



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

2019 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

In 2018, the Commissioners approved the Bylaws and Resolution creating the Youth Advisory Commission (YAC). The original composition of the commission is 13 youth, one from each of the commissioner district, and 8 at large members and 4 adult advisors, who are non-voting. Additionally, members were to be 16 and no older than 22.

The major challenge for the commission in 2018 was recruiting enough youth to participate on the board. 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). Additionally, removing the requirement of the commissioners appointing a member. With these changes, there is hope to engage more youth in the process of communicating with the BOCC.

Challenges

Currently, the main challenge is recruiting enough members to fill out membership roster. Another hurdle is not having a budget for that would assist with publicizing the commission. Young people do not use the media mediums that are used by the county to announce opening on commissions or promote the activities of the commissions. With promotional items, the commission could get the information into the hands of youth, increasing their interest in membership or to be involved.

Plans

In early 2020, the YAC will be discussing the establishment of committees and the focus of the commission in 2020.

Membership as of December 31, 2019

Shannon Baker

Joshua Guy

Zachary Hill

Donovan Weekly

Taylor Berry

Rebekah Meja

Mykayla K Hayden

Adult advisors:

Marcia Greenburg

Maria Sokolowski

Marsha Williams