



Memorandum

To: Renee Ensor-Pope, Stephen Liggett-Creel, Jaqueline Duval-Harvey, Eugenia Greenwood
From: PATH Team at CLASP
Date: June 25, 2019
Re: Examples of Local Youth Advisory Boards

SUMMARY

Prince George's County's PATH goals include developing and beginning to implement a cross sector, system wide youth engagement strategy focused on system capacity to address social determinants of health. This memo provides a brief overview of two local-level youth advisory models that could inform the County's efforts to advance this goal.

Sacramento, California

The city of Sacramento has a [youth division](#) housed in the Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE). In 2016, the department renamed and reorganized to include the city's youth in the governance structure for the agency while aligning the city's youth programs under a unified vision, mission, set of values, framework, and goals to help young people succeed. The department's strategic plan outlines five goals:

- Create and help navigate critical pathways for youth development, safety and health.
- Provide quality parkland and recreation facilities.
- Promote lifelong recreation and learning.
- Foster community livability and strong neighborhoods.
- Ensure success through administrative, operational and organizational excellence

The youth division of YPCE focuses on youth employment, civic engagement, after school programs, sports and summer programs. The Civic Engagement component includes the Sacramento Youth Commission and the Summer @ City Hall program. Both programs teach youth how to get involved in city-level civic engagement, advocacy, and organizing, and how to navigate their local government. The Sacramento Youth Commission consists of appointed members ages 14-19 who live in Sacramento. They update the Sacramento City Council and submit formal recommendations, assist the City of Sacramento in promoting City services and functions related to youth, receive suggestions and complaints regarding youth matters and recommend solutions to the City Council, assist youth in understanding the workings of local government, and encourage participation in the Sacramento community and their neighborhoods. Youth commission members can conduct studies and investigations in the field of youth and community interest, share those findings, and make recommendations to the City Council. Overall, the commission is responsible for

advocating for a focus on youth problems and needs among Sacramento's institutions and organizations to improve the health and well-being of children and youth in City of Sacramento. The city of Sacramento is dedicated to helping its youth become leaders and develop tangible skills for the workforce through the work of its youth division.

Baltimore City, Maryland

Baltimore City has a [Youth Commission](#) that is housed in the Mayor's Office. The youth commission is made up of 17 voting members and 14 non-voting members between the ages of 14 and 24, who are high school graduates or full-time students. Each of the voting members are from the 14 voting districts and the other 3 are seats at large. Each of the voting members are appointed by the mayor. The other 14 members represent the Baltimore City School System, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Health Department, Police Department, Department of Social Services, State's Attorney's Office, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, the State Department of Juvenile Services, the Family League of Baltimore City, and Baltimore City Community College. The youth commission is responsible for reviewing issues relating to children and youth, making recommendations for programs, policies, and any necessary legislation to promote the health and well-being of children, youth, and their families, advocating for issues related to children and youth, developing and maintaining a 3 year action plan outlining areas for study by the commission, working with the private and public sector to bring forth the concerns of children and youth, as well as evaluating programming that will enhance the development of children and youth, developing a communication network to disseminate information about services to children and youth, and submitting an annual report to the mayor and the city council. The youth commission members are appointed for one four-year term and are required to meet 6-10 times each year. All youth that are on the commission are compensated for their time.

Key Takeaways and Considerations

- Baltimore and Sacramento's youth advisory boards are focused around 2 goals:
 1. Improving the quality of youth services across sectors and agencies
 2. Fostering youth leadership development and authentic youth partnership
- Youth advisory boards can be housed in a range of agencies/departments (executive branch, department of parks and recreation, departments of mental health); members can be appointed, elected, or a combination with a focus on geographic and cross-system representation.
- Establishing a youth advisory board requires careful consideration of the proposed youth governance structure, the responsibilities and authority of youth leaders (recommendations versus setting policy, control of resources, decision making authority) and the relationship between youth governance bodies and host agency or supporting staff.
- Establishing a youth advisory structure also requires careful consideration of the mechanism by which the office is established (legislative, administrative, executive order) to ensure the sustainability of the strategy through changes in personnel.
- CLASP recommends that the Prince George's County Team reach out to each of these offices to learn more about best-practices, key strategies, and lessons learned to integrate into the County youth engagement strategy.