



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose

The purpose of the Body is to advise the Commissioners of St. Mary's County by providing feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect the future of St. Mary's County youth and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change.

Activities

The major challenge for the commission in 2018 was recruiting enough youth to participate. To address this concern, the members of the YAC worked with the Board of County Commissioners in 2019 to change the age of the members (lowering the age from 16 to 14) and the composition of the board (13 to 9). With these changes, there was optimism in engaging more youth in the process of communicating with the BOCC. Though progression towards this goal has been halted due to COVID-19, the commission remains vibrant. In December of 2020, the YAC initiated movement toward strategizing ways to recruit prospective youth members.

Challenges

Currently, the main challenge is recruiting enough members to fill out the membership roster and community awareness among the youth population.

Plans

Youth development practices emphasize the importance of bringing together youth and adults, as peers and partners. In early 2021, the YAC will be discussing strategic plans for recruitment and establishing a framework for youth-adult partnerships.

Membership as of December 31, 2020

Shannon Baker
Joshua Guy
Rebekah Meja
Mykayla Hayden
Mahree Annan

Adult advisors:

Mary Fearn
Lamont Lee

RECEIVED

FEB 04 2021

CSMC & CO ADMIN