



Isiah Leggett
Executive

Uma Ahluwalia *County*
Director

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

401 Hungerford drive, 1st floor conference room

Rockville, Maryland 20850

Meeting Minutes

CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Shezhad Akhtar, Maria Blaeuer, Bonnie DeWitt, Chris Fogleman (Vice-Chair), Karen Frances, Mike Gruenberg, Stacey Gurian-Sherman, Jessica Markham, Perry Paylor, Roberta Pieczenik, Carlean Ponder (Chair), Wendy Pulliam and Tisha Wiley.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Gloria Bowen, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Risa Mainprize, and Elijah Wheeler

ABSENT MEMBERS: Captain James Humphries, Erynn Penn, Mary Siegfried, George Simms (Amy Bills), Michael Subin and Ira Thomas,

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Diane Lininger

GUESTS: Karyn Gross, and Marji Josh.

I. Announcements:

- A.** On September 27, 2016 we will be visiting the Evening Reporting Center in Rockville (Predisposition Detention Alternative).
- B.** On October 11 we will be visiting the Alfred D. Noyes Center in Rockville.
- C.** Chairs of BCC's meeting with Uma Ahluwalia on September 26
- D.** Meeting with the HHS committee of the County Council on October.
- E.** Letter was sent to Senator Muse and others. Final letter disseminated.
- F.** Interviews for vacancies on the CJJ- Carlean appointed Francha and Wendy have done interviews. This is not a rolling process. Waiting on recommendations to fill vacancies.
- G.** Crystal N. Brice, Field Director, Instruction & School Support, DCCR- Juvenile Services Education, Maryland State Department of Education has agreed to speak at our October meeting to update us on how the educational system is working in the juvenile detention facilities.

II. Old Business: July 2016 meeting minutes approved

III. Speaker: Isaac Hammond-Paul and Luis Garcia, DC Youth Re-Engagement Center

Mission: To remove barriers and create pathways for District Residents to receive an excellent education and prepare them to achieve success in college, careers and life.

The re-engagement center opened two years ago in response to question that many had, which is, what is happening to 30% of youth not graduating from HS. This was about 8500 students. They had no high school credentials and were not enrolled in school. As a collaborative project of many groups, many in-kind donations (2 staff) and a one-time \$100,000 donation from Mayor's office to pay for the early transition (obtaining a director and deputy). 3 months later had \$500,000 funding to roll out the program. Working on engagement with the Courts to make them aware of the needs and circumstances of the students. Meaningful mile-markers for students- regular meetings, engaging in services (housing assessment, etc.). Fit between student and school and services. New program with OAG to engage potential students with certain charges, ages 16-24 years old. Advisory board with public/private and government members. They report monthly how many students are being enrolled and being re-enrolled. Substance abuse treatment is very formalized through Dept. of Human Services, and it has been difficult to obtain those services.

5 Pillars of the program

1. **Outreach**- how to engage the 8500 youth? How to get them to walk in? Partnerships with government agencies that work with high school aged groups.

Working with Attorney general for deferred sentencing agreements. Those that qualify and are interested, they can meet some goals and can get charges lifted or sentencing dropped. Also working with Department of Human Services to get TANF recipients referred as their primary vendor. Also working with other agencies and nonprofits. Trained 1,100 police officers (did not find this to be effective; sought police referrals and only received 8). Recently created a PSA to play at police roll calls. Co-locate at variety of places. Do marketing to get people aware of services. Spread locations throughout DC (Minnesota Ave, Columbia Heights, etc.) to engage with all populations/backgrounds. Services are available to all ages. Youth Service Center (Detention Facility) makes many referrals. There is a transitional home (Hope House) that is not engaged.

2. **Assessment**- Co located and Department of employment services- 75% of youth identify employment as a barrier to returning to school (had to go to work to support themselves or family). Case manager talks to them initially about why they dropped out and do a literacy assessment. Formalized agreement with DCPS to get transcripts and attendance data. Intake interview is trying to assess what services they need to go back to school. Balance between getting them into school quickly and finding the right school and making sure they're supported (housing, mental health services, have ID, transportation, proper documentation, clothing, etc.). Family reunification services, daycare services, and other services also available. There are also basic services available by referral such as laundry, mental health therapy, etc.
3. **Placement**-19 other similar centers throughout the country. Tried to co-locate as many services as possible in the building, to minimize issues the kids will have to enroll in school. This has been easier than for cities that did this on the nonprofit level. Transportation subsidies are available for example, and they're available to students (co-location of services helps avoid chicken and egg problems). There are four alternative public schools- adult public charter schools, adult and family ed programs (GED or career and technical training). Standing operating is to present options to clients and then take them on site visits.
4. **Case management** - Then they provide a year of case management. This includes monthly check-ins. For higher resource students, they come in every other day.
5. **Data Collection**- limited due to staff of six. Have 550 clients.

IV. Mike Gruenberg

Update on the Alfred D. Noyes Detention facility. Written update disseminated. There is a beautician, gardening program, art appreciation, labor day/back to school bash. Short on staff. They need 30 people and only have 15. People have been leaving, perhaps related to burnout/salaries. People cannot afford to work at Noyes and live in Montgomery County.

Lack of staff can lead to the youth being locked in. She wishes to provide iPads for all the kids.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Care, Custody and Placement-** discussed how the speaker this evening is related to the work of the committee. Committee is very interested in finding out how we can get a re-engagement center in Montgomery county.
- B. Government and Community Relations-** discussing Silver Oaks and other detention centers. Looking into collecting data about this facility to find out if we should encourage it.

VI. Adjourn at 9:00 p.m.