



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Health and Human Services

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

Mission Statement

MISSION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

The thirty-six member Commission on Juvenile Justice is tasked with:

Evaluating State and County-funded programs and services that serve juveniles and families involved in the juvenile justice system, to address capacity, utilization, and effectiveness;

Informing and advising the Juvenile Court, County Council members, the County Executive, and State legislators on the needs and requirements of juveniles and the juvenile justice system;

Studying and submitting recommendations, procedures, programs, or legislation concerning prevention of, and programs addressing, juvenile delinquency and child abuse or neglect;

Making periodic visits to juvenile facilities serving Montgomery County juveniles; and

Promoting understanding and knowledge in the community regarding juvenile needs and the effectiveness of programs.

History of the Commission on Juvenile Justice

The Montgomery County Juvenile Court was created by Maryland statute in 1931. The Juvenile Court Committee, along with its counterparts in other Maryland jurisdictions, was formed to support and assist an evolving juvenile justice system. Under County law enacted in 1981, the Juvenile Court Committee began serving in an advisory capacity to the Montgomery County Council and Executive. The Juvenile Justice Court Committee of Montgomery County served this role actively and effectively. On April 4, 2000, the Montgomery County Council passed legislation revising and expanding the functions of the Juvenile Court Committee, and transformed it from a committee into the Commission on Juvenile Justice, effective July 14, 2000. Thoughtful analyses and position papers on such far-reaching issues as judicial appointments, treatment alternatives, State legislation, local budget allocations, and disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system have become associated with the work of the Juvenile Court Committee and the Commission on Juvenile Justice.

MEETINGS

The Commission on Juvenile Justice meets on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August and December. Committee meetings are held from 7:00pm-7:45pm. Commission meetings are held from 7:50pm - 9:00pm. Commission meetings are open to the public and are held at the Juvenile Assessment Center, 7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 600, Rockville, Maryland 20855. The work of the Commission is supported and staffed by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavior Health and Crisis Services, Juvenile Justice Services.

Contact Information

For more information about the Commission, please contact:
Diane Lininger, Program Manager
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral Health and Crisis Services
7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 600
Rockville, Maryland 20855
(240) 777-3317 Voice Mail
(240) 777-4665 Fax
E-mail: Diane.Lininger@montgomerycountymd.gov

A Message from the Chair - Francha Davis, CASA Representative to the Commission on Juvenile Justice

On behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ), I am honored to present the Commission's Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 2013. The Commission on Juvenile Justice continued its focus on "Positive Youth Development" (PYD) during FY13 by implementing the second year of a two-year work-plan, developed in 2011. PYD is an approach that seeks to promote positive outcomes for at-risk youth by recognizing and developing strengths – i.e., focusing on the positive, rather than only on the problems. The goal is to prevent crime and help youth become productive citizens of our community. PYD programs include prevention, intervention, and suppression services. The Commission on Juvenile Justice believes it is vital for community well-being to maintain and expand proactive delinquency prevention services and programs at both the State and County level. As the County continues to deal with budget constraints, the focus on prevention programs is particularly important. PYD programs are cost-effective investments that help offset significantly higher expenditures later for increased law enforcement activity, court proceedings, and incarceration of youth.

As you will read in this Annual Report, the Commission has been very active this year in advocating on behalf of our County's youth. As part of its goal to increase community awareness about juvenile justice issues, the Commission's website was inaugurated this year. The website, at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-program/BHCS/COJJ/CJJindex.html>, provides access to past CJJ annual reports and work-plans, minutes of Commission meetings, and links to other juvenile organizations and helpful resources.

Commission on Juvenile Justice Vision Statement and Objectives

Vision

The Commission envisions a partnership between the State and counties, in which the State is responsive to locally identified, data-driven service needs and creates a framework for optimal service to youths and their families. This partnership recognizes that the counties are in a position to identify and propose solutions, align and coordinate existing county-provided services to youths, and build on existing in-county relationships among local agencies, non-profit organizations and universities. This partnership will strengthen mutual accountability and support counties' responsibility to serve their local community. Finally, this partnership will enable the State to enact standards of practice and care that will ensure equity across counties.

