



DANE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION



JOSEPH PARISI
Dane County Executive

MEGHAN BENSON
Chair, Dane County Youth Commission

LYNN GREEN,
Director, Department of Human Services

CONNIE BETTIN
Prevention Services Manager

THE DANE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

The Dane County Youth Commission was created in 1980 by the Dane County Board to work on behalf of the interests of young people in Dane County. The Commission consists of eleven members appointed by the County Executive to two-year terms including two County Board Supervisors, one representative of Madison Public Schools, one representative of a school district outside Madison, one representative of a youth serving agency and six citizen members--two of whom must be under age 25.

The specific functions of the Youth Commission, as per County Ordinance 15.44, are

- To encourage and promote youth participation in decision-making which affects them;
- To conduct youth needs assessments and surveys;
- To work with agencies and community groups in establishing priorities for youth services;
- To work with planning and funding agencies on development and allocation of funding of youth services;
- To work with agencies to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of youth programs;
- To submit reports and recommendations to the County Board and County Executive.

Youth Commission Vision Statement: To be healthy, contributing citizens in our community and to make responsible choices, all children and youth in Dane County will:

- Have multiple and varied opportunities for individual growth;
- Have a supportive and nurturing relationship with at least one caring, responsible adult;
- Be actively engaged in their own learning;
- Be empowered to contribute to their community in positive and constructive ways;
- Be embraced as a resource and asset by the community.

The Youth Commission engages in the following activities to achieve its vision:

1. Youth Assessment—In collaboration with area schools and funding partners, the Commission conducts a countywide assessment of students in grades 7-12. The most recent Youth Assessment was released in 2015. Data from the Assessment is used by policy makers, schools, law enforcement, social agencies and researchers to plan programs, develop policies and seek funding to better serve youth in Dane County.
2. Youth Governance Program—YGP participants serve on county committees as advisory members. The goal of YGP is to promote youth leadership, provide learning opportunities about local government and public service, and to bring youth voice to community issues while fostering the development of confident, capable and independent leaders for the next generation.. The Youth Commission relies on YGP to provide perspective on policy and program issues.
3. By Youth For Youth Grants—In collaboration with the United Way of Dane County, the City of Madison and UW Extension, the Youth Commission supports this youth-led project that provides grants up to \$3,000 for projects developed by youth for youth throughout Dane County.
4. Service—The Youth Commission supports and advocates for Youth Resource Centers and the other member agencies of the Youth Resource Network in their efforts to provide services that promote positive youth development, build youth assets and prevent risk behaviors. Commissioner engage in other advocacy efforts to support youth in Dane County.

Dane County Youth Commission, 1202 Northport Drive, Madison WI 53704

PH: 608-242-6422

FAX: 608-242-6293

EMAIL: bettin@countyofdane.com