



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma Ahluwalia
Director

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2013

CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Carole Brown, Michael Citren, Linda Currie, Chris Fogleman (Chair), Jennifer Gauthier, Michael Gruenberg, Barbara Holtz, Christopher Jackson, Mehul Madia (Vice Chair), Gladstone Marcus (Co-Chair Government and Community Relations), Perry Paylor (Co-Chair Government and Community Relations), Dana Pisanelli, and Carlean Ponder (Co-Chair Care, Custody and Placement), Wendy Pulliam, Timothy Warner, Lisa Winer.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Blaine Clarke, Robert Carter, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Risa Mainprize, Mary Siegfried, George Simms, Michael Subin, Ira Thomas, Jenny West and Elijah Wheeler (Co-Chair Care, Custody and Placement).

ABSENT MEMBERS: Elaine Bullington, Margaret Currie, Jasmine Shergill, and Mark Resner.

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Diane Lininger

EMERITUS MEMBERS: Dr. Lee Haller

GUESTS: Jose Saavedra

Commission on Juvenile Justice

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facsimile

I. Announcements /Preliminary business

A. Introductions of members of the CJJ

II. Old Business

A. The minutes from the July meeting were accepted as presented after a motion and a second.

III. New Business

- A. The JCC Annual Report is due at the end of October, 2013. Some articles have already been submitted.
- B. Executive Committee meeting was on July 29, 2013. The minutes have been sent to all the Commission members.
- C. The October meeting agenda includes a speaker from the ACLU to speak on Bill 916, a new Maryland law allowing for alternatives to detention for non-violent offenders.
- D. The November meeting agenda will include a speaker from the Department of Juvenile Services, Delmonica Hawkins, Regional Manager. The Commission needs to come up with a list of questions for her.

IV. Speakers- Each agency member briefly described what his/her agency does, his/her work within that agency, and how it relates to the Commission on Juvenile Justice.

1. Blaine Clark – Department of Health and Human Services- works with the Violence Prevention Initiative. It is a more intensive probation monitoring program which includes both electronic monitoring as well as more frequent visits by the probation officer. It is for kids with lengthy records who have not benefited from previous treatments and programs. His job is to work collaboratively with DJS, and the juveniles and their families to link them with services. Blaine's work involves case management to keep the juveniles on track in terms of school and work. The rate of success is hard to measure depending on the criteria. It is felt there is a 60% success rate in terms of reduced recidivism.
2. Captain Robert Carter – Family Crimes Division of the Police-This division investigates child exploitation, sexual abuse, runaways, domestic violence, etc.
3. Frank Duncan – Department of Juvenile Services-Assistant Regional Director. Frank is in charge of the day to day operations for Montgomery County. He reviews community and residential programs and works collaboratively with different agencies.
4. Francha Davis – CASA- Court Appointed Special Advocate. This is a local non-profit. Volunteers work with children who are involved in foster care and CINA cases- Children in Need of Assistance.
5. Susan Farag- works for the County Council Office of policy and budget for Public Safety. The council is the appropriation body for most county services.

6. Risa Mainprize - Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Juvenile Division. When cases are filed with the Juvenile Court, they are carefully managed to minimize delay and ensure that they are resolved promptly. If a child is detained, then the trial (called the adjudicatory hearing) must take place within 30 days of the child's detention. If the child is not detained, then the adjudicatory hearing must be held within 60 days of the start of the case. Case managers are assigned to all cases to make sure that they are processed efficiently and pursuant to the statutory timelines. There are currently four judges assigned to hear juvenile matters, including child welfare and delinquency cases, and four dedicated juvenile case managers.
7. Michael Subin- County Executive Representative-Susan Farag takes the recommendations of the Commission back to the Council. Mike takes recommendations to the County Executive. Positive Youth Development had been recommended to the Council as well as other initiatives recommended by the CJJ.
8. Ira Thomas- Montgomery County Public Schools-The goal is to provide youth with a good education in addition to social/emotional skills. Mr. Thomas is here to build networks with Commission members and bring back recommendations to the Superintendent. He is a principal for special programs for youth who have struggled in the traditional school settings.
9. Jenny West – Child Welfare-This agency is dedicated to intervene with families who have experienced physical and sexual abuse. The work includes finding alternative placements for children and putting an array of services into place to support the families. Ms. West works primarily with children who have been placed outside of the home and may also have significant mental health issues.
10. Elijah Wheeler – Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families- Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction Coordinator. This position studies the level of disparity for youth of color in the juvenile justice system in Montgomery County from the initial point of police contact through waiver to adult court. Elijah's job requires him to report to the Governor's office of Crime, Control and Prevention and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention under the Department of Justice.
11. Mary Siegfried, Office of the Public Defender. This office consists of four attorneys that represent kids charged in juvenile court or in the adult system. It also has an educational attorney to help with education issues. The Office of Public Defenders has taken the lead on initiatives such as allowing undocumented students to take the GED when in detention. The Public Defender Office also got involved with the Harriet Tubman shelter since the shelter was not providing sufficient educational programs to ensure that those kids were being appropriately educated. There is a social worker on staff as well to help link with services even when a case has been dismissed. The Office also helps kids get their adult records expunged if they were arrested or charged as adults so that it won't interfere with future job applications. This issue could be something the Commission could get involved with in terms of

finding funding to file the paperwork for their records to be expunged. The biggest problem confronting kids when they come out of placement is the lack of job training. They return to the same families and neighborhoods. They may have some new skills but they need more job training within the juvenile detention system and more job training programs for when they return home. The kids want to work but it is difficult to place them. Conservation Corps had been any effective program but the money has dried up. It would be a positive initiative for the Commission to advocate for more funding for this program. Jennifer Gauthier's program "Lead 4 Life" is also effective with helping the young women who come out of detention. Finding small job training programs for when they return to the community is vital. They also need to be taught about how to dress properly for a job interview as well as finding sources to provide them with appropriate clothing.

12. George Simms- Office of the State's Attorney- Team leader of the State's Attorney Office Juvenile Team. This team also includes a gang prosecutor. A task force to study the juvenile justice system in Maryland is being conducted now. Children aren't charged with a crime, they are charged with an offense. 1049 cases were petitioned for judicial action after a child was taken into custody in 2012. There were a total of 6,294 juvenile court hearings in 2012. Prevention measures for juveniles include: Teen Court- held weekly on Wednesdays at 6:00. Juveniles sent to teen court do not go to the regular court. Fellow teens hear the case and determine the consequences. Truancy court is a ten week program for students who have a five to fifteen percent unexcused absence rate. The members of the Truancy court go to certain schools and counsel the students weekly on issues. Kennedy Project is held at Kennedy High School. Multiple agencies go to the high school twice a month to meet with on average eight students and their families per session. It's been going on since 2009. George recommends advocating for additional support for the Kennedy Program and Truancy Court. He feels the biggest problem currently is the disproportionality of minority children detained and placed in detention

V. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.