Commission on Juvenile Justice Membership 2012-2013

Executive Committee

Executive Committee

Francha Davis, Chair

Vacant, Vice Chair

Gladstone Marcus, Editor

Chris Fogleman and Mehul Madia - Government and Community Relations Co-Chairs

Amy Morantes and Carlean Ponder - Care, Custody and Placement Co-Chairs

Citizen Commissioners

Carole Brown

Elaine Bullington

Michael Citren

Margaret Currie

Christopher Fogleman

Jennifer Gauthier

Barbara Holtz

Timothy Hwang

Ashok Kapur

Gladstone Marcus

Mehul Madia

Perry Paylor

Dana Pisanelli

Carlean Ponder

Wendy Pulliam

Mark Resner

Jasmine Shergill

Program Manager

Diane M. Lininger, LCSW-C

Agency Members

George Simms, State's Attorney's Office

Blaine Clarke, Department of Health and Human Services – Juvenile Justice

Francha Davis, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

Susan Farag, County Council

Vacant, Montgomery County Public Schools

Risa Mainprize, Juvenile Court

Amy Morantes, Department of Health and Human Services – Child Welfare

Vacant, Montgomery County Police Department – Family Crime Division

Mary K. Siegfried, Office of the Public Defender

Michael Subin, County Executive's Office

Frank Duncan, Department of Juvenile Services

Elijah Wheeler, Montgomery County DMC Reduction Coordinator, at the Collaboration

Council for Children, Youth and Families

Emeritus Members

Lee Haller

Commission Structure 2012-2013

During FY-13, the Commission had three committees:

The **Executive Committee** represents the Commission at meetings with the Department of 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 **Government and Community Relations Committee** recommends the legislative agenda for the Commission. Its duties include lobbying and testifying before local and State legislators. The Committee monitors and tracks legislation that affects the juvenile justice system. The Government and Community Relations Committee also oversees the annual forum with the Juvenile Court judges.

The **Care, Custody, and Placement Committee** monitors and tracks the quality of care provided to Montgomery County juvenile justice youth who are in community placements or residential facilities, which may be located outside of the County. Its duties include examination of mental and physical health care, education, programming, and transportation.

The Commission also worked within *ad hoc* committees, as follows:

- **Retreat Committee**
- **Orientation Committee**
- **Nomination Committee for Executive Committee**

Members of the Commission served on the following County boards, commissions, committees, and task forces, and reported to the Commission on their activities:

- **Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC)**
- **Montgomery County Juvenile Drug Court**
- **Montgomery County Gang Prevention Task Force**
- **Juvenile Justice Information System Task Force**
- **Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families – Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction Committee**
- **Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Initiative.**
- **Operations Board for the Tree House (Montgomery County’s Child Assessment Center)**
- **Teen Court Advisory Committee**
- **Family Justice Center Steering Committee**

In addition to its committees and the above referenced groups, the Commission worked closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of the Public Defender, State’s Attorney’s Office, Family Crimes Division of the Police, Montgomery County Circuit Court, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program, Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, Montgomery County Public Schools, Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families and Office of the County Executive.

Montgomery County Department of Juvenile Services

2012-2013 Year in Review

By Frank Duncan, Metro Regional Director and Department of Juvenile Services and Representative to the Commission on Juvenile Justice

Organizational Changes

There has been more stability in Montgomery County Juvenile Services over the past year. The only real change is that Kwabena Tuffour, Supervisor in the Silver Spring Office, was promoted to the Assistant Regional Director position in Prince George's County. As a result, Douglas Powell was reassigned to the Silver Spring office from Rockville and Mariam Veppumthara was placed into the Acting Supervisor position in Rockville. Aside from the Supervisor position, all other positions are currently filled.

Case Management Standards

Over the past year, the Department has been able to decrease the average caseload sizes per worker. A year ago, the average caseload sizes were 32-35 per worker. Currently the average is 26-28 cases per worker and trending downward. The lower caseloads have allowed the staff to provide more enhanced supervision, and ensuring appropriate services are being provided to the youth and community we serve. Montgomery County continues to stress the importance of reducing the number of youth held in detention and the length of stay of the youth that end up in detention. In addition, over the last year, Montgomery County was able to establish an Investigation Unit. This has resulted in cases getting connected to appropriate services sooner.

Future Goals

Last year we set some lofty goals for the upcoming year. Montgomery County was able to achieve these goals. One of the goals was to develop more alternatives to detention programming. In order to be able to provide alternatives to detention, Montgomery County, working closely with our partners, was able to re-open the Harriett Tubman Shelter and develop an Evening Reporting Center. With these additional programs and the concerted efforts of the Montgomery County staff to only pursue detention for the appropriate youth, there has been a major decline in the number of youth detained. One of the upcoming goals is to continue to work with these programs to maximize the benefits these services can provide the youth and community of Montgomery County. Another goal from last year was the stability of the staffing situation in Montgomery County. As mentioned earlier, there are no open Case Management positions and the average caseload size has been reduced to a more manageable number. Unfortunately, Montgomery County has always had a high turnover rate so this will always be a continuing goal.

