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County Executive

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Director DHHS

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Beavers, Carol Cichowski, Don Chisholm, Bruce Clark, Tracey Friedlander, Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Melissa Goemann, Ijeoma Okoro, Erynn Penn, Joshua Pestaner, Michael Pinard, Kevin Redden, Tom Smith, Ebony Stoutmiles Heather Sweren, Shuaa Tajammul, and Erin Whaley.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Joanna Bonner, Amy Daum (Jordan Satinsky), Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Steve Neff, Mary Siegfried (Brett Lonker), and Carlotta Woodward

ABSENT MEMBERS: Kimberly Alfrend, Eddie Ellis, Steve Miller, Jonathan Scriven and Nathaniel Tipton.

PRESENT EMERITUS MEMBERS: Carole L. Brown.

ABSENT EMERITUS MEMBERS: Chris Fogleman, and Wendy Pulliam.

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Diane Lininger

GUESTS: Nick Moroney and Tia Scott

GUESTS: Delegate Sandy Bartlett and Krystal Williams Office of Public Defender, Director of Government Relations

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting was officially opened by Kevin Redden, Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ), who also greeted attendees and outlined its objectives.
- II. **Attendance** – After taking attendance, Diane Lininger asked everyone to mute their microphones unless they were speaking.

III. Speakers: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett - Maryland House of Delegates, District 32, Judiciary Committee; and Krystal Williams - Maryland Office of Public Defender (OPD), Director of Government Relations.

a. Delegate Bartlett - Legislative Priorities this Session

- Maryland State Police Gun Center- Intent of bill is to track firearms in the context of domestic violence cases.
- Medical Parole – Goal is to take Governor out of decision-making process.
- REDEEM Act- modification of expungement of records. Shortening the waiting period to expunge some types of crime.
- Safe Harbor Bill- which provides safe harbor for child sex trafficking victims.
- Firearm Safe Storage Bill

b. Krystal Williams -Legislative Priorities this Session

- There is a new PD this year, who is going in the session with a very active approach.
- Ending automatic charging of kids as adults- this is huge priority for OPD and many advocates.
- Making sure parole process is addressed.
- Implementation of legalizing cannabis – making sure it is equitable.

c. Topics addressed by speakers are highlighted below. Detailed responses are available under *Supplemental Meeting Notes* at the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice website.

- Primary benefits of changing the practice of automatic charging.
- Stories about children who were charged in adult court who were then successful after receiving a reverse waiver.
- Possible expectations of felony murder bill this session, and its impact on the felony murder doctrine in Maryland. (Delegate Crutchfield is sponsoring this bill).
- Prospective on issues and legislation the Commission should consider during the upcoming legislative session.

IV. Old Business

- a.** The minutes were approved and adopted for November 22, 2022.

V. New Business

- a. The Commission's annual Legislative Meeting will be held in February 2023. Carol Cichowski reported that the committee met a few times. However, members are still awaiting the outcome of the felony murder bill, which may be introduced soon. Therefore, the Commission may, possibly, hold an online vote on the legislation. Carol would discuss other bills, which to not focus on juvenile justice, at the February 2023 meeting.
- b. March 2023 meeting proposals include a potential discussion with Maryland State Department of Education.
- c. Melissa Goemann's report on Cheltenham Youth Detention Center (CYDC), located in Prince Georges County, Maryland.
 - The Maryland Department of Juvenile Services is expanding the CYDC to include a new 24-bed all-girls detention wing by the end of fiscal year 2025; and a new 48-bed coed youth treatment center on the same campus by the end of fiscal year 2027. The Commission may be interested in discussing this topic at an upcoming meeting.
 - The visitation drive to the Youth Center is an hour in distance from Montgomery County, Maryland.
 - Approximately 50 percent of the children at Cheltenham reside in an adult system.
 - The Detention Center is understaffed, and personnel are working double shifts.
 - Youth are placed into groups based on vulnerability rather than age. However, this means that children of various ages will be attending school together.
 - Parents are allowed to visit CYDC whenever they choose and can participate in Zoom meetings.
 - One of the most significant barriers to hiring at the facility is a history of criminal convictions. The CYDC has requested assistance with this issue.
 - Commission members expressed an interest in learning more about the CYDC facility expansion and education for youth.
 - Other concerns centered on whether the Automatic Expungement bill, mentioned by Delegate Bartlett will, apply to criminal records.
 - Since Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center is temporary closed, facility representatives have stated that they are increasing the capacity for girls. Youth at Noyes will be relocated to CYDC.

VI. Committees/Subcommittees

- a. Prevention (Heather Sweren) -The Sub-Committee met with Frank Duncan of the Department of Juvenile Services. He responded to many of the

Committee's questions. Members will examine information received to determine the next steps.

- b. Kevin Redden had a productive discussion with Frank Duncan and plans to speak with other agency leaders.
- c. Legislative Committee topics were covered earlier.

VII. Announcements - Neither Commissioners nor members of the public had any announcements.

VIII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.