



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

Michael Hawkins, *Co-Chair*
Senator Roger Manno, *Co-Chair*
Delegate John A. Olszewski, Jr., *Co-Chair*

Daniel Arias, *Co-Chair*
Andrew Franklin, *Vice-Chair*
Shobhit Kumar, *Secretary*

August 30, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Rosemary King Johnston, Executive Director, Governor's Office for Children
Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr., Senate President
Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates

From: MYAC Executive Board

Subject: Submission of Annual Report – Extension Notice

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council will not be prepared to submit the Annual Report ahead of the August 31, 2011 deadline. According to Maryland State Government Code Ann. § 9-2701 "On or before the last day of the youth members' terms, the Council shall report its activities to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of this article, to the General Assembly." The current members' terms end on August 31, 2011.

Due to a variety of circumstances, including time constraints associated with Hurricane Irene, the report is not yet finalized. The Council is advising that the report will be submitted on or before September 15, 2011.

Thank you for your consideration of this notice.



State of Maryland Executive Department

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Rosemary King Johnston
Executive Director

September 15, 2011

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

In accordance with State Government Article Section 9-2701 enclosed please find the 2010-2011 Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) Annual Report. The report has been developed by the members of MYAC. The Governor's Office for Children has reviewed the report and is submitting it on their behalf.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-767-6211 or mhawkins@goc.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael Hawkins

Co-Chair, Maryland Youth Advisory Council



Maryland Youth Advisory Council

Annual Report 2010 – 2011

Submitted to Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland
General Assembly

By the Maryland Youth Advisory Council and the Governor's
Office for Children

Maryland Youth Advisory Council Annual Report – Executive Summary

The 2010-2011 term marked the third year of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) since its inception following the passage of Senate Bill 1 (SB1 – 2008 session). This MYAC term was comprised of 48 members representing 14 counties and Baltimore City, with 36 high school members and 12 members currently attending collegiate undergraduate programs in the State of Maryland. The MYAC application page is included in the final section of this report as Attachment 1.

The first meeting of the term occurred on October 16, 2010 and was held at the Catonsville Public Library. This year was the first during which meetings were held in a central location throughout the year, rather than at different locations throughout the State. This change in protocol was designed to encourage continuity and centralization. In previous terms, the meetings of the Council were held at a variety of locations to increase geographic diversity; however, it was found that this actually discouraged members from attending events, particularly those youth from counties distant from the meeting location. Accordingly, a central location for meetings was established as a way of reducing the inconvenience of travel to members. A suggestion has been made for the next term that web-conferencing be used to connect with counties that have been underrepresented in the past terms. The final meeting of the 2010-2011 term occurred on April 16, 2011.

At the Council's first meeting, the student executive positions were filled using a nomination and election process. Daniel Arias was elected as Youth Chair, Andrew Franklin as Vice-Youth Chair, and Shobhit Kumar as Secretary. The Youth Chair was joined by Valerie Woodward, the representative from the Governor's Office for Children and Delegate John Olszewski, representative from the House of Delegates. No appointment was made by the Senate this term. The former Senate co-chair was Senator Mike Lenett.

During the previous term, an Executive Board, consisting of four members from each appointment category (Governor, Legislative, and Youth), was partially filled. In accordance with the recommendation of the 2009-2010 MYAC Report, the Executive Board was reorganized to include the four Co-Chairs, the Vice-Youth Chair, the Secretary, and the Chairs of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committees. Members of the Council signed up for one of two committees each of which elected a Chair to serve on the Executive Board. The Public Affairs Committee was chaired by Loretta Aku Ajogho and the Legislative Affairs Committee by Alan Xie. Reports from each of the two committees are included in the Report.

In accordance with the mission of the Council, a legislative topic was selected. The process for selection consisted of an initial presentation of five reports by the members of the Legislative Affairs Committee. The legislative issues are listed as follows and include the number of votes in support of making the issue the top legislative priority.

1. Bullying (in all forms) -16 votes
2. Improving nutrition of school meals - 14 votes
3. Youth violence - 11 votes
4. Mass/Public Transportation Issues – supporting red and purple lines, ICC, etc. - 10 votes
5. Lowering the voting age - 9 votes

The Council held a town hall meeting on February 19, 2011, in the Baltimore County Delegation Room in the House Office Building in Annapolis. The panelists included the members of the Executive Board, Delegate Kathleen Dumais, and Ellie Mitchell, Director of the Maryland Out-of-School Time Network. The meeting was well attended with approximately 20 members of the Council participating.

The Council concluded the year by planning, writing, and submitting this Report, which was delayed in part due to the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. A transition team is being assembled to ensure a smooth transition between this term and the next. The Council plans continued efforts to establish strong foundations for development, expanding, and fostering programs to empower Maryland's youth to keep the legislature and executive branch fully informed of issues of importance to youth in our State.