Summary:

Montgomery County has been able to achieve most of our goals over the last year and will continue to strive to provide the most appropriate services to the youth and community we serve.

The annual meeting with the Juvenile Judges

By Chris Fogleman, Citizen Commissioner

In order to keep current on relevant developments in the Juvenile Court, the Commission on Juvenile Justice meets annually with Montgomery County's Juvenile Court judges. On April 16, 2013, the Commissioners met with Montgomery County Circuit Court Administrative Judge John W. Debelius, III and Associate Judges Katherine D. Savage, Juvenile Judge in Charge, Joseph M. Quirk, Anne K. Albright, and Gary E. Bair. The Montgomery County Circuit Court judges were also joined by Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, then an Associate Judge on the Maryland Court of Appeals, Maryland's highest court. Judge Barbera, a Montgomery County resident, has since been appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley to be the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

The judges provided the Commissioners with a substantive overview of the Juvenile Court's work. The judges shared with the Commissioners an update on the work of the juvenile Drug Court. The Drug Court is a voluntary alternative to formal adjudication for juveniles in need of this form of treatment. The Drug Court's objective is for youths to complete the treatment program and graduate within a four month period. The judges related that there have been a number of Drug Court graduates with several more expected within the next few months. A challenge is the voluntary nature of this alternative to formal adjudication, since successful substance abuse treatment requires the participant's willingness to address his or her substance abuse program. The Juvenile Court therefore does not compel any juvenile to participate in the Drug Court program.

In addition to providing the Commission with information, the judges also sought the Commission's assistance with respect to various legislative proposals. The Commission was asked to consider and, if appropriate, take a position on certain legislative proposals that could significantly impact juvenile justice administration. The Commission took note of the particular legislation with which the judges were concerned and assured the judges that this proposed legislation would be reviewed in the course of the Commission's work, first by the Government and Community Relations Committee, and thereafter by the Commission as a whole.

The meeting with the judges was very productive. It reaffirmed the Commission's view of the Montgomery County Juvenile Court as engaged, enthusiastic, and thoughtful. The judges and the Juvenile Court serve Montgomery County and its youth well.

Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice Gathers for its 2013 Annual Retreat

By Carole Brown, Citizen Commissioner

The annual retreat for the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ) was held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, at the Department of Health and Human Services, in Rockville, Maryland. The primary goal of the session was to reflect on the Commission's most recent activities and accomplishments, strengthen relations, and develop strategic approaches for producing the 2014 Fiscal Year CJJ Work Plan. Diane Lininger, Program Manager for the Commission, was instrumental in the inner workings and preparations that made the retreat a success. She expressed her appreciation to each Commissioner for their service to the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice.

Following a light breakfast and fellowship amongst Commission members, everyone seemed well poised for a day of engagement and constructive planning. Morning and afternoon facilitators welcomed the opportunity to help the Commission prepare and set realistic goals and expectations; ensure perspectives were adequately recorded, and maintain a balanced, focused, and dynamic discussion amongst participants. Commission members Barbara Holtz, Mehul Madia, Carlean Ponder and Wendy Pulliam served as facilitators during the retreat.

After the agenda was distributed, Barbara Holtz opened the meeting formally by requesting that each CJJ citizen and agency member introduce himself/herself and share what inspired them to join the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice. A range of diverse responses encompassed a desire to become more involved with policy and services that impact youth involved in the juvenile justice system, enhance personal and professional knowledge, and serve with residents and professionals, who possess similar community interests.

Mehul Madia and Barbara Holtz facilitated a discussion, which involved developing a theme and goals for the Fiscal Year 2014 Work Plan. All members were encouraged to participate and express their ideas and concerns.

Common goals generated from a robust dialogue included suggestions to:

- Address barriers and Disproportionate Minority Contact with the juvenile justice system
- Explore the efficiency of current services and programs that target at risk youth and those that accommodate the needs of youth to ensure they are aligned with Positive Youth Development Initiatives
- Examine practices such as restorative justice and re-entry services. Such activities may support structured, integrated services that contribute to ensuring that youth become healthy and productive members of society

- Assess mechanisms that may help reduce disparities amongst high-need youth by developing a county-wide approach that combines prevention, intervention, treatment, and juvenile transitional strategies.

