



Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.
Director DHHS

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Kimberly Alfriend, Bonnie Beavers, Carol Cichowski, Tracey Friedlander Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Melissa Goemann, Ijeoma Okoro, Michael Pinard, Kevin Redden, Tom Smith, Heather Sweren, Shuaa Tajammul, and Erin Whaley.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Joanna Bonner, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Elizabeth Emen, Susan Farag, Steve Neff, Jordan Satinsky (Kevin Parker), Mary Siegfried (Brett Lonker), Nathaniel Tipton and Carlotta Woodward

ABSENT MEMBERS: Don Chisholm, Eddie Ellis, Erynn Penn, Joshua Pestaner, Jonathan Scriven and Ebony Stoutmiles,

PRESENT EMERITUS MEMBERS: Carole L. Brown.

ABSENT EMERITUS MEMBERS: Chris Fogleman, and Wendy Pulliam.

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Diane Lininger

SPEAKER: Alycia Chuny, Collaboration Council for Children Youth and Families

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting opened by Kevin Redden, Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ). Kevin introduced Elizabeth Emen as the new ex officio member from Health and Human Services.
- II. **Attendance** – After taking attendance, Diane Lininger asked everyone to mute their microphones unless they were speaking.

- III. **Speaker:** Alycia Chune, Project Director for Young Adult Programs, Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families. Alycia works with all projects for young adults (16 to 24 years old) through the Collaboration Council. Alycia will discuss the three programs she oversees.
- A. MoCo Drop-In Center (Wheaton) (part of Montgomery Reconnect)
 - The Drop-In Center opened last year.
 - The purpose is to work with young people disconnected from school and/or experiencing homelessness.
 - Three providers in this space:
 - B. Shephard Pratt (Provides therapy on site)
 - LGBTQ navigation
 - Pride Youth Services (which provides the AMEN program which is a 12-week curriculum that supports growth/leadership of young men).
 - Latin American Youth Center (GED Program – has about thirty students ages 16-24). Can take referrals for students who are not close to Wheaton – can take the program remotely. Also provides Case Management Services.
 - C. Conservation Corps - Allows young people to earn GED while working at the same time.
 - Once youth are done with the program, staff try to then connect them to employment.
 - D. Evening Reporting Center (another program) (located in Rockville)
 - For young people who have touched the Department of Juvenile Services system. This is a program for young men and women, but the individuals in the program are overwhelmingly male.
 - If the court approves, they can bypass the detention center and report to the reporting center.
 - Work on mindfulness and restorative practices
 - Once complete, they do not have to report to a detention center.
 - Youth are referred to the program by DJS.
 - Will have summer programming as well (internships, etc)
 - Funding is a mix of public and private.
 - Alycia will share information with Diane about how to connect young people to the program.
- IV. **Discussion** - May meeting and topics for the Circuit Court Judges
- Diane circulated last year's topics/questions for reference (Diane shared the questions via share screen)
 - Kevin would like the judges to discuss their thoughts on legislative changes on juvenile justice.
 - Carol would like to hear judges' thoughts on automatic charging. What factors are most significant in determining that a child needs to be waived up to adult court – what are key factors judges look to? Should automatic charging be repealed, interested in the challenges prosecutors will face establishing that case should be in adult court – what kind of evidence will prosecutors need?

- Melissa would like their opinion on whether all children should start in juvenile court, rather than adult court.
- Carlotta: which judges are coming because some judges/magistrates do not hear these waiver matters – we should tailor our questions to the judges who will be present.
- Brett: Judge Smith will be the best judge to discuss waiver/transfer.
- Steve Neff: wants to know what judges are seeing regarding fentanyl cases, and whether they see these matters as different than other drug cases.
- Diane asks that we send any questions we propose to her by next week, so that she can get them to the judges at least one week prior to the meeting.

IV. Old Business

- a. The minutes were approved and adopted for April 2023

V. New Business

- **May** – Circuit Court Judges
- **June** - In person meeting to discuss annual work plan for upcoming fiscal year. Usually, this is a longer meeting than traditional meetings. More details to follow.
- **July**- waiting to hear if Secretary Schiraldi can attend. If not, any other suggestions. The Secretary was given dates of meetings for June, July, and September.

VI. Committees/Subcommittees

A. Prevention (Heather Sweren) – No update.

B. Legislative – (Carol Cichowski)

- The Safe Harbor bill passed with support in both houses.
- Bill, we opposed (HB 698) did not pass – stalled in committee.
- All other bills we worked on were stalled in committees.
- Bill to end automatic charging – did not get vote in either house. Will be reintroduced next year, with compromises.
- Felony Murder – did not get a vote in either house.
- Solitary Confinement Bill – “summer study status.”

C. Work Force – No update

VII. Announcements - Neither Commissioners nor members of the public had any announcements.

VIII. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.