



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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County Executive

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Commission on Juvenile Justice Fiscal Year 2018 Work Plan

June 2017

General Statement of Purpose for Fiscal Year 2018:

The Commission's committee structure for the upcoming fiscal year will include three standing committees: Executive; Government and Community Relations and Care, Custody, and Placement; *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 meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month except in August and December. When the Commissioners feel there is an issue that needs more in-depth discussion, the Commission will hold a teleconference. Notice of such teleconferences will be given in advance.

The Commission will only take action in accordance with our enabling legislation.

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 Chris Fogleman

Members: Francha Davis (Vice Chair), vacant (Secretary), Christopher Jennison (Government and Community Relations Committee Chair), Karen Francis (Care, Custody, and Placement 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.

Government and Community Relations Committee: Chair Christopher Jennison

Members: Shehzad Akhtar, Francha Davis, Bonnie DeWitt, Chris Fogleman, Captain James Humphries, Perry Paylor, Wendy Pulliam, and Mike Subin.

The **Government and Community Relations Committee** coordinates and facilitates exchanges in connection with providing recommendations to the Commission's legislative Agenda; 2) monitors and tracks legislation affiliated with Juvenile Justice System; and 3) oversees the annual forum with Montgomery County Juvenile Court judges.

In furtherance of and consistent with the Commission's focus on intervention and prevention efforts for high need youth, including disproportionate minority contact, gender specific, and re-entry issues, during the next year, the **Government and Community Relations Committee** will take the following action steps.

- *Monitor report on, and make recommendations regarding relevant proposed legislation.*
- *Advocate for Commission budget recommendations.*
- *Address the following issues:*
 - *Research best practices in community youth engagement and develop partnerships for engaging at-opportunity youth*
 - *Research and advocate for alternative treatments for female juveniles*

Care, Custody, and Placement Committee: Chair Karen Francis

Members: Maria Blaeuer, Gloria Bowen, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Michael Gruenberg, Jennifer Littlejohn, Erynn Penn, Roberta Rovner Pieczenik, Sierra Ross, Mary Siegfried, Tisha Wiley and Elijah Wheeler.

Two- year work plan for the Care, Custody & Placement Committee

The objective of the CJJ's Care, Custody & Placement Committee is to monitor and track the quality of care provided to Montgomery County Youth in Community Placement or Residential facilities which may located outside the county or the state.

The previous year's work plan was the starting place for this year's plan and informed the decision to view this as a two- year plan. This plan includes two objectives that are continuation of the committee's previous work (objectives 1 and 2), and two objectives that are direct responses to needs expressed to committee over the past year (objectives 4 and 5).

The plan also includes a broader objective specifically designed to ensure that the concerns of the CJJ's Care, Custody & Placement Committee are heard in the larger community and by relevant decision-makers. This objective (number 3 below), will require the Care, Custody & Placement Committee to collaborate with the whole Commission and the Government Relations Committee in particular.

Objective 1

To advocate for effective vocational training programs for youth who have been detained.

- i) Identify vocational programs that are available at the facilities and look at the effectiveness of those programs.
- ii) Identify other agencies that are providing services and look at the effectiveness of those programs within those agencies.
- iii) Identify and create relationships with MSDE and other agencies within Montgomery County and state-wide who have responsibility for this work to facilitate collaboration and information gathering.
- iv) Commit to participating in some sort of fact-gathering, community-engagement, stakeholder, roundtable event.

Objective 2

To advocate for effective re-entry opportunities for youth who have been detained and for at opportunity youth.

- i) Identify vocational programs that are available at the facilities and look at the effectiveness of those programs.
- ii) Identify other agencies that are providing services and look at the effectiveness of those programs within those agencies.
- iii) Identify and create relationships with MSDE and other agencies within Montgomery County and state-wide who have responsibility for this work to facilitate collaboration and information gathering.
- iv) Commit to participating in some sort of fact-gathering, community-engagement, stakeholder, roundtable event.

Objective 3

Create a strong voice for CJJ & the children and the families we serve, within county and state government, and be a voice and a resource for state and county agencies.

- i) We do this by sharing what we learn, what we see, what we know with elected officials, policy makers and those who are implementing those policies
- ii) We also do this by listening to community members, stakeholders, and policy maker about their concerns.

Objective 4

To strengthen and support the services for the Evening Reporting Center, which is currently grant funded and unavailable post-disposition.

- i. Determine what the current funding situation is, and what is needed to allow it to be available post-disposition.
- ii. Obtain statements of support for Evening Reporting Center.
- iii. Communicate to DJS and MC Council and the Evening Reporting Center should be funded as to be available post-disposition.
- iv. Specifically work with Elijah Wheeler, Director of Social Justice at the Collaboration Council.