The theme for the upcoming Work Plan centered on intervention and prevention efforts for high-need youth, including gender specific, and re-entry issues.

The final session of the retreat was led by Carlean Ponder and Wendy Pulliam. Commission members were asked to think about actions that would help improve effectiveness. An array of topics and concerns were addressed which included meeting preparations, monthly attendance; the origin of issues and their impact on other agencies; agency member fatigue; and lack of consensus amongst member. Possible strategic solutions consisted of delegating tasks, restructuring meetings, identifying issues that embrace supportive services, soliciting more involvement of agency members, using teleconferences, enhancing transparency between Commission and Committee chairs; and developing an agenda for each meeting by Committee Chairs.

The spirited retreat was very productive. Commission members were able to develop clear steps, and move forward on crafting a structured FY 2014 Work Plan consistent with fulfilling the mission of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice. Details and minutes of the 2013 Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justices were officially published in May, 2013.

Care, Custody and Placement Committee

By Amy Morantes and Carlean Ponder, Co-Chairs

The Care and Custody Committee of the Commission on Juvenile Justice is tasked with the following: Monitoring and tracking the quality of care provided to Montgomery County juvenile justice youth who are in community placements or residential facilities, which may be located outside of the County. Its duties include examination of mental and physical health care, education, programming and transportation.

To that end, in 2012 the Committee continued its monitoring of youth detained in the Alfred D. Noyes Center while awaiting court adjudication or placement in treatment centers. During the Commission's annual visit to the Noyes facility in January 2013, members of the Care and Custody Committee were given a tour of the facility, including the educational trailers. The Committee had some concerns regarding the educational trailers and a letter was sent to Secretary Abed on January 22, 2013 expressing the Committee's concerns. In particular, the Committee noted the existence of four housing units, but only three educational trailers. As each of the housing units must be kept separate, this means that one of the housing units is unable to access a classroom for instruction on a daily basis. In addition, the Committee observed that the educational trailers were well worn with some safety concerns. At the time of the submission of this article, there has not been a response to the letter.

The Committee greeted the development of new Community Based Alternatives to Detention with enthusiasm. Notably, members of the Committee toured the county's first evening reporting center, opened in 2012. The evening reporting center is intended to allow the youth to live at home, but the youth is required to report to the reporting center on a daily basis to ensure that he/she is monitored and returns to court.

This year the Committee also dedicated itself to refining its mission and goals. To do so, the Committee's members were encouraged to discuss their specific interest in projects that were already in the works, or projects that could be initiated. From this process, some broad themes arose. The Committee had a shared interest in not only monitoring the conditions of youth already in detention, but also an interest in exploring early prevention methods and reducing recidivism through re-entry readiness methods. The Committee discussed several issues including: the links between truancy in elementary school and future criminal behavior, the implications of recidivism based upon a young child's contact with the criminal system, expanded community recreation programs for high-need youth, and options for partnering with community groups in performing the Committee's research. As a result of this brainstorming, the Committee enhanced the ability of the Commission as a whole to determine the body's focus for the next two years. During the Commission's annual retreat, the Committee learned that prevention issues were a major concern for the entire Commission. Thus, the Committee is energized in its combined efforts of monitoring youth already in some form of detention, and delving into more of the issues affecting youth pre- and post-detention.

The Commission meets with Secretary Abed

By Gladstone Marcus, Citizen Commissioner

The Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), Sam J. Abed, visited with the Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ) on September 18, 2012, and introduced the following members of his team: Delmonica Hawkins, the new regional director, Frank Duncan, Assistant Regional Manager and Naquasha Moreland, who is the Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator for the State. The CJJ had extended an invitation for the Secretary to have a question and answer session with the Commission to provide information on DJS matters.

The Secretary began with a discussion on behavioral health and pointed out that DJS has been deficient in this area and is concerned about the lack of consistency in the assessments that youths get prior to and after disposition. Assessments do drive the decisions that the courts make and if they are not thorough and consistent, they lead to poor decisions in placements. They can also lead to poor decisions as to whether to place kids at all or leave them in the community. DJS is putting together an assessment team and an assessment center where all kids could go to get assessed. DJS realized this was difficult due to the differences in different regions and courts. So, they decided to make a number of different teams of mental health professionals to provide the assessments to the courts and be accountable to a director of mental health, Dr. Michael Ito.

