



Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

January 12, 2017
Family Justice Center
600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 500
Rockville, MD 20852

Meeting Minutes

Purpose of Meeting: Sixty second meeting to review the County's response to domestic violence and present committee reports. William Sollod convened the meeting at 5:35 PM.

In Attendance: William Sollod, Vice Chair (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Assistant Chief Russell Hamill (Montgomery County Department of Police); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); and Thomas Manion, DVCC Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff)

Guests: Lisa Mandell-Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); Michael Subin (Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission); Mary Silva (Court Watch Montgomery); Debra Lundin (Member of the Public); and Lauren Brown (Yasha Circle Ministry)

Absent: The Honorable Karla Smith, DVCC Chair (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable John Moffett (District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County); Sheriff Darren Popkin (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Angela Talley (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Dorothy Fait, Esq. (Community Member); Eshigo Okasili, Esq. (Community Member); Resa Levy (Community Member); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member); Sheila Kamdar (Community Member)

I. Welcome and Introductions

William Sollod welcomed all members and guests.

II. Approval of September Minutes

The minutes from November 10, 2016 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Debbie Feinstein proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Smondrowski and passed.

III. Announcements

Thomas Manion reported that all DVCC members are required to take two trainings: the Maryland Open Meetings Act Training, and the Parliamentary Procedure Training. As of now, only the Maryland Open Meetings Act Training is available, and the link to the training will be sent out to all DVCC members. If a member has already completed the training this year, s/he does not have to complete it again. All certificates of completion should be forwarded to Thomas Manion.

IV. 2017 Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Thomas Manion reviewed the roles and responsibilities of Chair and Vice Chair, including setting the meeting agendas, assigning tasks to the various committees, facilitating the large group meetings, and inviting guest speakers. Thomas Manion then reviewed the procedures for electing Chair and Vice Chair. For 2017, DVCC members elected Councilmember Sidney Katz as Chair, and Debbie Feinstein as Vice Chair. At that time, newly elected Chair Sidney Katz took over facilitation of the meeting.

V. Committee Reports

A. Education and Outreach Committee

Debbie Feinstein stated that the purpose of the Education and Outreach Committee is to promote initiatives that raise awareness of issues surrounding domestic violence as well as prevention. The Choose Respect conference is coming up on April 2nd at Richard Montgomery High School, and the committee is grateful for the partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) this year. MCPS is fully engaged in publicity and messaging, and is working on a way in which the top 5 videos in the Choose Respect PSA contest can be shown to all MCPS students, with the students being able to vote for a "Fan Favorite" video. The primary benefit here is that thousands of students will be viewing the videos and absorbing the messages about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships. In addition to the conference and contest, Choose Respect also includes in-person presentations. Currently, these presentations are given by invitation only, but thanks to our increased partnership with MCPS, we are hoping to expand our reach this year. The Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) initiative is also expanding to include the weight lifting classes at Magruder High School and the football team at North West High School.

Debbie Feinstein additionally reported that the committee is looking to re-vamp its multi-language outreach cards. Ideally, we would like to include

more languages, and print the cards in a format that is not cumbersome. Thomas Manion is working on possible designs, and the committee hopes to have a new card ready to print in the Spring.

Debbie Feinstein further reported that the committee worked with the Commission for Women last year on a public outreach initiative that resulted in televised PSAs, website ads, and Ride On bus ads. The committee is looking to put out a similar campaign this year during the month of October – domestic violence awareness month. Planning for this campaign is still in the early stages.

B. Victim Services Committee

Thomas Manion reported that the county's Assessment Lethality Emergency Response Team (ALERT) has undergone a reformatting. This multi-disciplinary team previously met weekly to discuss and collaborate on high risk domestic violence cases. Now, this team has been converted to a primarily electronic collaboration, allowing team members to collaborate on cases in real-time, as opposed to waiting for the once-per-week meetings. The team will continue to meet in person to review and update cases, but these meetings will only occur monthly, or every other month, depending on the case load.

Thomas Manion additionally reported that the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team has gone back to holding formal monthly meetings. This multi-disciplinary team makes findings and recommendations related to domestic violence related fatalities and near fatalities in Montgomery County.

Thomas Manion further reported that the process is underway to hire a new DVCC Program Manager, whom will hopefully be selected in the next few months.

Teresa Bennett reported that HHS will be monitoring a Family Services, Inc. contract to provide supervised visitation and monitored exchange in Montgomery County. An ideal location has been selected, and the formal program is being put together currently. The County hopes to start funding the program in Q4 of this fiscal year, with services beginning Q1 of FY2018.

C. Offender Program and Policy Committee

Teresa Bennett reported that the HHS Abuser Intervention Program (AIP) participated in a statewide study on AIPs. By virtue of their participation, they could forego the annual recertification of the program. The study resulted in a 44-page report, which made recommendations such as the need to develop a mechanism to look at AIP outcomes and efficacy.

D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee

Dorothy Fait was not at this evening's meeting. Debbie Feinstein reported that there will be a bill proposed to extend the definition of guns/weapons to include antique firearms in response to the homicide shooting in the Germantown Target parking lot. Rebecca Smondrowski reported that there will also be a bill proposed regarding affirmative consent.

E. MCFJC Foundation

Resa Levy was not at this evening's meeting. Lisa Mandel-Trupp stated that the Foundation Benefit Committee will soon be debriefing on last year's event, and then gearing up for this year's event. Anyone that would like to be involved should contact Resa Levy.

VI. Adjournment

Councilmember Sidney Katz, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:20 PM

The next DVCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2017 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Family Justice Center



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