



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma Ahluwalia
Director

Commission on Juvenile Justice Fiscal Year 2011 Work Plan

June 2010

General Statement of Purpose for Fiscal Year 2011:

The Commission's committee structure for the upcoming fiscal year will include four standing committees: Executive; Government and Community Relations; Care, Custody, and Placement; and Evaluation and Analysis. *Ad hoc* committees are established as needed (e.g., for naming of officers and new Commission member interviews). Committees will meet prior to the Commission meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, except in August and December.

The Commission will continue to be proactive in reviewing proposed legislation at the State and local level.

Each member will participate in the work of the Commission, including serving on at least one committee.

The Commission will continue to review and address how Montgomery County assesses needs and delivers treatment to its juvenile justice population.

The Commission studies, reports, monitors, and advocates for the issues identified on the attached pages.

Executive Committee – Chair Mary Poulin

Members: Christine Bartlett (Vice Chair), Mark Resner (Secretary), Francha Davis (Government and Community Relations Committee Chair), Jennifer Gauthier and Elijah Wheeler (Care, Custody, and Placement Committee Co-Chairs), and Wendy Pulliam (Evaluation and Analysis Committee Chair).

The Executive Committee represents the Commission at meetings with the Health and Human Services Director, County Executive, and County Council; drafts and presents testimony on legislation of interest; and provides administrative support to the Commission. The Executive Committee organizes Commission membership, orientation, the annual work plan, and the annual report. The Commission Vice-Chair facilitates committee meetings.

Government and Community Relations Committee – Chair Francha Davis

Members: Christine Bartlett, Chris Fogleman, Marcus Gladstone, Ashok Kapur, Mondy Kumbula-Fraser, Mark Resner, Irv Slott, Mike Subin, Paul Vance and Ronald Wright.

Over the next fiscal year, the Government and Community Relations Committee will seek to:

(1) foster greater collaboration among state and county officials and agencies with the goal of ensuring that services for juveniles are responsive to local needs and, in particular, to Montgomery County and the Montgomery-Prince Georges County region, and (2) advocate for necessary changes to state and county resource allocation and, in particular, the re-allocation of responsibilities and resources from the state level to the county/regional level for programs and services that the Commission identifies as being more appropriately managed at the local level.

Such collaboration and advocacy will be accomplished through targeted involvement in the state legislative process, the state and county policy development process, and the county budget process. This will involve building relationships at the county, state and national levels with individuals, organizations and agencies that impact the treatment of juveniles in the county/region.

During the coming year, the Government and Community Relations Committee will focus its outreach on three specific areas:

1. Small institutions: Research has proven that smaller, more localized facilities improve treatment outcomes for juveniles, reduce recidivism, and encourage family participation that is vital to a juvenile's continued success after commitment. The Commission endeavors to limit both state and privately owned facilities that are licensed by the state to no more than 48 beds.
2. Expanding the availability of evidence-based treatment options in Montgomery County: Research has shown that evidence-based practices can cost a fraction of secure detention or group homes while demonstrating significantly better results. Funds were allocated to support a small number of evidence-based treatment slots in Montgomery County during fiscal year 2010. The Commission would like to see a significant increase in the number of juveniles and their families receiving these services from the currently allocated 10-12 slots.
3. Alternatives to placing youth in detention: Research has shown that community-based alternatives to detention reduce crowding, reduce the costs of operating juvenile facilities, shield juveniles from the stigma of institutionalization, help offenders avoid association with juveniles who have more serious delinquent histories, and help juveniles maintain positive ties with the family and community. Research has also shown that community-based programs are more effective than traditional correctional programs in reducing recidivism and improving community adjustment. The Commission believes that reliance on detention for delinquent juveniles must be reduced and the number of effective community-based alternatives to detention must be increased.

Care, Custody, and Placement Committee: Co-Chairs Jennifer Gauthier and Elijah Wheeler.

Members: Jennifer Barmon, Margaret Burrowes, Blaine Clarke, Susan Cruz, Margaret Currie, Lee Haller, Madeleine Jones, Sharon Kelly, Susan Farag, Maurice Sessoms, and Mary Siegfried.

Identify and describe existing services provided to Montgomery County female youth under supervision of the juvenile court or Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) with a focus on health, mental health, substance abuse and education services available to such youth and

their families, and whether they are evidence-based and adequate to fulfill the needs in the County.

Evaluation and Analysis Committee: Chair Wendy Pulliam.

Members: Jacob Frenkel, Barbara Holtz, Jeffrey Penn, Dana Pisanelli, Mary Poulin and Kathi Rhodes.

The Evaluation and Analysis Committee's role is to evaluate, analyze, review, and monitor programs, plans, and Commission issues. In the course of the next year, the committee will conduct an analysis of data used for decision and policy making in the juvenile justice system. In the absence of data, it is difficult to appropriately identify service needs for youths and assess where service gaps/needs exist. The Committee will conduct a review of available data and make recommendations to improve data, close service gaps and meet service needs, as needed. In addition to the focus on data, the Committee will work with the Government and Community Relations Committee to develop a message strategy regarding the Commission's juvenile justice vision statement.

The Committee envisions a system whereby high quality data will be collected and used to identify system and youth needs and ensure accountability. Collection and use of data should be an evolving process whereby data are continuously analyzed to ensure that services provided remain responsive to the needs of the county. The data review will include:

1. Identify available sources of system data from youths' first to last contact with the system (arrest to case close). Sources may include; Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, police, courts, University of Maryland Innovations Institute, Advocates for Children and Youth, Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition, and Mid-Atlantic Defenders Center.
2. Determine what other sources of data are available that may support system data (e.g., data on youths at-risk of delinquency)
3. Determine what and how data is used for planning, service, placement and sanctioning decisions, and policy-making.
4. Determine how DJS is using data to make decisions about which programs to cut. Is there a particular standard that DJS uses to determine if a program is evidence-based? Are there promising programs that are encouraged to collect data that would move them towards becoming evidence-based?
5. Present information to the full commission on a) standards for evidence-based programming, and b) outcome data collected by DJS (e.g., recidivism).