The other main issue with the department was the pending placement population. Forty percent of this population are there because they were in placement and failed, and are awaiting a new placement. Secretary Abed spoke about the new law that allows DJS to place kids in facilities of their choosing that are equal to or of higher security level than what the court ordered. DJS is not allowed to give a less secure placement. DJS has set up a multi-dimensional team, state-wide, to oversee these placements. When a youth is in trouble in a placement, this team works with the program to maintain that youth in placement, or to meet and discuss other placements with the “Central Review Committee.” So far, this has been working, as the average length of stay for the ejected youth is 10 days. However, there is limited data in this area, since this process has just started.

The following are the Commission’s questions and the Secretary’s responses.

Alternatives to Detention

Question: What are new programs and initiatives being explored for alternatives to detention?

Response: The evening reporting center is one such program, but it is hard to get it going. Secretary Abed talked about his appreciation for Carol Walsh, from the Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families Inc., for help in providing better services, especially for girls. She helped provide the startup money for the centers. October 1st should be the opening date of the Harriet Tubman Shelter, a 10-bed boys’ shelter. A handful of youth are already being looked at for placement in the shelter, which will be DJS youth only, but statewide referrals will be made, with a preference for Montgomery County, due to finances that the county put in. Frank Duncan reported that DJS is looking at the shelter to be a holding area for youth who come out of a higher structured placement until services are in place. Also, it may be used as a holding area for kids, instead of a detention facility. The shelter is not licensed through the DJS but through the DHR. There is a limit on the length of stay. Discussions ensued as to whether these beds can be a respite for a youth that starts to misbehave. Frank said that this might work for youth in a group home, but DJS does not have the ability to take someone out of the home without a court order.

Positive Youth Development

Question: Recently, the RFP for Positive Youth Development Programming (PYD) in Secured Detention Facilities was revoked. What is the plan for providing PYD now in secured detention facilities?

Response: The Secretary said he was not aware of the PYD programs, and asked for information about them. Jennifer Gauthier said most of the PYD programs are community-based programs. DJS does make referrals to these programs but does not call them PYD programs. The Secretary would like to collaborate with the Commission on a local level, as they do with other agencies on the State level. Care Management Entity, which the governor’s Office for Children manages, is designed to give wrap around services to youth who are at risk.

The Secretary told the CJJ that his concerns are with the youngest kids involved with DJS. These youth are the most important as they have the best chance for rehabilitation and the highest risk of becoming highly involved in the DJS system. DJS looked at homicides in juveniles and found that 40% of those involved had early contacts with DJS. It is a toss-up because a large percentage of the youth that are really young and come into the system might never get into trouble again. So how do you help the ones that might become deep-enders, while not dragging in the youth would be fine if left on their own? Collaboration is the answer. It was brought up that non-profits that are "indigenous" to the neighborhoods where the families live are met with the least resistance. It was also brought up that perhaps focusing on the kids who are young and have a second contact might be a place to start. The Secretary said that the University of Maryland is doing research to help them target the key population and identify factors to utilize as predictive tools in determining the at-risk youth. Some discussion ensued on how the Commission could help with this issue.

Evening Reporting Center

Question: Montgomery County now has an RFP for an Evening Reporting Center (ERC). What would you like to see replicated from other ERC's in the state?

Response: The evening reporting center is coming together. An RFP has been approved. The Local Coordinating Counsel and Carol Walsh were instrumental in coordinating this effort. The deadline for RFPs is Friday and decisions should be made soon as to who will provide the services.

Feedback on DJS programs

Question: What is the system for feedback for the administration of DJS?

Response: There is a State advisory board that meets regularly. The Secretary uses that board to sound out ideas for new programs, etc. They meet quarterly with the appointed Public Defender, not just with line public defenders. He also works with the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit and with regional directors to discuss issues regularly. There have been large disconnects between local offices and headquarters that DJS is trying to fix.

DJS relocation

Question: We understand that DJS may be relocating the DJS offices from the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). There is concern that this may impact the continuum of services available with Department of Health and Human Services (DJS), Substance Abuse Services for Children and Adolescents, Department of Juvenile Services, Police, Child Welfare, Diversion, and Tree House all being located at the JAC. Could you talk about whether this move is being considered and why?

Response: DJS is planning to move its offices to save costs. The current offices are too expensive, and there are closer buildings that cost less. But the agencies that

are nearby that make DJS convenient to families will also be leaving when their leases are up. The DJS lease is up in February 2013. Members brought up how important it is to have a “Juvenile Justice Center.” The Secretary said that keeping DJS in place would cost a million dollars more than if they moved.

