



Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma Ahluwalia
Director

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

April Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Kimberly Alfrend, Diana Barney, Carole Brown, Francis Burroughs, Bonnie DeWitt, Chris Fogleman, Tracey Friedlander, Christopher Jennison, Perry Paylor, Erynn Penn, Wendy Pulliam, Vernon Scott, Ebony Stoutmiles, and Gwendolyn Williams.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Gloria Bowen, Joanna Bonner, Frank Duncan, Cary Fellows, Sean Gagen, Steve Neff, Mary Siegfried, Michael Subin and Carlotta Woodward.

ABSENT MEMBERS: Francha Davis, Susan Farag, Karen Francis, Thomas Squire, and Elijah Wheeler

SPEAKERS: Honorable Cynthia Callahan, Family Judge in Charge; Honorable Ann K. Albright; and Honorable Richard E. Jordan

GUESTS: Nick Moroney, Joshua Pestaner, Regina Morales and Mara Parker

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Diane Lininger

I. Welcome and Introduction – Chris Fogleman, Chairperson, Commission on Juvenile Justice.

- Introductions of Juvenile Judges:
 - Honorable Cynthia Callahan, Family Judge in Charge; Honorable Ann K. Albright; Honorable Robert A. Greenberg – couldn't make it as he had a conflict; Honorable Richard E. Jordan; Commission Members and Audience
 - Commission on Juvenile Justice - CJJ is responsible for several roles among our two committees- for example, we opposed one piece of legislation and supported one piece of legislation through letters to the legislators
 - Our Care Custody committee is responsible, among other duties, for monitoring and reporting on conditions at Noyes

II. Topics/Questions/Discussion with the Juvenile Judges

- Opioids:
 - Increase in opioids?
 - J. Callahan: we've provided a document in response to some of your questions (scanned version provided as PDF)
 - We are not seeing much of an increase in opioid effect/ positive testing in Montgomery County juveniles
 - There are many reasons this is the case- opioids are probably not what are most easily accessible for these kids. If you look at page 3 of the document provided, you'll see that alcohol/marijuana testing is much higher than opioid testing.
 - J. Albright: As a CINA judge, not seeing an explosion of opioid use among parents
 - Gloria Bowen, Child Welfare Representative: what we've seen is more primarily cocaine and marijuana
 - J. Jordan: parents must catch using drugs or it is self-reported, but not frequent; we had a kid show up last week in court high. Marijuana is incredibly popular
 - Kim Alfrend, Citizen Member: thoughts on self-medication and/or legalization?
 - J. Jordan: I am skeptical of self-medication. I am not able to comment on legalization efforts
 - J. Callahan: it is an unbeatable market—portable, cheap; in CINA, 16-18-year-old youth, most use. Most self-medicate, this is a way out of life's dramas.
 - Chris Fogleman, Chair: Does marijuana have an impact on these kids? Most think it doesn't
 - J. Jordan: yes, it has an impact, and they don't think it does
 - Tracey Friedlander, Citizen Member: is it easier to access drugs or mental health services?
 - J. Callahan: yes, weed is simple to track, portable; doesn't care same seriousness as alcohol or other drugs
 - Mike Subin, County Executive Representative: thinking of the opioid intervention team for 18-35-year-old adults; what's the deal for those younger than 18?
 - J. Callahan: we'd need more resources
 - Michael Subin, County Executive Representative: most middle schools and high schools carry Narcan
 - Has there been consideration of a drug court?
 - J. Jordan: emphatically no. After consulting with Judge Ryon, we can't put fear in the juvenile system the same way the drug court works at the adult level. In adult

court, if you take a step back, the court says ok, you're getting an overnight or weekend of jail; can't do that at the juvenile level.

- Carlotta Woodward, States' Attorney's Office Representative: Has there been talk of a mental health court with drug court components?
 - J. Callahan: We didn't have the right mix of therapy before; a mental health court might work. PG has a robust drug court.
 - J. Albright: under our old system, if a child couldn't get to an afternoon appointment, it was the parents fault; I'm skeptical this could work. Kids know what is fair; if not at fault for not getting to an appointment, why should they be held accountable for that.
 - Carlotta Woodward, States' Attorney's Office Representative: do these courts exist? Any experience with them?
 - Kim Alfrend, Citizen Member: Juvenile mental health courts do exist in other jurisdictions.
- Chris Fogleman, Chair: I'd like to give a plug for the adult drug court; go to a graduation if you can. The next is May 16 at 4pm and they're open to the public.
- Tracey Friedlander, Citizen Member: what's MCPS's ratio of counselors to kids?
 - Steve Neff, MCPS Representative: The Student/Counselor ratio is 1:250 (1 counselor per 250 students) approximately. It's slightly higher at elementary schools.
- Female respondents:
 - J. Callahan: there are not more females. We're not really set up for periods with regular female population growth, but it's more of when a group of girls come in together that we see these upticks.
 - There are not adequate resources, but they're such a small part of delinquents.
 - What about transgender juveniles?
 - J. Jordan: there are certainly not the adequate resources for this population. We have difficulty getting them placed- I have one that I'm working on now, that we tried to get into Victor Cullen, that was eventually released on home probation because we just couldn't get him placed.
- Social Media use:
 - J. Jordan: of course, social media is a constant influence.

- J. Callahan: you see it when something blows up on snapchat or Instagram.
 - Social media is very helpful for fact finding
- Chris Fogleman, Chair: what are your thoughts on the proposed expansion of Grace's Law, which was originally proposed after a young girl committed suicide after being bullied?
 - J. Callahan: teens don't think like that, think of the consequences- they don't make such rational decisions.
- What does MCPS do for curriculum development on social media/mental health?
 - Steve Neff, MCPS Representative: it takes too long, we're rolling out resources to parents as new things pop up.

III. Adjourn

7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 600 Rockville, MD 20855 • 240-777-3317 • 240-777-4447 fax
www.montgomerycountymd.gov
