

Mission Statement Youth Advisory Board

Our mission is to educate the public on what a youth with mental health issues goes through in the school and in the community

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Looking at ways for youth to participate in how services are developed and provided.

We hope to make a difference by:

- Reducing the stigma associated with mental health diagnoses
- Education the public on the issues youth face
- Influencing the children's mental health policy changes
- Advocating for better services
- Providing peer support
- Being better self-advocates
- Creating a youth presence in an adult dominated world
- Developing our own leadership skills

Current activities:

- Meeting monthly
- Maintaining and updating the CMH & EBD website about our youth advisory board with resources for youth with mental illness
- Presenting at conferences, staff trainings, and other public speaking opportunities
- Giving our input on articles, publications and to youth and family serving organizations
- Participating in volunteer activities related to children's mental health

Youth having a voice and making a difference!

Nothing about us, without us!

PACER Center Youth Advisory Board

New Member Application

Youth Applicant Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Birth Date:

Grade in School:

Diagnosis/Disability:

Parent/Guardian Name/s:

Address (if different than above):

Phone:

Email:

Please answer the following questions:

Why would you like to be a part of the Youth Advisory Board?

What has been your experience in school as a youth with a mental illness?

What other leadership activities have you participated in (councils, clubs, boards, groups, peer mediation, etc.)?

Do you have any experience with public speaking?

Are you willing to speak in public about your diagnosis or disability?

What changes would you like to see for youth who have mental health needs or who receive Special Education services

(i.e., in schools, communities, families, health care, laws, among peers)?

What are your interests and talents or extracurricular activities you are involved in (sports, after school activities, etc.)?

Is there anything else you would like to share?

Do you have any questions about the Youth Advisory Board?

Please return this completed form to:

Renelle Nelson, Youth Advisory Board Facilitator

**PACER Center
8161 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952-838-9000**

PACER Center Youth Advisory Board

Policies and Procedures

Membership Criteria

1. Must be in 7th to 12th grade, pursuing a diploma, a GED or in a transition program. After a member has graduated from high school or received his or her GED, he or she is no longer eligible to be on the Youth Advisory Board as a member. However, he or she may be asked to become a mentor to the Youth Advisory Board. Mentors will be able to participate in Youth Advisory Board activities in a limited manner.
2. Must have a diagnosis of a mental, emotional or behavioral disorder. It is not required that a member have a 504 plan or special education services.

Duties

1. Must attend all meetings and events unless excused
2. The Annual Youth Advisory Board meeting will take place in September, at which time officers will be elected.
3. Officers will hold their positions from September through August.
4. Each member will serve as an officer or have a project assignment. Members may serve both as an officer and also have a project assignment.
5. Project assignments will continue until the project is completed or after one year, whichever comes first.

Behavioral Expectations

1. All Youth Advisory Board members will treat one another and PACER staff with dignity and respect. Any violent, threatening, discriminatory or harassing behavior is cause for dismissal from the Youth Advisory Board.
2. Youth Advisory Board members should notify the Youth Advisory Board Advisor of any unresolved conflict among members. Any member can report a conflict. The Advisor will work with the members on a fair and equitable solution to the conflict.
3. All Youth Advisory Board members are required to adhere to a strict no alcohol or chemical use of any kind while participating in Youth Advisory Board activities. The exception is tobacco use if you are 18 and adhere to city and state laws.

Application for the Youth Advisory Board

All applicants for the Youth Advisory Board for meetings and activities. This will include meals during the monthly meetings, transportation to Youth Advisory Board events, meals, materials and lodging when necessary.

Expenses

PACER will pay for all expenses during Youth Advisory Board meetings and activities. This will include meals during the monthly meetings, transportation to Youth Advisory Board events, meals, materials and lodging when necessary.

Liability Limitations

1. Neither PACER staff nor any of its agents shall be held responsible for any emotional or physical disturbance that occurs while at the PACER office, or relating to a PACER activity.
2. Neither PACER nor any of its agents shall be held responsible for any extra charges not specified that may occur while attending a PACER event.
3. Neither PACER nor any of its agents are responsible for any incident preceding or following a PACER event.
4. Youth Advisory Board members under the age of 18 may be asked to leave any PACER event at the judgment of the Youth Advisory Board Advisor. Parents or guardians must be available to pick up their member.
5. Youth Advisory Board members over the age of 18 may be asked to leave any event at the judgment of the youth advisors. In this case, the member is responsible for his or her own transportation to leave the event if they are dismissed.

I hereby agree to the policies and procedures outlined in this document.

Youth Advisory Board Member Date

Parent or Guardian if Youth Advisory Board applicant is under 18 Date

Youth Advisory Board Advisor Date