

Youth Advisory Council Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services



1. **What is the Youth Advisory Council?**

The Youth Advisory Council is an effort initiated by the DHS, DMHSAS, as of December 1, 2007. The Council will advise the DHS, DMHSAS, and other system partners on issues of concern to North Dakota's youth, especially enforcing underage drinking, transition to adulthood, and overall health/well-being.

2. **What does the Council do?**

The YAC has meetings in which they discuss and provide a voice on issues of concern to North Dakota's youth. The YAC is an advisory council. They do not have legislative authority to change laws; however, they can provide advisory information to DHS and systems partners on state programs and policies.

3. **What systems are being represented on the YAC?**

Youth involved in the following systems will be represented on the YAC: mental health, juvenile justice, substance abuse, tribal agencies, foster care, developmental disabilities, vocational rehabilitation, special education, community providers, and community youth groups.

4. **How do I get involved?**

There are a number of ways in which you can get involved. If you are working with a case manager, social worker, or school counselor you can ask them about the YAC. You can contact anyone of the planning committee members listed on the next page.

5. **What kind of experience do I need?**

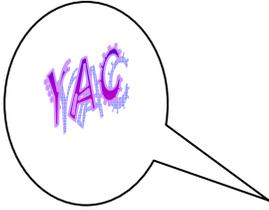
We are looking for youth who are dedicated, honest, and hard-working who will represent themselves and their peers.

6. **How long does one serve on the YAC?**

This will be determined by the YAC.

7. **Who can serve on the YAC?**

Youth 14-20 years of age who reside in North Dakota are encouraged to apply to serve on YAC.



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8. How much time commitment does the YAC require of its members?

There will be 4-6 meetings a year. All YAC members must be present at every meeting. Members will be encouraged to participate in related special events.

9. Will I get paid?

Expenses for mileage, meals, and possibly lodging will be reimbursed. Stipends may be available if funds allow.

10. How many people are on the YAC?

Two representatives from each system for a total of 20 people will serve on the YAC.

11. Is there a way I can still be involved in the YAC's activities even if I am not appointed?

Anyone interested in being involved with the YAC activities will be welcome to attend meetings and may participate in YAC sub-committees and special events.

Please contact the following Council Planning Committee members for additional information:

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