



YOUTH COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN 2026

Delores M. Bullock,
Blessed in Tech Ministries, Inc.

RISING VOICES

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY YOUTH ACTION BOARD



Youth Committee Strategic Plan Agenda

- Introduction of the Rising Voices AACO YAB – Delores Bullock
- Implemented Goals
 - Youth Coordinated Entry Policy – Delores M. Bullock, Blessed in Tech Ministries, Inc.
- Long Term – Shamera Johnson, President
 - Youth Transitional House/Drop-in Center
 - Staff Requirements
 - Proposed Staff
- Short Term – Rosie Dorsch, Secretary
 - Anne Arundel County Host Homes Program
 - Requirements
 - Program Services
- Proposed Supporting Partnerships – Vierra Carter, Vice President
- Rising Voices Website Launch – Vernon Carter, Committee Lead Chair
 - Legislative Changes and Updates
 - Rising Voices Crisis Hotline

Youth Coordinated Entry Policy – Delores Bullock

- Youth Coordinated Entry Policy was developed to ensure proper youth engagement at first point of contact in Anne Arundel County.
- Frontline Procedures for Youth Engagement were also created to accompany the policy.
- Four YAB members are certified Youth & Adult Mental Health First Aiders.
- The policy was presented at the Convening to be considered for statewide use.
- Coordination with Justin Bieler, DSS Homeless Liaison for youth engaged language were included in Anne Arundel County Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry Policy and adopted June 2026.
- ***Proposed development of a Youth VI-SPDAT for the HMIS system for ages 12-24.***

Long Term Goals – Shamera Johnson, President

Youth Transitional House/Drop-in Center – SCAR House for the Youth

Serving Ages 12-17

- Case Management
- Housing Navigation
- Conflict Resolution
- Family Unification
- Workforce Development
- Connection with Mental Health Provider
- Enrollment in School – McKinney/Vento

Maryland Emergency Shelter Legality & Policies for Youth (Ages 12–24)

1. Executive Summary of Maryland Shelter Law

In Maryland, minors can legally consent to emergency shelter without parental permission. Under the [Maryland Housing and Community Development Code § 4-2702](#), unaccompanied homeless youth may stay at registered shelters if they understand the risks and benefits, and if the shelter is necessary for their safety.

Youth Transitional House/Drop-in Center – SCAR House for the Youth

Staff Requirement

- Criminal Background Check/Sex Offenders Registry Check
- Mandatory Training
 - Psychological Assessment (To ensure capability for environment.)
 - De-Escalation
 - Trauma Informed Care
 - Youth Mental Health First Aid
 - Diversity Sensitivity Training
 - First Aid/AED/CPR Certification
 - Basic Education Training (Tutoring/Mentoring)
 - Crisis Preparedness/Safe Evacuation Operations (Standard Operating Procedures)
 - Food Safety/Handling Certification
 - Network/Cyber Security Knowledge (Protection of digital footprint)
- Lived Experience

Proposed Staff

- Program Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Shift Managers (3-6) – 8-hour shift
- Attendants
- Food Handlers
- Case Managers
- Counselor (Therapist) – (Hybrid)
- Drivers
- Volunteers (mentors, tutors, arts & crafts projects, establish a Green Garden for community) – Must be screened and trained as well

Short Term Goals – Rosie Dorsch, Secretary

Anne Arundel County Youth Host Homes Program in partnership with AACPS/DSS/CPS

Hosts have the chance to:

- Protect at-risk youth by providing them with a safe, positive, and supportive place to stay for up to 21 days.
- Provide healthy family experiences for the youth in your care.
- Give a family in crisis the time for a much-needed intervention.
- Receive financial support to help cover the basic needs of youth.
- Assist in completing licensing paperwork and clearances and reimbursement for expenses related to your host home certification.

Program Services Include:

- Emergency shelter for youth ages 12-17.
- Prevention services to reduce the possibility of running away.
- Support with basic needs.
- Mental Health Counseling
- Individual and family case management referrals.

We have the opportunity to work with Morgan State University to create a model for the State of Maryland!

Proposed Supporting Partnerships – Vierra Carter, Vice President

- Department of Social Services/Child Protective Services – Child safety and registration
- Anne Arundel Public School System/McKinney Vento – Homeless Liaison – Continuity of School
- Blessed in Tech Ministries, Inc. – Case Management, Referral, Resource Services
- Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency/Crisis Response System – Crisis support, mental health and substance use services
- Arundel Lodge – behavioral health & co-occurring substance use
- Anne Arundel Public Libraries – Coordinated Entry or connection to youth
- Hope for All – clothing, furniture, household items, hygienics
- Anne Arundel County Police Department – Coordinated Entry and Youth Connection
- Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth & Families – Connection to Youth Services
- National Network for Youth – advocacy and support for Youth Action Boards
- Morgan State University Research Partnership – Host Homes Model for State Implementation

Morgan State Research Partnership - Host Homes

This project will employ a mixed-methods, community-engaged research design to document analyze, and translate lessons from the SHIP of Frederick County and St. Ambrose Journey of Hope Host Home programs into a comprehensive white paper and replication toolkit. The approach will prioritize practical implementation knowledge, lived expertise, and policy relevance.

Rising Voices Website Launch – Vernon Carter, Committee Lead Chair

Rising Voices Website Launch (Empower * Engage * Elevate)

- A Youth Resource Hub geared towards aiding youth experiencing homelessness through community outreach, resources connections and case management
- Data Dashboard to provide current MD 503 Homeless Youth Data in Anne Arundel County
- Donation Portal for in-kind and general donations
- Meet the Youth Action Board
- Movement Hub – Strategic Roadmap & Socials
- Media & Community Updates

Rising Voices Crisis Hotline

- *Youth Coordinated Entry (CE) Flow Chart & Frontline Procedures Manual created*
- Partnership with University of Maryland Social Work Department to provide hotline support established
- Suggestions for phone line (MagicJack for mobility/portability)
- Diversion to the Shelter hotline & Crisis response at this time for immediate assistance.

Strategic Plan Implementation



Thank you for your time!



Delores M. Bullock



Vierra Carter – Vice President, Shamera Johnson – President, Rose Dorsch – Secretary & Vernon Carter – Committee Lead Chair