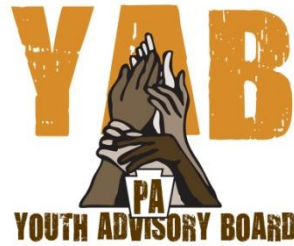


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## Fact Sheet

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**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 to 21 are elected from regional boards as officers.

**Structure:** Local and Regional YABs funnel into the Statewide YAB. Each Regional YAB (6 regions – contact information for staff support listed above).

**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 Act 75 of 2015: The Activities and Experiences for Children in Out-of-Home Placements Act.
- 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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