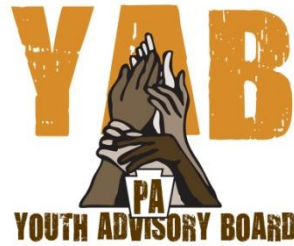


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## Fact Sheet

**Mission:** The mission of the Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is to educate, advocate, and form partnerships to create positive change in the child welfare system.

**Membership:** Youth and alumni of the child welfare system ages 16 and older are elected from regional boards as officers. OCYF, PA Partnerships for Children, KidsVoice, and Juvenile Law Center are also statewide partners and members.

- In 2011-2012 the Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board had 346 youth representatives at our meetings and presentations across the state.

**Structure:** Local and Regional YABs funnel into the Statewide YAB. Each Regional YAB (6 regions – contact information for staff support listed above) elects 4 youth officers and 4 alternate youth to attend the statewide YAB meetings.

**Activities:** Youth and alumni create positive change in the child welfare system by:

- Training caseworkers, administrators, foster parents, supervisors, judges, and guardians ad litem on issues of importance to older youth and alumni
- Developing recommendations related to policies and procedures affecting youth in care
- Providing input to developing implementation plans for recent laws enacted such as the Children in Foster Care Act and Act 101 of 2010
- Organizing community service events
- Engaging in peer-to-peer mentoring.

**Meetings:** Regional YABs and the Statewide YAB meet every 3 months. The meeting schedule for each region and the Statewide YAB is listed under the “About” section of the Youth Advisory Board website – [www.independentlivingpa.org](http://www.independentlivingpa.org).

**Philosophy:** YAB members are viewed as experts and meetings are youth-led and organized. Staff members are appointed to each Regional YAB in a support role to help youth find their voices and teach them about meeting facilitation, action planning, and other necessary skills.

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