



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Commission on Juvenile Justice

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

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**Commission on Juvenile Justice Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

**Virtual Meeting**

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kimberly Alfriend, Bonnie Beavers, Carol Cichowski, Tracey Friedlander, Gerda Gallop-Green, Melissa Goemann, Ashya Johnson, Scott Joftus, Andrew Messick, Elizabeth Pentecost, Heather Sweren and Erin Whaley.

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joanna Bonner, Francha Davis, Kathy Estrada, Shakirra Haynes, Brett Lonker, Steve Neff, Nathaniel Tipton, and Carlotta Woodward

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Elizabeth Emen, Susan Farag, Michael Pinard, Jonathan Scriven,

**ABSENT EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Carole Brown and Chris Fogleman.

**GUESTS:** Jeffrey Innocente, Christopher Ousley, Marissa Valeri and Imoni Vanderveer

**STAFF LIAISON PRESENT:** Diane Lininger

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting was opened by Melissa Goemann, Co-Chair and Carlotta Woodward, Co-Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ).
- II. **Legislative committee** – Carol Cichowski
  - A. Brief overview of Legislative Process by Carol Cichowski
    1. 90-day session, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup>
    2. All the bills our commission would be concerned about have been introduced (Feb 7<sup>th</sup> was the House deadline)
      - a. Every bill gets a hearing
    3. The next big date is the crossover day in March
  - B. Update on SB 422 regarding auto charging, Smith authored the bill but there is a cross-file
  - C. Discussion about Felony Murder, but there was no vote on HB 1190 at the meeting because of the issues with the reading of it that Carlotta brought up
  - D. Overview of the Reportable Offense process by Carol Cichowski and Steve Neff
    1. The issue here is giving schools information regarding crimes in the community that are not school related
    2. Steve gave specific Montgomery County update, stating that the police go to MCPS with the information not the Department of Juvenile Services, then MCPS has an internal meeting. He stated the process looks at the nexus to the school community and dangerousness. That the process is improved now that they have had practice handling it.
    3. In response to a question regarding confidentiality, he explained that only the name of the student and charge is shared. MCPD sends the information within 24 hours

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Some of the bills want to have more DJS involvement, more reportable offenses. So, there could be a call for a taskforce/work group to work on this.

4. The police now have an automated system to report to MCPS
5. <https://www.law.umaryland.edu/media/sol/sol-2022-images-and-files/academics/programs-and-centers/gibson-banks-center/pdfs-docs-and-files/How-Schools-Use-Reportable-Offenses-in-Maryland-1-30-25-final.pdf>
6. Update on SB 78 regarding juvenile sex offense charges, Melissa set up a meeting with Senator Smith and there is no cross-file
7. The restorative practices Bill that Senator Brooks introduced has passed in the Senate

**III. Minutes from January 2025 meeting** – Motion to pass, was seconded and all were in favor.

**IV. New business**

- A. **Annual report for FY-24** – Diane explained the process and stated that just a summary was done this year. A motion to accept to the report was accepted
- B. **Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform & Emerging Best Practices**, Carlotta Woodward stated they had a meeting earlier that day and that the next meeting was in early March (might be live-streamed). She gave an overview of the review of DJS, specifically if they want to do something about reportable offenses to schools
- C. **County Council Work session on Restorative approaches**, an update from Melissa Goemann re: Farmland Elementary School and Julius West Middle School. There is a change to “Professional Learning Specialist” as title for MCPS employees working on Restorative practices
- D. **Ad-hoc – Subcommittee One**, Erin Whaley gave an update that there was some in-school suspension data. Also spoke to restorative justice in schools. March 25<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting, and they are awaiting more data
- E. **Ad-hoc – Subcommittee two**, committee has not met so there was no report.

**V. Upcoming Meetings**

A. **March 18, 2025, meeting** will be in person at 401 Hungerford drive, 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. Dinner will be provided. Hybrid option will be provided. Shakirra Haynes, Senior Program Manager in DJS Rockville Office; Probation/Aftercare will discuss Department of Juvenile Services. Shakirra is the EX-Officio representing Department of Juvenile Services on the Commission on Juvenile Justice. Shakirra will be speaking about how things are going in Juvenile Court, what are the obstacles, how does probation work for youth and what kinds of situations is she encountering on her Case load.

B. **April Meeting** – Asked for any suggestions for April meeting.

**V. Announcements from Members** – No Announcements were made

**VI. Motion to Adjourn** – Motion to pass, was seconded and all were in favor.