

2024 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL YEAR IN REVIEW



At a Glance

Staff Message & YAC By the Numbers	YAC Feedback & Guidance to CSAW teams	Additional YAC Projects	YAC Member's Key Takeaways	Looking Ahead - What's Next in 2025?
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CSAW Staff Message

This year saw the launch of our center's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) in February. Since then, our YAC members have participated in and contributed to several important projects and initiatives both of their own design as well as through collaboration with other teams at CSAW. We've tried our best to capture the past year of the YAC here in this brief report to highlight, reflect on and celebrate our collective achievements although it's difficult to share in a quick write-up the true value, creativity and thoughtfulness that each of our YAC members bring both to the YAC and to our center, community and world.

As we move into 2025, we're looking forward to the onboarding of a new Youth Engagement Coordinator, expanding our YAC recruitment efforts to increase YAC membership and engagement from youth in rural areas of Lane County and other traditionally excluded communities, supporting the YAC in developing and implementing new youth-led projects and continuing to provide feedback and guidance to CSAW teams and projects in our ongoing efforts to become an equity centered, youth-informed organization that is actively "building communities where children and youth thrive."

With appreciation and well wishes for a wonderful 2025,

YAC Support Staff

2024 YAC By the Numbers

Number of YAC Members in 2024 7	Number of YAC member hours of service in 2024 236
<u>Youth Resource Posters</u> on display in Lane County 31+	Number of people who have utilized the <u>Youth Resource Posters</u> (link visits) 58

Making An Impact: Feedback & Guidance on Projects

- [Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study \(OCAPS\) Questionnaire Feedback](#)
 - The YAC gave feedback to the OCAPS team on what questions should be included in the OCAPS survey as well as how questions should be worded. This conversation helped the OCAPS team to know what things youth see as problems that need to be addressed and talked about and how to ask questions using youth friendly language.
- CPAN to CSAW Rebranding Feedback
 - The YAC provided ideas and guidance to our center's design team in developing a new name and subtitle. They all voted on different contenders and contributed to and approved the final new name and subtitle: *The Center for Childhood Safety and Wellbeing (CSAW): Building communities where children and youth thrive.*
- [Parent and Community Café Themes Feedback](#)
 - The Parent Café team wanted to know what themes felt important to youth. They also wanted to know what helps youth to feel like they are in a safe, healthy and more responsive families and communities. The YAC talked about what things they think are important for families and parents to discuss, which led to the themes that will be used in the Parent and Community Cafés.
- [Cultivate \(formerly the Oregon Research Schools Network\) DEI-AR Training Feedback](#)
 - The YAC gave feedback on what kinds of materials and training they thought would be useful and accessible for families, caregivers, and community members. The Cultivate team wanted to get information on how to have deeper conversations in situations where trust and experience vary. The YAC shared information on how the videos could be more engaging. They also pointed out the importance of knowing who the audience is so the videos can be the most effective.
- Social Media Content Feedback
 - The YAC gave input on what things could be different as far as [SACA](#) and [CPAN/CSAW's](#) content on social media. The youth decided what would be important to put on social media and how they as a group and also provided input on how they as a group would like to be

represented online. An example of this is sharing what things the YAC members feel are effective in reaching youth on social media. One suggestion that has already been shared is the importance of mindfulness and why it is important for not only youth but also parents and other adults to practice mindfulness.

- [Youth Engagement Coordinator Feedback](#)

- The youth created interview questions to hire a new Youth Engagement Coordinator. They will also help to determine who CSAW hires for the position.

Additional YAC Projects/Activities Focused on Knowledge & Skill Building

- YAC members created group agreements for the YAC as well as other policies that are followed by staff and youth members in the YAC space.
- YAC members participated in the [OCAPS Questionnaire & Focus Group](#), sharing their experiences and valuable perspectives on child maltreatment and how it can be prevented.
- YAC members developed and distributed [Resource Posters](#) by and for youth in Lane County in both Spanish and English.
- YAC members engaged in many skill building sessions and activities focused on mindfulness, grounding exercises and self-care which were things they suggested be added to the [PEACE final report recommendations](#).
- YAC members engaged in knowledge and skill building around mandatory reporting and confidential advocacy services in Oregon.
- YAC members contributed to the PEACE community engagement processes which included developing the recommendations based on all the insights and perspectives collected from youth and adults across Lane County in the PEACE Final Report.
 - [HERE](#) is the link to the Executive Summary.
 - [HERE](#) is the link to the PEACE Final Report.
 - [HERE](#) is the link to the Progress Report.
- YAC members and CSAW staff supported two community outreach events in Blue River and Oakridge where they helped with tabling and handing out educational and YAC recruitment materials.
- YAC members participated in two in-person gatherings in the spring and summer focused on relationship development, working on projects, providing feedback, skill-building and having fun together.

YAC Members' Experience and Key Takeaways

YAC members have shared that they are glad that they are able to make an impact on our programs and in the lives of youth in our community. They have also shared that it is inspiring to see that there are so many adults that want to help make children/youth's lives better. They are impressed with the determination of the YAC members as well as the staff who help support the YAC.

- Feedback surveys
 - Here are a few themes from feedback that YAC members have shared in our recurring surveys about their experience in the YAC this year;
 - They have felt very inspired and motivated by the response to their resource posters. They have loved to see how many people have used them.
 - They have felt very inspired by the adults in the YAC environment and well as those who have joined meetings to receive feedback. They appreciate the dedication and passion to making youth lives better.
 - Each week we have participated in a mindfulness exercise and they have shared that this has helped them to feel more present in meetings.
 - We asked our YAC members to share with us three words that describe their experience in the YAC this past year during our last meeting of 2024. Here are the words they shared...
 - *"Cooperative, impactful, educational"*
 - *"Inspiring, helpful, consistent"*
 - *"Fun, motivating, informative"*
 - *"Experienced, fun, introspective"*
 - *"Thought-provoking, respectful, consistent"*

Looking Ahead to 2025 - What's Next?

For 2025, the YAC has a number of goals and plans they are looking forward to working on together. One of these goals is hiring a [Youth Engagement Coordinator](#) and the YAC members will help make the final hiring decision based on who they think would be the best fit to facilitate and support the work of the YAC moving forward. They also want to expand the YAC membership by recruiting more youth to join. This will include community outreach including events to sharing information about the YAC with youth in the community. They also have significant goals for their resource posters; they want at least 250 people access the posters (by scanning the QR code/visiting the link) in the next three months. Members have also enjoyed giving feedback on other projects within CSAW and are excited to continue to do so in the new year. The YAC is also looking forward designing more projects based on the PEACE final report recommendations they helped generate and build skills they can share with both youth and adults in their lives to contribute to our shared vision of "building communities where children and youth thrive."

Contact

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