



Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio (OHIO YAB) Constitution

Updated May 28, 2016

Article 1 – Name

- The official name of this board shall be the Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory board
- We shall commonly be known as the OHIO YAB

Article 2 – Mission Statement

- We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that effect all youth who have or will experience out of home care

Article 3 – Membership

- Membership is open to Ohio youth in and from foster care, between ages 14 - 24
- Membership shall be open to all eligible youth, regardless of race, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation or national origin
- Alumni Supporters are defined as former foster youth who have transitioned from a membership role to a supportive role
- Ally Supporters are those who have not experienced foster care personally, but who serve in a supportive role to the board

Article 4 – Officers

- Statewide Officers include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Media Spokesperson, Treasurer and Parliamentarian
- Board officers shall be elected by youth in attendance during annual elections, and shall serve from the time that they take office during the annual Officers' Retreat, until elections take place the following year
- Board elections shall determine the statewide Officers, and the statewide Officers-in-Training (youth who were first runner-up in the annual election)
- In the event that any Officer cannot continue to serve, or is deemed unfit for their position, the vacant position shall be filled by the Officer-in-Training for that position
- Both Officers and Officers-in-Training shall attend the annual Officers Retreat, in order to ensure continuity in leadership and progress on strategic goals throughout the year

Article 5 – Voting

- Voting during annual elections shall be done by secret ballot
- Only current and former foster youth, between ages 14-24 are allowed to vote
- Records will be kept of both the elected officer, and the second and third runner-up. The first-runner-up will serve as Officer-in-Training. The second runner-up will be part of the back-up plan, in case of officer attrition throughout the year

Article 6 – Officer Duties

- **Requirements for All Officers**
 - Must demonstrate leadership skills
 - Must take the Oath of Office
 - Must fulfill the duties of their position
 - Must participate in monthly officer calls
 - Must be responsive to communication and be able to be reached by phone, email, and/or Facebook

- **Duties of the President**
 - Works to ensure that the Board is continually moving forward on the OHIO YAB Strategic Plan, as defined during the annual Officers' Retreat
- **Duties of the Vice President**
 - Dedication to the behind-the-scenes details of the Board
- **Duties of the Secretary**
 - Takes minutes at OHIO YAB Quarterly Meetings
- **Duties of the Media Spokesperson**
 - Gathers news about the Board and gets it out to the public, focusing on “collective voice”
 - Assists in administering Board communication, such as email, Facebook, and the OHIO YAB website and blog
- **Duties of the Treasurer**
 - Assists in developing the budget throughout the year
 - Maintains accurate records of income and expenses
- **Duties of the Parliamentarian**
 - Has a working knowledge of parliamentary procedures
 - Works with other officers to make sure that meetings begin and end on time

Article 7 – Meetings

- The OHIO YAB has four quarterly statewide meeting per year
- These meetings generally take place on the third Thursday of January, April, July and October

Article 8 – Finances

- OACCA currently serves as the Board's Fiscal Agent