

City of Hyattsville Youth Advisory Council
Thursday, February 12th , 2026: 6 PM
IN PERSON
City of Hyattsville Municipal Building
Multipurpose Room
YAC: NOTES

Public Attendees: All committee meetings are open to the public to observe. For virtual meetings, there is a Q&A function that allows attendees to post questions or comments. It is not required that the committee respond to items posted in the Q&A, nor is it required that committees provide a public comment period during their meeting whether virtual or in-person. Should committees wish to allow time to hear public comment, a time will be designated on the agenda

1) Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm with a quorum of 8:

- Yasmin P., Litzy V., Margaret H., Jorge G., Anastasia K., Eric M., Christopher J., Oluwaseyifunmi O.

2) Recap of Previous Minutes: Reiteration of the Mental Health Issues along with the discussion of upcoming Events/Meetings.

3) Updates:

- Ribbon cutting for the new youth center will take place in May 2026
- Our goal is to post the Mental health video March 2nd of 2026. It was also suggested to spread awareness of the video through schools (St. Jerome Academy, Northwestern, and Martinsville Virginia YAC Committee) to project on screens if possible and share with friends through social media.

4) Logistics in regards to the Mental Health Campaign:

- The mental health awareness posters are planned to be displayed on trash cans throughout the City of Hyattsville to increase visibility and community engagement.
- Brett Morals from the Maryland Literature Workshop met with the Our Hyattsville team to discuss a potential collaboration with the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and the Youth Center. The discussion included incorporating a one-hour workshop training focused on mental health awareness, as well as the possibility of organizing a retreat.
- Additionally, an initiative was proposed to bring a mental health awareness speaker and host workshops at the Youth Center to educate Hyattsville youth on the importance of maintaining their mental well-being.

Suggestion:

Parks and Recs multigenerational Center will be constructed near the Hyattsville library and it was suggested that the YAC could be involved in integrating the youths opinion.

Expectations for YAC Members:

YAC members are expected to contribute ideas for key elements they would like incorporated into the mental health awareness poster. Additionally, some YAC members will be present to support and participate in the initiative.

Mental Health Poster Revisions:

- Update the color scheme of the poster.
- Add a neon-colored border to enhance visibility and visual appeal.

Upcoming events:

- **There will be a 2026 art campaign contest in regards to Children's mental health**

5) Discussion Topic:

- We had the opportunity to participate in a training workshop with Mr. Scott Showalter regarding school safety programs. During this session, he delivered an informative presentation on the "*Sources of Strength*" program.
- The presentation focused on bridging gaps in prevention by emphasizing strength-based approaches, the role of hope in building resilience, and addressing risk factors that contribute to youth mental health challenges. The presentation highlighted the importance of shifting from solely risk-focused models to strategies that promote protective factors and overall well-being.
- The "*Sources of Strength*" model was introduced as a strategic messaging campaign designed to engage, interact with, and positively influence every social group within a school or community. The program emphasizes inclusion, diversity, collaboration, and building connections to foster positive cultural change.
- Additionally, we identified and discussed the campaign cycle as part of implementing the initiative effectively.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:01 Pm

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, March 12th, 2025; At 6:00pm-7:00pm

At the City of Hyattsville Municipal Building (4310 Gallatin St, Hyattsville, MD 20781)

