



**Commission on Children and Youth  
Meeting Summary  
January 8, 2020**

**Members Present:** Kirsten Andersen, Shruti Bhatnagar, Stephanie Clark, Luciana Crotti-Espinoza, Itamar Fiorino, Lynne Harris, Jerome Jackson, Alex Kern, Victoria Koretsky, Renae McPherson, Ijeoma Okoro, Jeanett Peralta, Julie Reiley, Andrea Shore and Ashley Thommana

**Members Absent:** Leslie Copeland-Tune, Joseph Hooks, Eugene Jackson, Stephanie Nesmith, Ijeoma Okoro and Pamela Taylor

**Guests Present:** Captain Sonia Pruitt and Elijah Wheeler

**Staff Present:** Erin Stillwell (DHHS)

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**Kirsten Andersen, chair, called the full commission meeting to order at 7:08 pm**

**Introduction of Guest Speakers:**

***Captain Sonia Pruitt, MCPD, Community Engagement***

***Mr. Elijah Wheeler, Deputy Executive Director, Collaboration Council***

***Captain Sonia Pruitt: Conversation on School Resource Officers (SRO)***

- Roles of SRO:
  - Focus on building relationship with school community, community relationship and being a liaison b/w MCPS and MCPD
  - Assist with emergency preparedness in schools, deliver training to students in crime prevention, gang awareness, alcohol/drugs, etc.
  - Assist with traffic and pedestrian safety outside of school
- SRO are not in schools to enforce school policy
- Highly recommended by MCPD that SRO meet with school administration on a regular basis
- Training: 40 hours of preliminary training before entering school; cover their role, SRO MOU (role of school and role of SRO), MCPS Code of Conduct, Emergency Preparedness, Block on Child and Adolescent Development, Community Based Outreach (places that SRO's can refer families within the County); have summer intensive training on specific topics; continuing ongoing trainings
- Building a relationship with youth is part of the SRO's training

- 26 SRO's currently in high schools (also have representation from G'burg, Rockville Police Departments and Sheriff's Department); attempting to add SRO's in middle schools
- Emphasis on relationship building and not on punishment/arrest
- Different b/w community service officers and SRO's: CSO address problems in the community based on engagement with the community; CSOs are assigned to the 6 Districts
- Question:
  - How do you work on burnout with SRO's?
  - MCPD has a sergeant whose job is to check in with SROs; also have a supervisor at the local district that should be checking in; trying to focus on health and wellness of officers
- Question:
  - Those schools that have programs for young people with special needs-is that any specific trainings provided to those SROs?
  - Yes, some special training is provided (Commissioner recommended that Capt. Pruitt speak with the SRO who is at Walter Johnson HS about specialized training for working with student with autism program).

***Elijah Wheeler, Deputy Executive Director, Collaboration Council***

- Collaboration Council has tried to leverage funds to continue training for SRO's
- Accomplishments: 2018 law was re-established to racial and ethnic disparities (not minority);
- MCPS Restorative Justice in 80 to 90 schools; trying to change focus on punitive measures and address more of the behaviors; looking at a program in Philly that is focused on diversion; Evening Reporting Center (3-8 pm, highly structured environment) has been a huge success
- Discussion at State level to reinstate the PAL league (police athletic league)
- Also trying to ask officers to appear at events not in uniform to "humanize" them
- Need to help SROs and law enforcement officers understand youth development; understand who they are interacting with; do not young people to sense fear with law enforcement
- What are your challenges and needs? Individual schools, principals trying to leverage SRO's; also need to have the MOU reviewed by an outside source

**Meeting Summary Review and Vote:** Review and vote of December 11, 2019 meeting summary

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2019  
 Motion: Lynne Harris  
 Seconded: Karen Duffy  
 All in favor

## **Past Commission Business**

- **MLK Day of Service**

Commissioner are encouraged to participate in day of service events hosted in the community; CCY will not host an event this year

- **Youth Having A Voice Roundtable**

- Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet distributed; commissioners encouraged to sign up to volunteer
- final version of roundtable questions will be sent via email to the full commission after subcommittees have a chance to make final revisions
- exit polls will be on chart paper instead of index cards
- youth commissioner/facilitators will rotate between rooms of youth with specific topics

**Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:02**