



Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

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## COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

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**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

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

**Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kimberly Alfriend, Bonnie Beavers, Carol Cichowski, Don Chisholm, Bruce Clark, Tracey Friedlander, Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Melissa Goemann, Ijeoma Okoro, Erynn Penn, Joshua Pestaner, Michael Pinard, Kevin Redden, Jonathan Scriven Tom Smith, Shuaa Tajammul, Nathaniel Tipton and Erin Whaley.

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joanna Bonner, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Steve Miller (Elizabeth Emen- substituting), Steve Neff, Jordan Satinsky, Mary Siegfried (Brett Lonker), and Carlotta Woodward

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Eddie Ellis, Ebony Stoutmiles and Heather Sweren

**PRESENT EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Carole L. Brown.

**ABSENT EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Chris Fogleman, and Wendy Pulliam.

**STAFF LIAISON PRESENT:** Diane Lininger

**GUESTS:** Tia Scott

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting was officially opened by Melissa Goemann, Vice- Cochair of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ), who also greeted attendees and outlined its objectives. (Chair Kevin Redden was unable to be at the beginning of the meeting)
- II. **Attendance** – After taking attendance, Diane Lininger asked everyone to mute their microphones unless they were speaking.

**III. Speakers: Carol Cichowski, Chair of the Legislative Committee, and other members of the Legislative Committee**

**A. Discussion and vote on whether to support [HB1180/SB850](#) (felony murder bill) – Carol Cichowski**

- Bill was introduced by Del. Crutchfield.
- Eliminates felony murder doctrine for young people (under 25)
- Commission votes to support the bill. 23 Members were in favor of the bill. 2 Ex-Officio's Department of Juvenile Services and Circuit Court were in abstention.

**B. Discussion and vote on whether to support [HB385/SB459](#) (restrictive housing) – Bonnie Beavers**

- Vulnerable populations definition includes individuals under 26 years of age.
- The general understanding is that solitary confinement is bad for any group, particularly young, incarcerated individuals.
- Lots of support from human rights groups.
- The opposition is from correctional officers and police chiefs.
- Concerns that this bill is not related to Juvenile Population.
- There are children in adult prisons.
- There are concerns that this is outside of the Commission's mandate.
- Mission and its references to juvenile services; states that jails and prisons are serving children who are held there.
- Commission votes – Ex-Officio's from the States' Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Montgomery County Police, Circuit Court, and Child Welfare all voted in abstention. Ex-Officio Voices for Children Montgomery, and two Citizen members voted no. 13 Citizen Members and 2 Ex-Officio's representing Health and Human Services and Montgomery County Public school voted in favor of the bill. There was confusion as to the by-laws if this could be ruled as in support or against.
- Diane was asked to get clarification on Roberts Rules of Order.
- Diane was asked to also get clarification on Scope of the law and if it is under the purview of the CJJ.
- Diane will contact the County Executive's office regarding the vote and question if this bill this fall under the purview of the Commission on Juvenile Justice and to get clarification on Roberts Rules of Order.

**C. Discussion and vote on whether to oppose [HB 698](#) (age change) – Melissa Goemann.**

- Melissa drafted the testimony in capacity of National Juvenile Justice Network – this would be joint testimony.

- The bill would lower juvenile court jurisdiction from 13yrs old to 11 years old (this would undo one of last year's reforms)
- Commission votes to oppose HB 698. Ex-Officios from the States' Attorneys' Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Montgomery County Police, Circuit Court and Child Welfare all voted in abstention. 2 Ex-Officios' from Montgomery County Voices for Children and Montgomery County Public Schools and 16 Citizen Commissioners voted to oppose the bill.
- The States Attorney's office abstained from the vote and that that the abstention should be included in the letter to the legislature. Diane stated that this issue had been addressed last year by the County Executive's office and that it should be enough that we have the abstention in the minutes. Diane will check again with the County Executive's office.

**D. Updates on HB96/SB93 and HB297/SB292 – Carol Cichowski**

- HB 96/SB 93 - Submitted testimony in support of bill to end automatic charging. Senate hearing was last week; House hearing is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- HB 297/SB 292 (Safe Harbor Bill) Hearings have already commenced on this bill. House voted it out of committee and the bill will be going to house floor next week.

**IV. Old Business**

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

**V. New Business**

**A. Annual Report – Diane**

- Annual report is attached to meeting agenda.
- Motion was made to accept Annual report.
- Motion was seconded.
- All were in Favor.

**B. March – Kimberly Pogue, Superintendent of Cheltenham- Would like any specific questions that you may have to be submitted to Diane.**

- Any future requests for DJS speakers should go through Frank, as DJS representative on the Committee
- If anyone has any specific questions for Ms. Pogue, please send to Diane by end of this week.

**C. April - No speaker lined up yet. Please send speaker suggestions to Diane**

**D. May – Circuit Court Judges**

**E. Legal Aide representative on the CJJ- Kimberly Alfriend**

- It was requested that Legal Aid be made an ex officio organizational member of the CJJ. Legal Aid represents CINA youth (primary provider of legal services for CINA youth) – does not do delinquency work. Commission would need to vote to add Legal Aid as an ex officio in the

Legislation and the request would then go to the County Executive and then go to County Council

- Suggestion to defer vote until we get a letter from Legal Aid in support of the request to join CJJ. Commissioners agreed to wait for a letter of request and will then hold a discussion and possible vote.

**F. Committees/Subcommittees**

- Prevention (Heather Sweren) – No update.
- Legislative – Gave their update earlier.
- Work Force – No update

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

**H. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.