



COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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

October 19, 2016

The Commission on Children and Youth (CCY) 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. We do this by supporting policy and budget decisions that promote the safety and well-being of children and youth, and by working so that they have access to successful futures.

This year, the Commission plans to work toward its goals by focusing on these two priorities:

- 1.) The Commission is concerned about the increase in prescription opioid and heroin abuse by youth in Montgomery County. We intend to examine the factors influencing this problem and the impact it is having on youth and family members in our community. Recognizing that many organizations are working on these issues, we plan to collaborate broadly and engage in a public awareness campaign targeted at youth.
- 2.) The Commission is committed to its missions of informing and advising county officials. To become more effective in this work, we intend to reevaluate our internal infrastructure, create processes to better influence County policies and budgets. Contact and/or identify appropriate actors/organizations to enact recommendations submitted in the Commission's annual report(s) over the past five years. Therefore, we will also be revisiting past priorities and following-up on recommendations that have not yet been implemented.

Additionally, in order to advance its mission, the CCY will host its annual Youth Having a Voice Roundtable on Monday, December 5, 2016 on the campus of the National Center for Children and Families. This will be our 10th gathering of teens from across the County to discuss issues that are important in their lives. Not only do youth have the opportunity to speak out, but adults – members of the County Council, Board of Education, HHS senior leadership and others – have the chance to hear, learn, and act on the concerns of the youth.

This year's Roundtable will focus on the Commission's priorities to gain insights from the County's youth on topics that affect them. We hope you will join us for this important event.

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.