



Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.
Director DHHS

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

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

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Kimberly Alfriend, Bonnie Beavers, Carol Cichowski, Bruce Clark, Don Chisholm, Eddie Ellis, Tracey Friedlander, Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Melissa Goemann, Chris Jennison, Ijeoma Okoro, Erynn Penn, Joshua Pestaner, Michael Pinard, Kevin Redden, Jonathan Scriven, Tom Smith, Ebony Stoutmiles, Heather Sweren, Thomas Squire, Shuaa Tajammul, and Erin Whaley.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Joanna Bonner, Amy Daum, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Steve Miller, Steve Neff, Mary Siegfried, Nathaniel Tipton, and Carlotta Woodward.

ABSENT EMERITUS MEMBERS: Carole L Brown, Chris Fogleman, and Wendy Pulliam.

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Diane Lininger.

GUESTS: Viviana Azar, Mia Reed **and** Dr. Rolando Santiago

- I. **Welcome** – Chair, Christopher Jennison, welcomed members, called meeting to order, and communicate the goals of the meeting to present members and guests.
- II. **Attendance** – Diane took attendance and asked all attendees to mute microphones unless speaking.
- III. **The Legislative Committee and Youth Charged as Adults Subcommittee will discuss legislative topics.**
 - HB0294/SB0165 - Juvenile Court – Jurisdiction –
 - Attached is the bill's testimony and letter – Carol Cichowski testified on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ).

- HB0459 - Juvenile Justice Reform
 - The letter, covering the bill is attached for review.
- SB0119/HB0084 - Education – Crimes on School Grounds – Application -
 - The letter of support for the bills, approved by the CJJ, is attached for review.
- SB0053/HB0269 - Juvenile Law - Child Interrogation Protection Act – Attached is testimony Ebony Stoutmiles testified on behalf of CJJ. CJJ had voted in favor of this bill last year.
- SB0768 - Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response- Nothing has been written by the Commission on this bill
- a bill to provide a safe harbor/immunity from prosecution for minor victims of sex trafficking. The hearing on the cross-file is this week (HB 833, sponsored by Del. Lierman, on 2/17), but we have time to submit testimony in the Senate. That hearing is on March 8. Under the bill, victims will no longer be able to be detained in a juvenile facility or decided as delinquent for prostitution or other offenses committed because of sex trafficking.

IV. Dr. Rolando Santiago, Chief Behavioral Health and Crisis Services- Update on Health and Human Services.

- Crisis model and youth may need to improve the services for the younger generation with behavioral development needs.
- Mobile Crisis Units aspire to expand beyond Montgomery County by offering more regional services. Young people, as well as other adults in behavioral health crises, sometimes are from other counties outside Montgomery County.
- Crisis outreach teams: Over the past few years, the county has completed several initiatives. For example, the crisis teams included hiring six new therapists; increasing the number of specialists from twenty-four therapists, where thirty are currently affiliated with the 24/7 operations at Picard Drive Crisis Center.
- In August 2021, crisis outreach teams opened two new location bases in Silver Spring and in Germantown so we can reach one quickly when there is a call. They can reach the scenes more quickly and as we continue to expand.
- Looking for additional funding from the county for fiscal year 23 and hopefully fiscal year 24. Have fourteen new positions vacant right now.
- Recently mobile crisis units have had positive involvement with recent crises in schools by helping students and parents, but also working closely with MCPD and MCPS staff.
- Looking for more grants to further history of connecting with the schools as they were pre-pandemic.

V. Old business –

- a. Vote to finalize January 2022 minutes. (Approved)**
- b. Subcommittee/Ad-hoc Subcommittee meetings**
 - a. Youth Charged as adults – Carol Cichowski**
 - b. Youth Panel – Joshua Pestaner –** Subcommittee met again to clarify questions for youth; and continues to identify a three youths to serve on the panel. The Subcommittee is accepting referrals. Requirements under consideration include:
 - Youth who are 16-24 years of age
 - Individuals, previously in the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS); should have completed cases but have active supervision.
 - Representatives, serving on the Youth Panel will be prohibited from discussing any specific cases or prior charges.

VI. New Business

- a. March Meeting – Nathaniel Parks, MPA, LCSW-C, Treatment Section Manager, Child Welfare Services, DHHS –** to speak at the meeting. The manager has been meeting weekly with multiple staff within DHHS and MCPS. Primary aims focused on de-escalating the threat of violence among youth involved in the Plum Gar shooting event last August 2021. Other topics included addressing best practices with de-escalating youth community violence.
- b. April Meeting –** Julia Angel to present the Young People for Progress's teach-in on policing in schools. Am still working on trying to reach Shana Jorandby and Ruschelle Reuben. Will also be discussing topics to discuss at the May meeting.
- c. May Meeting –** the Annual Juvenile Judges meeting.
- d. June Meeting –** Youth Panel
- d. Nominating Committee-** we will convene a nominating committee after the March meeting to identify leadership for 2022-2023. If you have an interest in serving as Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, or committee chair, please let Diane know. If you're not interested in serving in one of those roles, you can serve on the Nominating Committee.

VII. Meeting Adjourned by the CJJ Committee Chair.

