



COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Top Two Policy Priorities
Submitted to the
County Council Health and Human Service Committee**

October 17, 2013

The Commission on Children and Youth promotes the well-being of Montgomery County's children, youth and families so that all young people may realize their full potential and become contributing, productive adults.

As you know, children and youth require supports across the continuum from birth through adulthood in order to succeed. Our top two policy priorities are: **1) keep children and youth safe, and 2) ensure they have a future.** Our members are concerned with how to protect and promote the social, emotional, physical and sexual health of the young people here in Montgomery County. We would specifically like to see the County reverse the educational and incarceration trends of young men of color.

In order to focus its efforts, the Commission holds an annual strategic planning retreat every June and selects priority issues for the year. When selecting its priorities the Commission considers how it can add value to the work already being done on behalf of children and youth and the 10-month timeframe in which it has to complete its tasks.

In 2013 – 2014, the Commission feels it can add value through the work of its three subcommittees:

1. **Annual Youth Having a Voice Roundtable** - Put youth opinion into action regarding the MCPS 10th grade health curriculum (particularly around access to accurate and complete information about sexual health) and food available during the school day (specifically access to appealing, nutritional foods for the 33.2% of MCPS students that receive Free and Reduced Meals).
2. **Out-of-School Time Success** – Identify the current state of out-of-school time programming and promote critical factors that lead to the success of out-of-school time programming, with a focus on strengthening youth mentoring programs.
3. **Social Media Literacy** – Promote and initiate the education of youth on the positive and negative value impact of social media.

The Commission is committed to its mission and appreciates your support in our efforts. We look forward to working with you this year. Please feel free to contact us to inform us about how we may best support your efforts and partner to benefit the County's children and youth.

Department of Health and Human Services

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