



2024

# OPIOID AFFECTED YOUTH INITIATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FRAMEWORK

## PURPOSE

The Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) was established to support integrated and comprehensive intervention, prevention, and treatment services for youth and families who have been impacted by opioid and other substance use disorders (SUDs). As the training and technical assistance (TTA) provider, the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) is committed to supporting the efforts of states, communities, and tribes in reducing the adverse impact of opioids and SUDs through effective and meaningful engagement with youth. The broader OAYI TTA model and framework for the youth advisory board (YAB), formalized as the Youth National Opioid and Wellness (YNOW) Task Force, is informed by the understanding that the youth voice is central to sustainable system improvement and helps strengthen the responses to improving equitable access to substance use support.

The purpose of the YNOW Task Force is to create collaborative opportunities and strategic partnerships among emerging leaders and key stakeholders; inform strategies for successful engagement in local communities; and empower youth with lived experiences to lead sustainable efforts toward stigma reduction through advocacy and action. The YNOW Task Force reflects the voices and perspectives of youth representing diverse communities and promotes the development of a support network among young people with shared experiences that will help cultivate an advanced understanding of the impact of opioids and SUDs on youth and families.

The YNOW Task Force is a 14-person board consisting of 10 board members and four executive leadership positions. The designated presiding coordinator is a member of IIR's OAYI TTA team.

## VISION

The vision of the YNOW Task Force is to cultivate an advanced understanding of the impact of opioids and SUDs on youth through collaborative opportunities and partnerships. Serving members will:

- Enhance IIR's TTA approach by informing on strategies for effectively engaging impacted youth through participation in the development and facilitation of virtual and in-person TTA events, including the launch of OAYI's inaugural youth summit.
- Reduce the stigma associated with SUDs by educating the public about the issues that youth impacted by SUDs experience through the design of a nationally distributed youth engagement toolkit; engagement on social media platforms such as Instagram and Threads; the launch of a segment on OAYI's podcast, Answering the Call; and support of the development and dissemination of a quarterly newsletter.
- Expand and refine their leadership and self-advocacy skills through ongoing education and broadened opportunities for professional growth including attendance and/or presentation at youth-related conferences and other events in the field.

## MISSION

The impact of this board will be to enhance youth survival and safety by leveraging the lived experiences of young people and redefining recovery as any positive change. Through advocacy, education, and awareness, we will advance evidence-based prevention and sustainable recovery efforts that are rooted in foundations of cultural humility, holistic approaches, reduction of stigma, and restorative justice. Understanding substance use as a complex social phenomenon that requires change, not just within individuals, but within their social systems, will frame how we engage community stakeholders—including youth, families, educators, and policymakers—to implement restorative practices that heal communities.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Have at least one of the following lived experiences:
  - Currently live or have lived in an opioid-impacted community
  - Personal SUD
  - Juvenile or criminal justice involvement
  - Friend or family member (parent, sibling, or close relative) with SUD, in treatment, or in recovery
  - Child welfare involvement



• [www.opioidaffectedyouth.org](http://www.opioidaffectedyouth.org) • [oayi-yab@iir.com](mailto:oayi-yab@iir.com)



If you have any questions, please contact the OAYI YAB Coordinator, **Darian Appleton**, at [dappleton@iir.com](mailto:dappleton@iir.com) or [oayi-yab@iir.com](mailto:oayi-yab@iir.com).

## COMMITMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- Maintain membership for at least one service year (March to December 2024).
- Uphold the vision and mission of the board.
- Represent the board in your professional, personal, and social network engagements with the public.
- Demonstrate prompt attendance and active participation in scheduled member meetings per attendance policy.
- Review distributed meeting materials in advance of scheduled member meetings.
- Conduct research and complete assigned tasks outside of scheduled meetings, as appropriate, to ensure progress toward ongoing board activities.
- Review and understand the roles and responsibilities of executive leadership positions and subcommittees, should you be interested.
- Be willing to openly and respectfully collaborate and engage with other young adults from diverse backgrounds.

## BENEFITS

- Gain a comfortable and supportive space among other emerging youth leaders with shared experiences related to SUD, justice involvement, and/or child welfare involvement.
- Exemplify the youth voice on issues of importance and influence change through advocacy on a national level.
- Engage in meaningful leadership, professional development, and training opportunities that will cultivate actionable and transferable skills to support academic and career goals.
- Expand your network by establishing sustainable partnerships with other young professionals, communities represented by OAYI-awarded project sites, and experts in the field.
- Monetary compensation as a consultant to the OAYI TTA team.
- Participate in opportunities to develop and implement systemic change projects based on collective areas of interest.
- Inherit alumni membership for informal ongoing engagement with active board members and other alumni.

## INTEREST MEETINGS

The OAYI YAB will host four virtual interest meetings for an opportunity to engage with you and to address any questions about the board or application process. If you would like to join us, please use the link below to register for the session of your choice.

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., ET - <http://s.iir.com/OAYIYABInterestMeeting1>

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., ET - <http://s.iir.com/OAYIYABInterestMeeting2>

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., ET - <http://s.iir.com/OAYIYABInterestMeeting3>

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., ET - <http://s.iir.com/OAYIYABInterestMeeting4>



# ACTIVITY SCHEDULE



## KICKOFF RETREAT

APRIL 12-16, 2024

- An in-person trip to Washington, DC, to engage with fellow board members for the first member meeting; formally meet the OAYI OJJDP program managers and other federal officials to discuss perspectives on the support needed in the field; and participate in planning for the inaugural youth summit.
- Predetermined travel expenses will be covered by IIR.\*



## MEMBER MEETINGS

MONTHLY, ON FIRST FRIDAYS  
2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M., ET

- Virtual meetings that will follow a standard agenda; additional points of discussion will be incorporated based on current activities.



## YOUTH SUMMIT

JUNE 26-27, 2024

- An in-person, two-day event composed of educational training sessions and opportunities for interactive engagement among YAB members, field professionals, and attending youth.
- Predetermined travel expenses will be covered by IIR.\*

Note: This is an outline of scheduled activities and events. You may be asked to participate in conducting research, planning meetings, and/or additional tasks that are not listed.

\*Pre-determined travel expenses include flight and hotel accommodations (which will be booked through IIR), ground transportation (Uber, Lyft, taxi, etc.) for board-related activities, and federal per diem rates for meals. Board members are expected to cover costs for ground transportation and food for the duration of the trip and will be reimbursed upon completion of a reimbursement request form. Personal ground transportation, tips, and other incidental items are not reimbursable.

**APPLY NOW!** Interested in making an impact? Complete an application [here](#) through Friday, February 16, 2024.



• [www.opioidaffectedyouth.org](http://www.opioidaffectedyouth.org) • [oayi-yab@iir.com](mailto:oayi-yab@iir.com)



MANAGED BY  
**IIR**  
Institute for Intergovernmental Research

If you have any questions, please contact the OAYI YAB Coordinator, Darian Appleton, at [dappleton@iir.com](mailto:dappleton@iir.com) or [oayi-yab@iir.com](mailto:oayi-yab@iir.com).

