



Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.  
*Director DHHS*

## COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

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**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

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

### **Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kimberly Alfrend, Tracey Friedlander, Chris Jennison, Erynn Penn, Joshua Pestaner, Kevin Redden, Vernon Scott, and Angela Tolliver.

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joanna Bonner (Marianne Hendricks substituting), Amy Daum, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Patty Lyman, Steve Miller, Steve Neff, Mary Siegfried, and Carlotta Woodward.

**EMERITUS MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carole L Brown and Chris Fogleman.

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Diana Barney, Dan Gaskill, Wendy Pulliam, Melanie Rush, Nathaniel Tipton, Ebony Stoutmiles, and Thomas Squire.

**STAFF LIASON PRESENT:** Diane Lininger.

**GUESTS:** Shelby Hickman, Lieutenant O'rmsby, Sara Rose, Dr. Rolando Santiago,

**SPEAKERS:** Honorable Cynthia Callahan, Family Judge in Charge, Honorable Ann K. Albright, Honorable Bibi M. Berry, Honorable Robert A. Greenberg, Honorable Jill R. Cummings, Honorable Michael McAuliffe

- I. **Welcome** – Chris Jennison, Chair.
- II. **Introduction of the Circuit Court Judges** – Chris Jennison, Chair
  - a. Honorable Cynthia Callahan, Family Judge in Charge
  - b. Honorable Ann K. Albright
  - c. Honorable Robert A. Greenberg
  - d. Honorable Jeannie Cho
  - e. Honorable Jill R. Cummings
  - f. Honorable Michael J. McAuliffe
- III. **Topics/Questions/Discussion with the Circuit Court Judges**

## **1. Update on the court during Covid restrictions**

- a. With Covid restrictions lightening up in Montgomery County and vaccines being completed by citizens, are more resources in the community (youth programs) being recommended and opening as options for youth to interact in person with?
- b. Judge Albright reported the court is still wearing masks and still using zoom for hearings.
- c. Has Covid created a “new normal” of how many court cases and schedule hearings will be conducted for the near future or beyond?
- d. How are the changes affecting the Judges ability to do their work and for the youth to comply with orders?
- e. Judge Callahan reported that Youth and their families are much more engaged and able to attend their hearings since they don’t have to drive anywhere and can zoom in from other locations. Court is not sure as to how the new normal will play out and what plans to make for the future but remote is working. We need different ways to help kids, the lack of resources and money make it difficult to help.

## **2. Could you talk about your experience with any cases involving crossover/dual jurisdiction youth?**

- a. How is the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) protocol/procedure working between the agencies (DHHS and DJS)?
- b. When a crossover/dual jurisdiction youth does not have a long term/stable home, what would be helpful to the Court in determining orders for the youth, e.g., when a youth has minor delinquency offense(s) and DHHS is having difficulty in finding a home/placement?
- c. Judge Callahan: “We’ve been successful in some ways we didn’t expect. DHHS and DJS is getting better at communicating with each other to get the youth what they need.”

## **3. Adjudicated Youth – is it possible for judges to leverage as part of youth disposition to attend school regularly? I know it is a criterion but is it possible for the judges to have some sort of leverage on school attendance?**

- a. Judge Albright: “This is a challenging topic. Typically, when juveniles are placed on supervised probation, one of the conditions is that they attend school, and we hope they do that. The question is what do we do when they don’t do it. Do we detain them or put them in placement? The harder question is what do we do when so many of our youth have been attending

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school virtually. More people are going back to school in person. I try to find out why they are having trouble attending school. I try to bring in our MCPS liaison to help understand what the problem is to help the families solve it. Especially with virtual learning, it could be things such as trouble getting online or even a learning difficulty. If we can understand what the problem is, it is easier to alleviate it in a non-punitive manner.”

**4. What would the judges recommend for services/ and or legislation to help them in their work?**

- a. Judge Callahan: “Most of this gets done by the legislature, but one of the real problems is economics. These are kids who do bad things, and they have trouble getting resources. The problem is not that we need more services, the need is for us to have a different way to deal with these kids and while we have worked on it, it is problematic. The reality is, especially in the last year and a half, these kids who are in the juvenile justice system have two major problems. There are not enough resources because they are kids that do bad things, so they are not very popular. There is not a lot of energy around helping these youth.”

**5. Are there any trends that you see that the front-line workers should address in their work with clients?**

- a. Judge Callahan: “I think that in a different year I might have a different answer. This has been a hard 18 months. It has been hard on kids who need services and hard on the courts. We have really tried to just keep everything together. We tried to keep kids moving rather than having them fall back.”

**6. Are you seeing a difference in the types of offenses youth are committing during pandemic?**

- a. Judge Albright: “We are seeing some carjackings, which we did not see before and they are cases where the activity is on the MD, DC line. It sometimes involves both boys and girls, sometimes involves multiple carjackings within a couple of days. An observation about this is that many kids were home or doing school at home and since they were board, they figured why not. Therefore, school seems so important.”

**7. Are there any resources that are better than others?**

- a. Judge Callahan: “I think the first thing is hoping that we never go through this again! I think if we were able to see in the future of having created what we had to create for online learning, I think the internet was an integral part. It helped that kids had computers to help with school and to talk to friends

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and teachers. In Montgomery County it worked well, but some other counties it did not because they don't have the resources."

- b. Judge Albright: "A couple of benefits of the pandemic are that since we are having remote hearings, it is easier to have the hearings and we are seeing the kids in our jurisdiction more often. There is also telehealth therapy for those kids who wouldn't normally get it. We don't know if it is more effective than in person therapy. Finally, DJS was having weekly phone calls in the beginning of the pandemic with their facilities, and those calls have fortunately (because the pandemic is receding) become once a month and we are now hearing more from DJS about what is happening".

**8. Going along with that, are there any resources that are being used more or less in adjudication? Are more youth being sent home with electronic monitoring or being put on probation versus being detained?**

- a. Detention is really the last resort, so we are trying to keep kids at home with monitoring as much as possible. We are trying to keep kids from being in a congregate situation because of COVID.

**9. Are there any pandemic success stories the judges would like to mention?**

- a. Judge McAuliffe: we all learned to use zoom? Zoom visitation has been great for both parents and youth. Some parents who never visited their kids are now doing zoom visitation.

**V. New Business**

- a. Nomination Committee – please read email that Diane sent out and email her your nominations for the executive Committee.
- b. June Meeting – Antonia Reason, Superintendent Alfred D. Noyes will be giving an update on the Detention Center. Need to know any questions or statistics you would like to have her give us. Nominating executive board to start in July.
- c. July meeting – coming up with priorities and subcommittees for the year.
- d. Please let Chris or Diane know if you would like to submit an article about our meeting with the judges for the annual report.

**VI. Meeting Adjourned.**