



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Commission on Juvenile Justice

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**Commission on Juvenile Justice Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 16, 2025**

**Virtual Meeting  
Minutes**

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gerda Gallop-Green, Melissa Goemann, Andrew Messick

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

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Kimberly Alfrend, Elizabeth Pentecost

**EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Carole Brown.

**GUESTS:** Trina Anglin, Jaimie Aguilar, Joy Akuche, Clinita Atangwa, Judge Marielsa Bernard, Nicole Rodriguez-Hernandez, Hilua Hedir, Aisula Kazck, Luis Nario, Marvin Stone and Abeba Zewde.

**SPEAKERS:** Elizabeth Emen, LCPC, Supervisory Therapist, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services and Shakirra Haynes, Senior Program Manager, Department of Juvenile Services.

**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. Speaker:** Elizabeth Emen, LCPC, Supervisory Therapist, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Elizabeth explained the structure of Child, Adolescent and Behavioral health (CABHS) and where Family Intensive Services fits in. There are clinics in Silver Spring & Rockville and a community-based program. Elizabeth's power point covered services provided including individual, family and group therapy, psychiatric assessment and medication management for therapy clients, treatment coordination with schools/agencies, and advocacy for clients. Elizabeth also provided an overview of the referral process and eligibility. CABHS also keeps a prioritized waiting list for their adolescent clinics. They provide services to children/youth up to 21 yrs. Fees are sliding scale and they also take private health insurance. They provide services in their office and through tele-health, as well as home and travel to schools.

**Home-based Services** treat children in foster care up to 3 months after case closes. They provide family-based services, engage with caregivers. Also, it can provide services to adults when they have trouble accessing other services.

**Family Intervention Services** provides therapy for DJS youth/family, pre-court for 90 days, during court supervision up to 6 months. Provides feedback to DJS about engagement of DJS client. Also provide court summaries. No private insurance accepted in this program. Does have ability to provide services based on need regardless of insurance status. General trends/issues

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

include unaccompanied minors, school avoidance, and opioid use. There is a need for mobile and multicultural mental health services. Current issues: Clients are having difficulties finding jobs, trauma from having been detained at adult facilities, trauma from impact of violence in the community. Loss of Adolescent lives due to guns. School anxiety/avoidance, need for neurodevelopmental assessment, i.e., undiagnosed autism, adhd, developmental differences, educational testing needs. Opened for questions: Melissa asked whether there is a waitlist for kids in DJS system. They have 2 therapists and DJS knows when they are full and doesn't refer. They serve all the referrals but don't have numbers of unserved because they aren't referred. Melissa followed up with a question about what happens with kids after they are discharged. They are out when youth is discharged but can refer them to other services in the clinic.

- III. **Shakirra Haynes, Senior Program Manager, DJS.** Shakirra reported the budget cuts as of new fiscal year on July 1. There is a Hiring freeze. DJS could not come to an agreement with some contractors, specifically Evening Reporting Center which is run by Pride Youth Services was not renewed and the program is suspended. There is one in PG County. Not convenient but they have implemented a virtual option to try to serve MoCo youth. No other updates on ERC.

Services/cuts. To her knowledge no other services have been cut.

Rumors about Alfred D. Noyes Detention facility (Noyes): DJS has not heard anything about Noyes re-opening. Shakirra is not sure where those rumors are coming from.

Shakirra has been meeting with Judges to discuss having providers in court to address delays in getting services to youth. Shakirra explained some of the reasons for the delays. Have discussed having providers in court for a few hours every day so that if there are orders for services they can be addressed immediately. Still figuring out logistics of that. Have 4 programs on board and there is hope that at least one program will be in court every day. Have a meeting next week and hope to brainstorm how to remove obstacles. Shakirra listed the programs on board and the services they provide. Multi-Systemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy. These two programs usually operate on a 3-month model but may extend a bit. The other two are IFCS (see above), and Family Intervention Services.

Questions: Carlotta asked if services will include random urinalysis if the court wants that done. Shakirra indicated that urinalysis would be available. Carlotta asked that Shakirra spell out the acronyms of above programs. Melissa asked if there was any possibility of having a representative from DHHS. Shakirra said she would bring idea up at monthly Crossover Youth meeting. Melissa also asked about ERC. Melissa had heard that all the ERCs in the State had been defunded. Shakirra knows that as of today, PG ERC was still functioning, though they had slightly reduced services. Shakirra thinks ERCs in some other jurisdictions are also still in operation but at reduced/hybrid schedules. Marvin Stone (Ombuds for Juvenile Oversight). He commented that there was a plan at some point to reopen Noyes. Mr. Stone is not sure what the current plan is and will get back to us with that information. Mentioned their July report that highlighted drug problems at DJS facilities. There was a conversation about reopening Noyes as a drug treatment facility. He will find out what the plan is and report back. Recapped that Office of Juvenile Oversight is now a fully independent agency with subpoena power. Further discussion of problems with drugs in facilities, very concerning stories. Secretary and others are working to identify possible ways to address this huge issue. Mr. Stone explained his position within this newly independent agency.

- IV. Update from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Juvenile Justice subcommittee** - Carole Brown – Stefan could not be here, but he would like to give an overview/update and focus on where we are now. Carole mentioned that there are several CJJ members who regularly attend CJCC meetings. Diane will see if Stefan could give an update at the next meeting.
- V. Old Business** - Meeting Minutes – No quorum, so we will approve at next meeting
- VI. New Business –**
- a. **Vacancy Notice** – Over 25 people have applied to be on the CJJ. Francha Davis and Joanna Bonner, who are the nomination committee, have been doing lots of interviews. Francha and Joanna were thanked for all their hard work interviewing people! 15 New members will be invited to attend the next meeting and a Welcome meeting in November.
  - b. Subcommittee – Diane will be setting up a meeting for subcommittee one.
- VII. Upcoming Meetings –**
- a. **October Meeting** – Plan to have Tree of Hope and the Rainbow coalition to discuss homeless youth services.
  - b. **November Meeting** – Legislative meeting **WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 19**. Sen Smith cannot attend on our regular meeting date.
- VIII. Announcements from Members –**  
Diane will be out of the office from October 2- November 3. Will set up the October meeting and will have a backup person.
- VIII. Meeting Adjourned**