

**Do you have a youth who's
ready to take that "next step"
in their personal journey?**

Welcome to SWAT.



SWAT open meetings are held monthly on the 4th Tuesdays. Member benefits include: participating in a group setting with other youth, talking about issues and subjects they care about—or, just listening.

Getting and giving suggestions from youth who share similar experiences.

Participate in leadership development or other youth development activities and trainings.

Contact Bianca Logan for more information on the SWAT Youth Council or to refer a youth.



**SWAT Youth Council:
Your Partner in Bringing
Youth Voice to the Table**

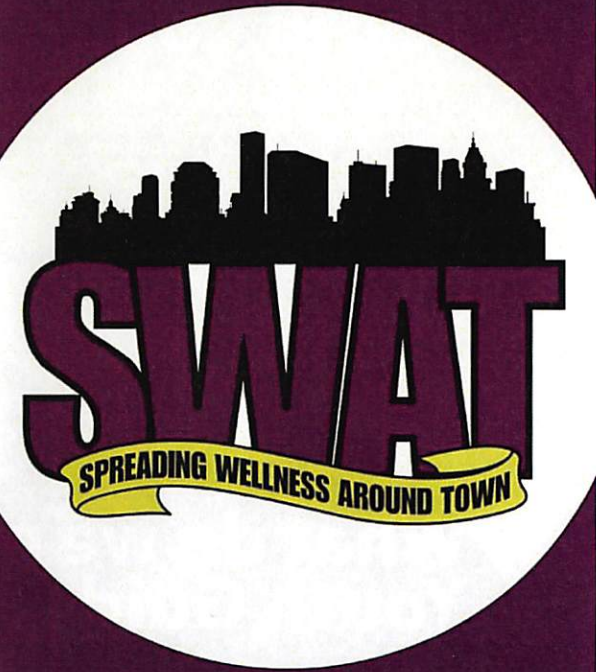
Monroe County System of Care
SWAT Youth Council
Monroe County
Office of Mental Health
1099 Jay Street, Building J
Rochester, NY 14611

Bianca Logan
Youth Engagement Specialist
Phone: 585-753-2638
blogan@monroecounty.gov



Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Monroe County System of Care



**SPREADING
WELLNESS
AROUND
TOWN**

**Bringing innovation and voice to
programs, services and systems.**

The SWAT Youth Council

is an empowered group of youth who share common experiences and are united in their mission to bring youth voice to child-serving systems and community-based agencies throughout Monroe County, by promoting and facilitating the **Youth Guided Approach**.

Who Are SWAT Youth Council Members?

SWAT Youth Council Members are young people who have come through the child-serving systems (mental health, child welfare, & juvenile justice) and have first-hand experience in the strengths and challenges that face the systems and the agencies that serve children and families. This perspective, paired with professional training, coaching and youth supports, place Youth Council Members in a unique and valuable position to provide expert opinion, insights, and advice on "what works for youth."

Building Relationships & Improving Youth Outcomes

Improving outcomes means taking a look at what is currently being done and how it's being done. It means identifying what works and what needs to change. SWAT Youth Council Members are trained and prepared to help organizations or departments along the journey of becoming more Youth Guided. Partnering with SWAT will help agencies ensure they are bringing youth voice and culture to their decision-making process. And having youth voice means services, programs, processes and practices will more likely be successful in achieving the outcomes an agency, and their families, is searching for.

What do we mean by Youth Guided Approach?

The Youth Guided Approach is a framework or ladder that illustrates the upward direction organizations climb in order to achieve authentic youth involvement at the very top.

The steps on the ladder as defined by Youth Move (YouthMove.org) are:

1. Youth Initiated and Directed
2. Youth Initiated, Shared Decisions with Adults
3. Youth and Adult Initiated and Directed
4. Adult Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth
5. Consulted and Informed
6. Assigned and Informed
7. Tokenism
8. Decoration

What Prepares a SWAT Youth Council Member?

Youth Council Members have received special training and coaching in leadership, facilitation, advocacy, and the Youth Guided Approach. The most important preparation a SWAT Member receives is the time spent preparing for the committee, task force, training or meeting they're participating in.

SWAT Council Members:

- Represent youth voice in meetings, committees, and task forces, etc.
- Provide advice and guidance, either on a one-time or ongoing basis, on what makes services & programs more "youth friendly"
- Provide youth advocacy trainings to youth
- Provide advice and guidance on the Youth Guided Approach