



Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, January 11, 2018
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Family Justice Center 5th Floor Conference Room
600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20852

In Attendance: The Honorable Sidney Katz, Chair (Montgomery County Council); Debbie Feinstein, Vice Chair (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Tom Manion (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Eshigo Okisili (Community Member); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Assistant Chief Laura Lanham (Montgomery County Department of Police); The Honorable John Moffett (District Court for Montgomery County); Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff)

Guests: Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Assistant Chief Russell Hamill (Montgomery County Department of Police); Lt. Sheila Sugrue (Montgomery County Department of Police); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); Michael Subin (Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission); Lauren Brown (Yasha Circle Ministry); Spencer Cantrell (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse); Mary Silva (Court Watch Montgomery); Naomi Pearson (Member of the Public); Ronald Whalen (Member of the Public); Sofia Marjanovic (Member of the Public);

Absent: Sheila Kamdar (Community Member); Angela Talley (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); Resa Levy (Community Member); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member);

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of November Minutes

The November 9th, 2017 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Russell Hamill proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Debbie Feinstein and passed.

III. Announcements

- A.** Safe Passage Center Update: The Safe Passage Center, Montgomery County's Supervised Visitation & Monitored Exchange Program, is now open and taking clients for both supervised visitation and monitored exchange. Clients must have a court order to use the services. As of December 31st, the Center had completed 13 intakes and 2 monitored exchanges. Smita Varia passed around Safe Passage Center brochures to the attendees. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 19th that everyone is invited to attend.
- B.** DVCC Website: Smita Varia reported that she has revamped the DVCC website to include Coordinating Council Members, the committees, the Annual Report and the

Meeting Agendas and Minutes. The website will also include a Domestic Violence resources page. It will go live soon, and Smita Varia will notify the DVCC Members.

C. Montgomery County FJC Foundation Update: There was no update.

IV. New Member Update

There is a new member: Assistant Chief Laura Lanham is the new representative for the Montgomery County Department of Police. There should be 4 new members for the March Meeting.

The Legislative Committee needs a new Chair, because the former Chair, Dodie Fait is no longer on the DVCC. Previously, the Legislative Chair would monitor any bills being introduced that pertained to domestic violence. During the May meeting, the Chair would report on bills that passed and did not pass to the DVCC. Debbie Feinstein and Nicole Drew are available to help the Chair gather information.

V. Committee Reports

A. Education and Outreach Committee - *Debbie Feinstein, Chair*

Debbie Feinstein reported that the Choose Respect Conference will be held on April 15th at Richard Montgomery High School. During registration and the Resource Fair, the Choose Respect Committee is hoping to secure live entertainment. In addition, this year there will be a longer Opening Session where the winners of the PSA contest will be announced, and there will be no closing session. Montgomery County Public Schools has been helping to promote the conference and the PSA contest through their newsletters, messages to parents and through social media. They also translated the flyers into 6 different languages (Spanish, French, Amharic, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese). Debbie Feinstein encouraged everyone to promote the conference and PSA contest with their networks.

The Expect Respect in class presentations reached over 1,600 students during the Fall Semester. This is due to MCPS's support in contacting all the High School Health Teachers and letting them know that facilitators are available to come for free to teach a class.

Coaching Boys into Men is going well, and is on track to add a few schools next year. The program will be facilitated at Blair Ewing, Rockville High School, and the Jewish Day School. Debbie Feinstein reported that she was at a Statewide Meeting with other people working on sexual assault prevention, and Coaching Boys Into Men was mentioned as a great evidence based program. She also noted that Montgomery County was the only county implementing the program.

The Multi-Language Cards are being distributed to different agencies. If anyone needs the cards to distribute, please get in touch with Smita Varia.

B. Victim Services Committee update - *Tom Manion, Chair*

Tom Manion shared that the Family Justice Center has been exceptionally busy over the past few weeks. It has been busy not only by the number of people requesting services, but also in the severity of the cases. During the past 2 weeks, the Client Assistants have put 5-6 cases on ALERT, which means they are at an elevated risk of lethality. To put this in perspective, 1 case may go on ALERT in a standard week. Smita Varia mentioned that there may be a correlation with the #MeToo Movement and people realizing that they are not alone, and are ready to reach out for help. Mike Subin mentioned that he has seen a higher number of strangulations in the cases he knows

about. Tom Manion also said that the Sheriff's office has seen a 10% increase in Protective Orders this year as compared to last year. This spike in people reaching out for services stresses the importance of outreach. On that front, Tom Manion spoke about domestic violence and sexual assault resources to Faculty at Montgomery College, along with other Onsite Partners.

Earlier today, the Family Justice Center held their monthly Onsite partner meeting. There was a discussion on collaborative trainings and wanting to continue to have them. In the past few months the Family Justice Center has hosted a training on technology by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, stalking by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and elder abuse by ElderSafe.

Tom Manion also wanted to commend Smita Varia and Ngozi Obineme (the FJC Program Manager) for their work on revamping the DVCC and Family Justice Center websites.

C. Offender Program and Policy Committee - *Angela Talley, Chair*

Tina Michaels reported that the Offender Committee met with both District Court and Circuit Court judges to talk about the Abuser Intervention Program (AIP). The Committee wanted to make sure the Judges knew the important difference between an anger management program and an abuser intervention program. During these meetings, it was learned that while offenders are in the AIP, they are far less likely to reoffend. AIP has two phases. Phase I is 6 weeks where the content is focused more around domestic violence information. Phase II is 16 weeks and addresses more behavioral issues. The Offender Committee would like judges to order AIP during the entirety of their Pre-Trial time, and if the offender does not go to AIP, that is a violation of their Pre-Trial order.

The Offender Committee will also be meeting with the Commissioners, the State's Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office.

Tina Michaels then had a question for the Legislative Committee on the difference between House Bill 1163 (Amber's Law) and a new House Bill 65 being introduced. They seem very similar with addressing a victim being able to request GPS monitoring during pre-trial release. Debbie Feinstein will look at both bills more closely to see the difference. There is a concern because the Bill mentions using victim alert technology, but that is not the vendor that PTSU or MD Parole and Probation uses.

D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee - *Vacant, Chair*

No Update.

VI. Adjournment

Councilmember Sidney Katz, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on March 8, 2018, 5pm-7pm at the Family Justice Center



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