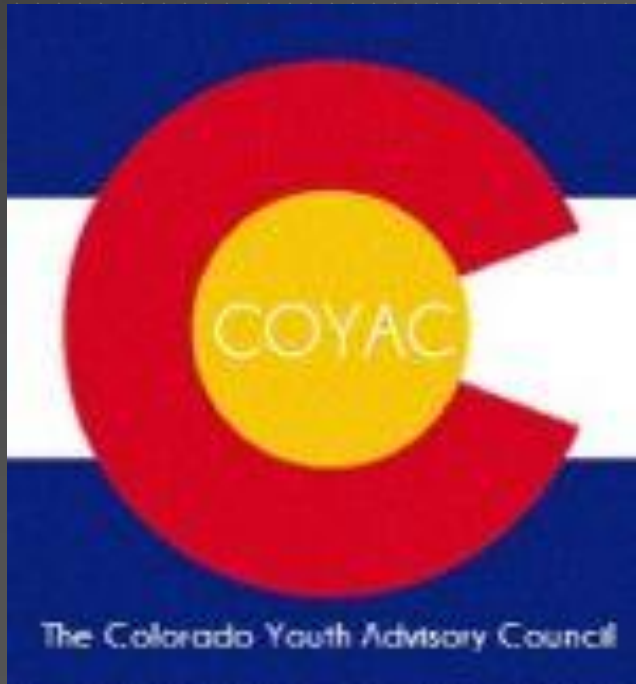


COLORADO YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (COYAC)



“Every teenager in the state of Colorado can send an email to their House Representative or call their Senator, but members of the Colorado Youth Advisory Council have the chance to have face-to-face discussions with legislators, and interact with them on another level.”

-Amanda Patarino, Senate District 21



HISTORY OF COYAC

COYAC's Inception

- Created by Legislature in 2008
 - CO HB 08-1157 –
Colorado State Senator
Ellen Roberts
- 1 of 10 states



COYAC's Purpose

- Representation of the views of Colorado's Youth
- Legislation
 - “to examine, evaluate and discuss the issues, interests and needs affecting Colorado youth now and in the future and to formally advise and make recommendations to elected officials regarding those issues.”



COYAC's Organization

- 40 Member Council
 - 35 for each Senate District
 - 5 At-Large Members
 - Diversity
- Procedural Committees
 - Membership/Recruitment
- Policy Committees
 - Statewide Affairs
- Executive Committee
 - Youth Co-Chair, Youth Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (Parliamentarian*)



How COYAC Functions

- Youth run council
- Funding
 - Travel Expenses, etc.
 - Private Sources
- Civic Canopy Staffing
 - Non-Profit



COYAC's Actions

- 4 Meetings/Year
 - 2 During Legislative Session
 - 1 Retreat
 - 1 End of Year
- Communication
 - Conference Calls, Social Networking, etc.
- Tracking Bills
- Speaking with Legislators
- Resolution





RESOLUTION

Resolution's Origin

- First “hands-on” approach
- Desire to be involved first hand
- 2010 - 2011 Survey
 - 70.6% of Colorado Youth surveyed “very concerned”
 - Personal connections within council
- 2011 2012 Goals
 - Bill vs. Resolution



Resolution's Creation

- Resolution Committee
- Research – Second Wind Fund
 - 2nd leading cause of death for Colorado youth 10-34
 - Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates nationally
- Sponsors
 - Representatives Massey and Kerr
 - Senators Roberts and Johnston
- Drafting – HJR 12-1004



Resolution's Passing

- Started in House of Representatives
 - House Education Committee
 - Testifying by Brenna Christensen, Janet Chen, Sean Weller
- Moved to Senate
 - Senate Education Committee
 - Testifying by Suzanne Steele and Rebekah Romberg
- Passed unanimously



What the Resolution Does

- School Participation in National Suicide Prevention Week
- Additional Training for High School Faculty
 - Colorado School Board
 - Classes in recognizing signs of suicide go towards the recertification of teacher's licenses
- Working Group
 - “[COYAC] shall organize a working group of interested parties to meet in the interim after the second regular session of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly to study the issue of teen suicide prevention and to report the working group's findings and any recommendations to the General Assembly in [COYAC's] annual report”
 - Janet Chen
 - janetchen5653@gmail.com
 - (720) 261-8862





QUESTIONS?