MYAC Council's Purpose

As outlined in MYAC's parent bill, the council is to:

- Hold at least four meetings a year
- Hold at least one public meeting on issues of importance to youth
- 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

MYAC fulfilled each of its responsibilities through their subcommittees and social networking activities. The following section describes these actions.

Legislative Report

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council held its first meeting on Saturday, October 16, 2010. By a majority vote, it selected Alan Xie as the chair of the Legislative Committee, also making him an ex-officio member of the Executive Board. On September 5, 2011, Youth Co-Chair Daniel Arias, Vice-Chair Andrew Franklin, and Secretary Shobhit Kumar issued a memorandum to the MYAC Executive Board regarding planning for the 2010-2011 term. This memorandum

recommended the establishment of the following staff positions on the Legislative Committee: Secretary, Research Director, Annual Report Director, and Testimony Coordinator.

The memorandum also enumerated the duties of the Legislative Committee Chairman as follows: to run the operation of the committee and submit a regular report before each MYAC meeting to the MYAC Officers on the progress of the committee. The memorandum also requires the Secretary to record the minutes, distribute the agenda, collect evaluations during each committee meeting, and distribute information/correspondence among committee members. It also directs the Research Director to thoroughly research the primary legislative issue(s) of the Council and deliver a report and presentation on the pro's and con's, culminating in a recommended position. Moreover, the memorandum suggests that the Annual Report Director format, compile, and submit to the MYAC Officers a draft of the annual report to provided to the Governor and the General Assembly. Finally, it tasks the Testimony Coordinator to coordinate MYAC's written and oral testimony.

In addition to the aforementioned positions, each staff member listed was also allowed to request from the Chair an assistant to serve under his or her direct supervision. Councilmembers not selected for staff positions were automatically considered for assistant positions. Following the appointment of staff members and requests for assistants, the Committee Chairman worked with each staff member to select an assistant. All appointments to staff positions were based on merit, and an application process was determined by Chairman Alan Xie and approved by the MYAC Executive Board. Ultimately, Ocie S. Banks was appointed as Secretary, Connie Chen as Testimony Coordinator, Jean Lee as Research Director, and Eric Guhl as Annual Report Director.

Students on the Legislative Committee who did not receive staff positions became Legislative Advocates. Each was tasked with identifying at least one issue he or she felt passionate about and believed to be of importance to Maryland youth. The issue was to be one not already a main legislative focus of MYAC. Each student then became the MYAC resident expert on his or her selected issue and researched items of pending legislation and ongoing debate regarding that issue. This research formed the basis for the presentation of an update at each MYAC meeting to the Legislative Committee and the entire Council recommending a position for MYAC to take on that issue.

After the Council's October meeting, Secretary Shobhit Kumar distributed a survey to Councilmembers asking them to vote on the Council's legislative priorities for the 2010-2011 year, based on a list of priorities brainstormed at the October meeting. Ultimately, the survey returned the following results:

1. Bullying (in all forms) -16 votes

2. Improving nutrition of school meals - 14 votes
3. Youth violence - 11 votes
4. Mass/Public Transportation Issues – supporting red and purple lines, ICC, etc. - 10 votes
5. Lowering the voting age - 9 votes

Subsequently, Legislative Committee Chairman Alan Xie issued a memorandum to the MYAC Executive Board informing them of the Council's legislative priorities for the 2010-2011 Term. The memorandum described each issue from the vote and its feasibility with regard to the Council's potential action.

Regarding bullying, Alan recommended to the Council that it promote awareness and begin an anti-bullying campaign. From a legislative standpoint, however, the topic was not deemed feasible. The memorandum also stated that the Council had the potential to address school nutrition in several ways. However, given the authority of local school systems, the Council was cognizant of potential infringements of local sovereignty and opposition to unfunded mandates. Again, an awareness campaign was proposed as a possibility.

Youth violence was the idea with the most potential. However, the issue was also broadly stated. Alan indicated the Council's need to determine what specific area of youth violence it wished to address, and then determine a corresponding plan of action.

Regarding transportation projects such as the ICC or purple line, Alan's memorandum stated that the Council could support those or similar projects. However, the memorandum expressed concern as to the relevance of such projects from a legislative standpoint. Finally, lowering the voting age was deemed an unattainable goal that would present the Council as juvenile and naïve, despite its desirability. Ultimately, Alan proposed that the Council focus on youth violence, developing it into many different subtopics.

