective voice that advocates for change, helps ensure equal opportunity for all youth, and to encourages political conversation, the Council aims to share the journeys and the stories of the legislators, Council members, and public servants working behind the scenes. By amplifying their voices, we hope that viewers will gain an understanding of what the Council is and what it stands for.

The blog posts are available online on the Council's webpage, located on the Governor's Office for Children's website. The Council also shared the post on Facebook and included the hashtag #HumansofMYAC.

The Committee would also like to expand its presence on social media through the use of Instagram and Snapchat. The Committee will develop a hashtag for the Council to be used by Council members in their personal social media accounts.

2018 Legislative Session

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM REVIEW

Every year, the Council determines an area to which it will dedicate particular attention; this area becomes our legislative priority. From information collected Statewide through community conversations, mental health and substance abuse have emerged as issues of great salience. During the 2015-2016 Council year, we decided that these issues would form the framework of our legislative priority. We recognize that our peers, from Cumberland to Cambridge, are concerned with and are often afflicted with anxiety, depression, suicide, and substance abuse—particularly the rapid rise of opioid use. We continued to serve the interests of our peers by maintaining mental health and substance abuse as the focus of our efforts by renewing this as our legislative priority.

2018 LEGISLATIVE BILLS

With regard to legislative efforts, the 2018 Legislative Session was a fruitful one. Council members provided written and/or oral testimony regarding nine proposed bills. These bills targeted a wide array of issues, ranging in scope from pre-K programs, mental health, and sexual and/or domestic abuse. Of the nine bills for which Council members testified in favor: two were approved by the Governor, two passed one house, two were given unfavorable reports, and three stalled in Committee.

Below are overviews of the bills supported by the Council during the 2018 Legislative Session. Bill summaries come from the Maryland General Assembly website.

HB 30 - Domestic Violence - Education and Definition of Abuse—SUPPORT

Summary:

Requiring the State Board of Education to encourage county boards of education to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on domestic violence into a certain curriculum; altering the definition of "abuse" for purposes of certain provisions of law relating to domestic violence to include harassment and malicious destruction of property; and defining harassment and malicious destruction of property.

Outcome:

The bill was given a favorable report on condition of amendments being made. It was unanimously approved by the House and sent to the Senate. It failed to make it out of Judicial Proceedings.

HB682/SB438 - State Department of Education - Nonprofit Youth Development Program - Established—SUPPORT

Summary:

Establishing the Nonprofit Youth Development Program in the State Department of Education to provide grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations whose mission and programs target at-risk youth using certain strategies; requiring the Governor to include a \$1,000,000 appropriation to the Program beginning in fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter; requiring the State Superintendent to review certain applications and award certain grants; requiring the State Superintendent to adopt certain regulations; etc.

Outcome:

The Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee of the Senate unanimously voted to attach an unfavorable report to the bill and no further action was taken.

SB236 - State Board of Education - Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Curriculum - Development and Implementation—SUPPORT

Summary:

Requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a semester-long high school elective course in financial literacy and entrepreneurship; and authorizing each county board of education to implement the curriculum content beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

Outcome:

After receiving a favorable report from Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, SB236 was passed by the Senate unanimously after the third reading. The bill failed, however, to make it beyond Ways and Means in the House.

HB10 - State Lottery – Unclaimed Prizes – Public Prekindergarten Programs—SUPPORT

Summary:

Requiring the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, at the end of each fiscal year, to remit money in the unclaimed State lottery prize fund to the Comptroller for distribution to each county board of education in the State in a certain manner; requiring that a county board of education use distributions from the fund for public prekindergarten programs; providing that a distribution from the fund is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of certain funding; and generally relating to the distribution of unclaimed State lottery prizes.

Outcome:

The bill failed to make it beyond House Ways and Means after its first reading.

HB902/SB1028 - Health Occupations - Conversion Therapy for Minors - Prohibition (Youth Mental Health Protection Act) - SUPPORT

Summary:

Prohibiting certain mental health or child care practitioners from engaging in conversion therapy with individuals who are minors; providing that a certain mental health or child care practitioner who engages in conversion therapy with a minor shall be considered to have engaged in unprofessional conduct subject to disciplinary action; defining "conversion therapy" as a practice or treatment by a mental health or child care practitioner that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity; etc.

Outcome:

After receiving a favorable report from Education, Health, and Environmental affairs; SB1028 passed the Senate 34 votes to 12. In the House, it was referred to Health and Government Operations where it received a favorable report and went on to pass 95 votes to 27.

SB15/HB32 - Baltimore County – Polling Places on Campuses—SUPPORT**Summary:**

Requiring the Baltimore County Board of Elections to establish at least one polling place at each public or private institution of higher education in the County that has residential student housing on its campus; making conforming changes; and generally relating to polling places at institutions of higher education in Baltimore County.

Outcome:

After being referred to Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs; SB15 failed to make it beyond Committee.

HB81 - Family Law – Child Abuse and Neglect – Mental Injury—SUPPORT**Summary:**

Altering the definition of “mental injury” for the purpose of certain child abuse and neglect statutes; and generally relating to child abuse and neglect.

Outcome:

HB81 received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

HB251/SB402 - Education - Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum - Boundaries and Consent—SUPPORT**Summary:**

Requiring a county board of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of "consent" and respect for personal boundaries as part of the Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum in all grades in which the curriculum is taught in public schools in the county beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

Outcome:

After HB251 passed the House by 117 votes to 17, it passed the Senate unanimously and was approved by the Governor to take effect on July 1, 2018.

