



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, March 18, 2025**

**Virtual Meeting**

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kimberly Alfrend, Bonnie Beavers, Carol Cichowski, Gerda Gallop-Green, Melissa Goemann, Ashyia 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. **Speaker:** Shakirra Haynes, Senior Program Manager at DJS
  - Ms. Haynes spoke about the different units @ DJS – Intake, Court/Waiver Investigations, and Probation
  - DJS processes for detaining youth in facilities, on monitors in the community or just providing services in the community
  - New laws on what juvenile court has jurisdiction over re: charging and detention
  - In terms of complaints about the current process in the system, Ms. Haynes stated there is a lot of time wasted in court, but also that court has complaints about time it takes to place youth
  - Ms. Haynes explained the process DJS has for placing youth once the court makes that order
  - She also explained that the department is understaffed and that there are not enough programs for mentoring, therapy, substance abuse available
- III. **Minutes from February 2025 meeting** – Motion to pass, was seconded and all were in favor.
- IV. **New business**
  - a. Legislative committee – Carol Cichowski, Chair

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

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- Yesterday was crossover day
  - The bill to end auto charging died again
  - Bill re: restorative practices crossed over
  - Bill re: reportable offenses crossed over
- b. **Ad-hoc – Subcommittee One** – Erin Whaley, Chair - Md. Dept. Of Education out of school suspensions data is now out
- c. **Ad-hoc – Subcommittee two** – Subcommittee two has not had enough members to get started on their work. A motion was made to end Subcommittee two for this fiscal year. Motion to pass, was seconded and all were in favor
- d. **Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform & Emerging Best Practices** - Carlotta gave an update saying they had a virtual meeting where brain development and how things were handled in different states and countries were discussed

#### **V. Upcoming Meetings**

- a. **April Meeting** – suggestions for April meeting – it was brought up to have ex officio members each speak for a few minutes
- b. **May Meeting** – It was discussed that the members would like to have time to review CJJ legislation and how the CJJ can incorporate that further into their work plan and scope for the upcoming fiscal year.
- c. **June Meeting** - we will be having our annual meeting with Juvenile Judges. Honorable Karla N. Smith, Honorable Kathleen Dumais and Master Lena Kim will all be in attendance. The commission needs to get questions in ahead of time.

#### **VI. Announcements from Members** – Diane asked if we could do introductions of members since we were meeting in person

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