



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Commission on Juvenile Justice

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

James C. Bridgers, Jr. Ph.D., MBA  
Director

**Commission on Juvenile Justice Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

**Virtual Meeting  
Minutes**

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kimberly Alfrend, Gerda Gallop-Green, Melissa Goemann, Elizabeth Pentecost and Michael Pinard.

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joanna Bonner, Francha Davis, Elizabeth Emen, Susan Farag, Jeffrey Innocente (Kathy Estrada), Brett Lonker, Steve Neff, Nathaniel Tipton, and Carlotta Woodward.

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Andrew Messick

**EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Carole Brown.

**GUESTS:** Yvonne Biley-Wilson

**SPEAKERS:** Kayma (Kay) Freeman, Coordinator of the Local Care Team for the Collaboration Council on Children Youth and Families will be speaking about the Local Care team and how it is operated.

**STAFF LIAISON PRESENT:** Diane Lininger

- I. **Welcome** – Meeting was called to order at 7:01. Co- Chair Melissa Goemann introduced herself and Carlotta Woodward
- II. **Nomination of the Executive committee** – Joanna Bonner presented the nominations slate for the Executive Committee. Motion made to approve nomination slate. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Melissa Goemann and Carlotta Woodward – Co-Chairs

Elizabeth Pentecost – Vice Chair

Francha Davis – Secretary

Andrew Messick and Kimberly Alfrend – Legislative Co-Chairs

- III. **Speaker:** Ms. Kayma Freeman, LMSW, LCT and Pathways Resource Manager, Montgomery County Collaboration Council on Children Youth and Families.

Ms. Freeman explained the referral process for families. Anyone in the County (parents, therapists, etc.) can refer. MCPS makes the most referrals to the LCT. After they do intake, they can refer the family to appropriate resources. Family may be invited to meet with Local Care Team to explain their challenges and members of LCT suggest resources. Pathway to Local Care Team and to wraparound services.

Melissa Goemann asked: Are you seeing children in need of supervision? Ms. Freeman was unfamiliar. Melissa explained that it's a petition filed by DJS. Ms. Freeman explained that there is a

---

**Local Behavioral Health Authority ○ Behavioral Health and Crisis Services**

401 Hungerford Drive ○ Rockville, Maryland 20850 ○ 240-777-1400 ○ 240-777-1628 FAX  
montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs ○ montgomerycountymd.gov/311 ○ Maryland Relay 711

DJS representative on the Local Care Team, so they could respond if they had a referral. Melissa followed up by asking if they had referrals from DJS, and they have not.

Melissa asked if there are issues with resources. Ms. Freeman explained that there are a few issues that are difficult for them to support. Autism is one, substance abuse is another. Also, Pathways can only make referrals to services they can't control for waiting lists. Melissa asked if lack of health insurance is ever an issue. Ms. Freeman said not really.

Steve Neff spoke to the CINS (Child in Need of Supervision) issue. Schools can refer to CINS. This is a voluntary program.

Discussion about CINS: Melissa pointed out that PG County local care team gets a lot of CINS petitions.

Ms. Freeman explained examples of calls that are received which include family navigation calls. Immigration calls have increased over the last few months. Pathways also receive a lot of calls about needing support for children who have autism. LCT is not set up to help with that issue. Pathways also can't really help families who are looking to place children outside of the home. They do not do voluntary placements.

Carlotta Woodward asked Ms. Freeman to talk about autism support services. Ms. Woodward states that she is finding that several kids they are dealing with have autism and there seems to be a scarcity of services. Ms. Freeman—When autism is diagnosis, they evaluate where the child is on the spectrum and whether they can work with services. If a child on higher end of spectrum more challenging. They just have a list. They get lots of calls but are not set up to provide that intensive support. They can share a resource list. Carlotta Woodward followed up a description of other issues, e.g. housing, aggressive behavior.

Melissa Goemann asked if they have any referrals for substance abuse issues? Ms. Freeman states that they do not. Pathways is not getting referrals for that. There are other members of the Local Care Team (LCT) that may have resources. Ms. Freeman was asked who is on the LCT: Montgomery County Public Schools, Child Welfare Services, Federation of Families, Department of Disability and Aging and is chaired by the Local Behavioral Health Authority. The LCT is set up to meet every Weds between 9 and 12 but may not meet every week because sometimes they can get families scheduled and sometimes not. Diane asked if Ms. Freeman could talk about how families get to Pathways. Once they get a referral, they contact family and have a conversation to assess needs. Assess whether they are just looking for resources or need help knowing what they want and need to meet with LCT. If they meet with the LCT, they will make an assessment whether the family needs referral to Wraparound services and or Family Navigation. Family Navigation can help them get necessary resources.