SB103 - Task Force to Study the Impact of Student Cell Phone Use in the Classroom—SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**Summary:**

Establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of Student Cell Phone Use in the Classroom; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Student Cell Phone Use in the Classroom.

Outcome:

SB103 failed to make it beyond Senate Education, Health, and Educational Affairs.

ADVOCACY DAY

This year, the Council's Advocacy Day was on February 20, 2018, when Council members spent the day in Annapolis. All members were encouraged to attend Advocacy Day, which was an important opportunity to see the legislative process firsthand. Parents were also invited to join the members throughout the day's activities.

The Council attended the Governor's Office for Children's annual Ice Cream Social event. This was an opportunity for Council members to talk with Local Management Boards, legislators, and State agency staff to raise awareness about the Council and learn more about initiatives impacting youth at the State and local levels.

During the event, Governor Larry Hogan was named the "Champion for Maryland Children and Families" by the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards. Vernon Osborne, second-year Council member from Anne Arundel County, presented the award to the Governor.

After the Ice Cream Social, Council members attended the House Ways and Means Committee hearing to learn about the bill hearing process in order to become prepared for providing bill testimony in the future.



Other Meetings and Events

CHILDREN'S CABINET MEETING

Each year in December, the Council presents to the Maryland Children's Cabinet. This meeting served as an opportunity for the Council to speak with the secretaries of Maryland's child-serving agencies about the Council's legislative platform for the 2018 Legislative Session and Community Conversation Initiative.

Members provided an overview of the Council's mission, vision, history, past legislative priorities, and supported legislative bills. Members were also able to speak about the results of their Community Conversations and share the issues discussed by youth and young adults throughout Maryland. During the discussion time, the Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Superintendent of the Maryland State Department of Education asked the Council to help promote non-degree career pathway programs including Career and Technology Education, apprenticeship, and Associate Degree programs.



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION MEETING



On January 10, 2018, Darius Craig, Chair, and Christina Drushel Williams, Council Advisor, met with directors of the Maryland State Department of Education's Career and Technology Education (CTE) division. During the meeting, staff explained the work that the Department is doing throughout Maryland to expand CTE opportunities to students. Mr. Craig and Ms. Drushel Williams learned about programs currently employed and discussed the possibility of expanding the programs to more regions. The Council was asked to promote the Department's efforts on social media

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEETING

On February 27, 2018, Darius Craig, Chair, and Council member Amber Stewart met with representatives of the Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). Shanna Widerman, Chief of the Child and Adolescent Substance Use Services and Turner Rascoe, Coordinator of Special Programs for Adolescent Substance Abuse, discussed partnering with the Council to ensure youth voice in adolescent health-related initiatives. As a result of the meeting, the Council will moderate a youth-led workshop at the annual Suicide



Prevention Conference in October 2018, focusing on youth experiences and highlighting successes and challenges in accessing mental health services. Members also discussed the possibility of the Council assisting BHA in forming its own youth advisory council.

NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION & THE FORUM FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT YOUTH AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PANEL DISCUSSION

On August 2, 2018, Darius Craig, Chair, spoke at the National Governors Association and the Forum for Youth Investment Youth and Family Engagement panel discussion. The panel featured representatives of children's cabinets from around the country to discuss engaging stakeholders, including youth, families, and judiciaries. Darius spoke extensively about the work that the Council has done during his two years serving as Chair. He emphasized the importance of youth voice in policy-making discussions. He also offered to assist representatives from other states in the formation of their own local youth councils.



Improvements and Recommendations for the 2018-2019 Council Year

During the final meeting of the year, Ms. Drushel Williams facilitated a reflection activity for members of the Council to think about the Council year, focusing on 1.) what worked, 2.) what didn't work, and 3.) recommendations for improvement next year. Below are the results of the reflection activity.

WHAT WORKED? WHAT DID YOU LIKE?

- Good communication between the Council and Ms. Christina with reminders, events, and initiatives
- Humans of MYAC Project
- The chair effectively reflected the goals and morals of the Council
- The Council worked together well

WHAT DID NOT WORK? WHAT DID YOU NOT LIKE?

- Late start in the year, needed more opportunities to meet before the legislative sessions
- Ice cream social - Some Council members had issues talking with Local Management Board representatives
- Lack of communications and correspondence with the Agency liaisons
- Attendance was an issue; however, quorum was met with the exception of one meeting
- Wanted to have a greater presence in Annapolis, more opportunities to testify and meet with legislators
- Improving the committee communication outside of the meetings

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

- Advertise Community Conversations
- More opportunities to meet with legislators in Annapolis and to host outreach events
- Creating a space for Committees to meet outside the meetings and creating stronger Committee leadership with a well-defined structure
- Representation of Counties in the State - Currently at a deficit for the Eastern Shore

WHAT DID I LEARN THIS YEAR?

- How to currently utilize Robert's Rules
- How to drive to Annapolis
- Advocacy works with just a few priorities
- The legislative process - How long it can be
- Advocacy skills

BEFORE MYAC I WAS...NOW I AM...

- Reserved/A stronger leader in my community
- Intimidated/Comfortable
- Oblivious to local government influence/realize that one day I can work to make a difference
- Curious/Better able to implement skill sets into everyday life
- Less aware/More aware, able, and passionate

The Council recommends to the 2018-2019 Council to review and consider these ideas for the improvement of the Council and related activities during the 2018-2019 term.