At the Council's legislative meeting in December, Legislative Committee members presented PowerPoint presentations regarding all five issues. During the presentations and ensuing discussion, Councilmembers referenced numerous bills from past Legislative Sessions, such as HB 217 and HB 240 from 2010, HB 3 and SB 671 from 2009, and HB 310 and HB 1575 from 2008. It was then decided that Youth Violence would be the topic of the Legislative Hearing in February. The Legislative Committee split the topic of Youth Violence into three areas:

1. Causes and prevalence
2. Violent Crime
3. Effects of Youth Violence on Aggressors and Victims

The Public Affairs Committee identified and invited relevant experts to participate and the Legislative Hearing ultimately focused on addressing the three areas of youth violence in order to create a safer and healthier environment within schools and the overall community. Many teenage students, Student Members of Boards of Education, student government leaders, and even adults provided testimony at the hearing. They discussed methods for eliminating the causes of youth violence, ways to ensure students are safe from violent crime, and ways of dealing with both aggressors and victims of youth violence after-the-fact. In addition, at the hearing legislation from that year that addressed youth violence was discussed.

After the hearing, the Council was invited to the Maryland Out of School Time's Advocacy Night. This organization previously presented at a MYAC meeting and was also represented at the Legislative Hearing. Their Advocacy Night tied in directly with youth violence and bullying by advocating for stronger out of school time programs for youth. Invitations were sent to all MYAC members strongly encouraging participation.

Additionally, information regarding SB 829/HB 716 and SB 42/HB 1068 was distributed to members of the Legislative Committee. The two bills discussed the Maryland Combating Childhood Obesity Grant Program and the Maryland After-School and Summer Learning Activity Fund, respectively. Legislative Committee members were strongly encouraged to attend hearings for the two bills and to provide testimony in support.

The Council concluded its year with a Legislative Day at the Maryland State House. This year's event was held on April 6th, 2011 from 1 PM to 4 PM. It included a tour of the state house, a meeting with the Governor, and a visit to the House of Delegates gallery.

2010 – 2011 MYAC Roster

Valerie Woodward, Co-Chair (chosen by Governor)

John A. Olszewski, Jr., Co-Chair (chosen by House Speaker)

Daniel Arias, Youth Co-Chair (elected by Council youth members to 1 year term)

Senator Roger Manno Co-Chair appointed for 2011-2012 term (chosen by Senate President)

**Michael Hawkins Co-Chair appointed for 2011-2012 term (representative of the Governor's Office for Children) 410.767.6211, mhawkins@goc.state.md.us **

2010 – 2011 MYAC Youth Executive Board:

1. Daniel Arias, Youth Co-Chair
2. Andrew Franklin, Youth Vice Chair
3. Shobhit Kumar, Secretary
4. Alan Xie, Chair, Legislative Committee
5. Loretta Aku Ajogho, Chair, Public Affairs Committee

Member Appointments:

Appointed by the Governor

- Appointed in 2009
 1. Ocie Banks
 2. Daniel Arias
 3. Jean Lee
 4. Michaela Vaporis
- Appointed in 2010
 1. Megan Yan
 2. Ryan Martin
 3. Abigail Hoyt
 4. Matthew Gabb
 5. Yanina Ticas
 6. Erin Dickenson
 7. Wesley Smith, II
 8. Zackary Valenti
 9. Leah Berry
 10. Linzy Jackson, III

Appointed by the Senate President

- Appointed in 2009
 1. Andrew Franklin
 2. Jiayi Yang
 3. Zachary Saint John Epps

- Appointed in 2010
 1. Michael Rigali
 2. Gabriel Resstack
 3. Mattias Falcon
 4. Christian Hodges

Appointed by the Speaker of the House

- Appointed in 2009
 1. Loretta Aku Ajogho
 2. Collan Vaness
 3. Ruqayyah Albaari
 4. Heather Konstanzer
 5. Michael Spires
 6. Thomas Metzger
 7. Breanna Nunez

Representing Maryland Association of Student Councils

- Appointed in 2009
 1. Alan Xie
 2. Steven Wang
- Appointed in 2010
 1. Shobhit Kumar
 2. Sara Calvert
 3. Chavi Rehani
 4. David Hale
 5. Connie Chen
 6. Hal Zeitlin
 7. Hannah Elliott
 8. Emmanuel Bakare
 9. Mark Ritterpusch
 10. David Lee
 11. Eric Guhl

Representing University System of Maryland Student Council

- Appointed in 2009
 1. William Makell
 2. Steve Glickman

Representing Student Advisory Council to Maryland Higher Education Commission

- Appointed in 2009
 1. Matthew Popkin
 2. Jazmin Locket
- Appointed in 2010
 1. GabrielStuart-Sikowitz
 2. Kadeem Palmer
 3. Joshua Sulloway



MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

2011-2012 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, 2011 until August 31, 2012) 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 Michael Hawkins at mhawkins@goc.state.md.us or at 410-767-6211. We are requesting that applicants e-mail their application, as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is **July 15, 2011**.

Michael Hawkins, Special Assistant
Governor's Office for Children
301 West Preston St., Suite 1502
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

2011-2012 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:

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
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 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: _____

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Michael Hawkins, Special Assistant

Governor's Office for Children

301 West Preston St., Suite 1502

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-767-6211

Fax: 410-333-5248

Mhawkins@goc.state.md.us