Melissa Goemann asked what the biggest issues are and what areas are hardest to find services. Right now, the hardest issues are school refusal, truancy, social anxiety, and depression among youth. Sometimes it is hard to get participation and cooperation from youth. Services are voluntary.

Diane asked Ms. Freeman to talk about wraparound and family navigation—Universal referral is for wraparound or LCT. Wraparound is basically the Care Coordinator assessing needs of family and helping family make a specific plan to meet needs. Care Coordinator helps youth and family get connected to other resources. Care Coordinator might work with youth; Family Navigator would work with parents to identify resources. They work as a team. Family navigation can continue after care

coordination ends, but family must initiate that. Family navigation is provided through the Federation of Families.

Melissa Goemann asked where Ms. Freeman sees the biggest problem with lack of resources. Ms. Freeman says family navigation. Right now, she only knows of one family navigator that can help families navigate processes and mental health services. Many families may not understand the challenges their child is going through. Finding in-person therapy is maybe more challenging. Maybe more in-home services that are not crisis based. Sometimes families want more support than the family navigator/care coordinators can provide in an hour 1x a week.

- IV. Old Business – Melissa turned meeting over to Carlotta Woodward
  - a. Meeting Minutes – Vote on draft June 2025 minutes. Motion was made to accept. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously
- V. New Business -- Carlotta Woodward
  - a. Vacancy Notice ended July 2, 2025. Hoping to interview new members and get appointments in the next few months. The County Executives' Office agreed to extend the announcement on a rolling basis to recruit more members since we have too many vacancies.
  - b. Subcommittees – Do we want to continue subcommittee 1 which was working on Truancy? Definition of Subcommittee one - promote policies, practices, and services to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and to support young people who are **at risk of justice-system involvement**. Promote Restorative approaches, highlight effective, comprehensive school-based services for children, monitor use of undesirable practices by analyzing data on suspensions and school-based arrests and advise relevant officials of concerns and support full implementation of restorative justice in MCPS. Carlotta Woodward highlighted truancy as a spotlight issue. General discussion about school avoidance issues and the difference between school avoidance and truancy. Chronic absenteeism. Elizabeth Pentecost noted that judges spoke to it last month and it is a big factor in kids becoming involved in the juvenile justice process. Elizabeth agreed to Chair. No vote is needed because this is an ad-hoc committee. Members who agreed to be on Committee one is as follows; Steve Neff, Francha Davis, Carlotta Woodward, and Melissa Goemann.
  - c. Upcoming Meetings -- Carlotta Woodward
    - a. **August Meeting** – The Commission on Juvenile Justice does not meet in August.
    - b. **September Meeting** – Elizabeth Emen, LCPC, Supervisory Therapist, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services – Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health. Will be speaking on the availability and services offered by Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services as well as the Family Intensive Services (FIS) / Child and Adolescent Behavioral health Services program.
- VI. Announcements from Members – Commission members have any announcements about events or activities?
  - a. Carlotta Woodward announcement: 9/11 Governor's Commission meeting and Carlotta Woodward will be speaking on a panel. Carlotta Woodward will send the link to the presentation. The first fatality review is happening in September. The Collaboration Council is receiving proposals for who is going to be provider. Will focus on car theft. The initial component will be dealing with Mont Vill, Gaithersburg, Wheaton, and Silver Spring. 15 spots for kids. Will be diversion for first-time offenders. Also, we will be dealing with the w/2<sup>nd</sup> program (separately) with keeping kids out of DJS. Will try to get to family before kid

is involved in DJS. Elizabeth asked whether Carlotta Woodward meant car-theft diversion program will be dealing with cases out of those locations or kids' residences. It will be where youth live. DJS will refer to Carlotta Woodward to review. She will approve and send back to DJS to refer to the service provider. Discussion about prevention program, not quite fleshed out. We want to get kids before they've committed crime but may also include kids who participate instead of being charged.

- b. Steve—MCPS has a new court liaison specialist. Tia retired in June. Wendy Kiang-Spray is the new person. She is currently connecting with judges, DJS, and others
- c. Diane – Michael Pinard's last meeting. Diane thanked him for all his hard work. Carlotta Woodward praised Michael's participation.

**VII.** Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm. Motion made. Motion seconded. Motion was unanimous.