



## **Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio (OHIO YAB) Constitution**

*Amended May 29, 2020*

### **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, between ages 14 – 24, who have experienced out-of-home placement, including foster care, kinship care, congregate care and adoption.
- 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 – Youth Ambassadors

- The OHIO YAB leadership structure is made up of county and regional youth representatives, similar to the United Nations.
- While the OHIO YAB once focused on six elected positions, the Constitution was ratified in 2020 to reframe the leadership structure to ensure inclusion and representation from young people all over the state.

## Article 5 – Nomination and Referral

- The following entities are invited to nominate up to three youth representatives to serve as OHIO YAB Ambassadors on the statewide board:
  - County and Regional Youth Advisory Boards
  - College/University Campus Support Programs for Foster Youth
  - Counties that do not currently have a local Youth Advisory Board
- Youth can also make self-referrals.

## Article 6 – Youth Ambassador Responsibilities

- **Role of Youth Ambassadors on the Statewide Board:**
  - To have a voice and input in statewide efforts to improve the immediate experiences and long-term outcomes of Ohio foster care youth and young adults.
  - To share what's happening locally, and ways the statewide board can be of support.
- **Expectations of OHIO YAB Youth Ambassadors**
  - Leadership skills.
  - Emotional maturity.
  - Communication skills and team attitude.
  - Sign and abide by the OHIO YAB Code of Conduct.
  - Commitment to participate in Youth Ambassador meetings (virtual and in-person) when it works with their schedules.

## 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

- The *Ohio Children's Alliance* serves as the Board's Fiscal Agent.