Statewide Young Adult Council (SYAC)

The Statewide Young Adult Council (SYAC) is a subcommittee of the MA State Mental Health Planning Council (SMHPC) and serves as an advisory board to the SMHPC and DMH's TAY Initiative.

What is SYAC?

SYAC…

- Brings together youth, young adults, and providers to advise the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and other young adult service organizations - ultimately creating a cohesive, supportive network of families, peers and service providers throughout the Commonwealth;
- Seeks to inspire hope and recovery among youth/young adults across the state;
- Empowers youth/young adult voices within DMH;
- Encourages young people to advocate for themselves and to assist them in making their own choices/decisions with transitional life skills, including education, employment, housing, and healthcare;
- Works together to find equality and advocate for all youth/young adults.

Who can attend SYAC meetings?

- SYAC welcomes youth and young adults (age 16+) in MA to participate in meetings!

When are SYAC meetings?

- SYAC meetings are currently held on the **3rd Tuesday of every month from 2:00-3:30pm**.

Where are SYAC meetings?

- Due to COVID-19, SYAC meetings are currently held **VIRTUALLY via Zoom**. For meeting information or to be sent a calendar invite, please contact the SYAC leadership team.

SYAC Leadership Team:

- **SYAC Co-Chair**: Dev Kaplan (he/him) – Dkaplan@ppal.net
- **SYAC Co-Chair:** Sabrina Franco (she/her) – Sabrina_francomedina@waysideyouth.org
- **DMH SYAC Liaison:** Ali Gold (She/her) – Alisa.gold@mass.gov

Learn more about the State Mental Health Planning Council here: https://www.mass-smhpc.org/