Effectiveness of programs

Question: Does DJS receive data from the programs to which DJS in Montgomery County refers (i.e., placements or community programs) telling you which programs are working or do you make referrals solely based on what’s available. Is the data long term and what does it tell you about the efficacy of the programs?

Response: DJS gets data on every program. There is a booklet of data on the DJS website that breaks down crimes by length of stay in detention centers, the different centers, and the demographic of youth detained statewide, region wide and facility-wide. There are also data on committed placements and the demographics of the youth there. All of this statistical information is on the website.

Education at Noyes

Question: In the adult detention center, the inmates have the opportunity to study for the GED. In most DJS placements, GED classes are available. Is there a way that structured GED classes could be made available at Noyes (they are available at Cheltenham)?

Response: The Maryland State Department of Education is taking over the education programming in Noyes in January and may begin a GED program there. There isn’t a program there because it is a short-term facility, and programming shouldn’t be given, since the goal should be to move the inmates out of the detention center.

The Commission thanked Secretary Abed and his team for the cordial and informative session.

Government and Community Relations Committee

By Christopher Fogleman and Mehul Madia, Co-Chairs

During fiscal year 2013, the Government and Community Relations Committee continued to outreach to, and collaborate with, other individuals and organizations serving youth in the Juvenile Justice System (DJS) in Montgomery County. In addition, the Committee monitored and tracked legislation that affected the DJS, recommended the legislative agenda for the Commission, and advocated for legislation at the State level. Finally, the Committee advocated for the Commission’s budget recommendations.

The Committee was able to accomplish these goals through targeted involvement in the county budget process, the state legislative process and the state and county policy

development process. This involved building relationships at the County, State and National level with individuals, organizations and agencies that impact the treatment of juveniles in the county/region.

During FY 2013, the Committee made significant progress toward achieving its goals. The Committee's outreach list includes local and State legislators, other County Boards, Commissions and Task Forces, public and quasi-public agencies (Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Juvenile Services, Office of the Public Defender, Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families) as well as non-profit and community-based services providers for court-involved youth and juvenile justice commissions in other jurisdictions in Maryland.

The Committee was active in gathering information and conducting outreach to key policy makers at both the County and State level during the fiscal year.

- Secretary Sam Abed from the Department of Juvenile Justice spoke to the Commission on a range of topics affecting juveniles in September.
- Carol Walsh, Executive Director of the Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families spoke to the Commission in October about Positive Youth Development and the Evening Beyond the Bell Program. Elijah Wheeler, Montgomery County DMC Reduction Coordinator, at the Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, spoke to the Commission about the Evening Reporting Center in downtown Silver Spring.
- Senator Brian Frosh and Delegate Kathleen Dumais spoke at the November meeting and discussed juvenile justice legislation affecting youth in Montgomery County. Delegate Dumais in particular spoke about issues related to young women in the juvenile justice system. Senator Frosh spoke about the need to localize state funds at the county level so that counties can fund programs that best serve their needs. In February, the Commission sent a letter to Senator Frosh's office in support of budget localization.
- Commission members visited the County's Juvenile Court in November and also participated in a field trip to the Alfred Noyes Children's Center in January.
- Commission members toured the Evening Reporting Center and the Harriet Tubman Shelter in February.
- In March, the Commission heard from Dr. Raymond Crowel, Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services at the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Crowel spoke about mental health and drug abuse services for juveniles in Montgomery county and statewide.
- The Committee facilitated the Commission's annual meeting with the Juvenile Court judges in April.
- The Commission Chair met with County Executive Leggett in April to give him the Commission's annual budget recommendations. The Commission, among other things, asked the County Executive to continue to support PYD programs.
- Director of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Uma Ahluwalia was briefed by a member of the Commission in June regarding the Commission's priorities, goals and accomplishments.

- The Committee monitored and reviewed pending State and local legislation applicable to the juvenile justice system and reported its findings to the Commission on a routine basis.

At the Commission on Juvenile Justice's annual retreat in May, the Committee evaluated progress toward achieving the goals set out in the FY 2013 work plan and fine-tuned its plans for FY 2014. During FY 2014, the Government and Community Relations Committee will begin work on the Commission's 2014/2015 theme and focus on intervention and prevention efforts for high-need youth, including programs related to disproportionate minority contact, gender specific and re-entry issues.