



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, January 10, 2019
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Family Justice Center 5th Floor Conference Room
600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20852

Minutes

Attendees: The Honorable Sidney Katz, Chair (Montgomery County Council); Debbie Feinstein, Vice Chair (via phone) (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Ingrid Gonzalez (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Assistant Chief Marcus Jones (Montgomery County Department of Police); Tom Manion (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Lilah Katz (Student Member); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member); Resa Levy (Community Member); Eshigo Okasili (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Ronald Whalen (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Guests: Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Captain Sean Gagen (Montgomery County Department of Police); Cha'Koya Smith (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse); Juanita Murkey (House of Ruth); Lauren Brown (Member of the Public);

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sidney Katz welcomed all members and guests to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

II. Approval of November Minutes

The November 8, 2018 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Assistant Chief Jones proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Kravitz and passed.

III. DVCC Leadership for 2019 - 2021

Sidney Katz asked for nominations for Chair of the Council. For 2019 - 2021, DVCC members nominated and elected Debbie Feinstein as Chair, and Tom Manion as Vice Chair.

IV. Announcements

Smita Varia reviewed the attendance policy for the Council meetings. A member can miss 2 meetings per year. Members should notify Smita Varia in advance if they are going to be absent from a meeting.

Nicole Drew announced that the Commission for Women is hosting the Women's Legislative Briefing on January 27th from 12:30 – 4:30 at the Universities of Shady Grove. There are two tracks that will be interesting to Council members – a Women and Safety session and a Human Trafficking session.

V. DVCC Statute Amendments Update

The County Executive has approved all 3 amendments to the DVCC Statute. The first amendment increases the term for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Coordinating Council from 1 year to 2 years. The second proposed change is adding 2 new seats for representatives from non-governmental or non-profit domestic violence service or advocacy organizations. The third proposed change allows a high school student in any grade to apply to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

A public hearing was held during the December 4th, 2018 Montgomery County Council Meeting. Tom Manion testified before the Council in support of the proposed amendments. The County Council passed all three amendments without issue. Smita Varia is working with the Boards, Committees and Commissions on the announcement for the 2 new seats to non-governmental or non-profit domestic violence service or advocacy organizations. With the change in County Executive there will be a delay in the announcement.

VI. Committee Reports

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

Smita Varia gave the updates for Debbie Feinstein. The annual Choose Respect conference will be on April 7th, 2019 at Richard Montgomery High School from 12:30 – 5:00 pm. The Choose Respect Committee met in late December and continued their discussion around early promotion. The committee also discussed incorporating discussions around consent more prominently throughout the conference. The committee also decided to open registration and distribute a press release about the conference on February 12th to coincide with Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and "Wear Orange for Love Day". Both the Montgomery County Council and the Board of Education will present proclamations honoring February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month on February 12th as well. The PSA contest is now open for students in 6th-12th grades to create a 60 second PSA in English or Spanish, and the deadline is March 8, 2019. Shella Cherry, the representative for MCPS on the Choose Respect Committee has also created a Choose Respect webpage on MCPS's website, and has worked with students to create a Choose Respect App. The app will allow students to register, vote for the PSA fan favorite, and access resources in the community right from their phone.

The Department of Transportation has approved having the FJC Multi-Language Cards available on all 375 Ride On Buses. Smita Varia created a brochure size version of the card to fit the holders on the buses. The cards have been printed and are on the buses. The cards were printed with generous contributions from the Commission for Women, Councilmember Sidney Katz's office and the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation.

The Expect Respect Presentations about healthy relationships and dating violence are going well. During the Fall semester, facilitators presented to 3,012 students. The Expect Respect presentation has also been adapted by adding more information on sexual assault to be presented at Department of Corrections to young adults ages 18-21. Frank Lazzarro from the State's Attorney's Office will be presenting onsite once a month.

Lastly, because of the recent hazing incident at Damascus High School, Debbie Feinstein and Rebecca Smondrowski are encouraging the MCPS administration to promote Coaching Boys Into Men and Athletes As Leaders at all of the high schools.

Teresa Bennett announced that Trauma Services at Health and Human Services is running a campaign about consent. They have signs posted on the Ride On buses.

B. Victim Services Committee update - Tom Manion, Chair

Tom Manion announced that the Family Justice Center (FJC) is in the process of hiring 2 new Client Assistants. They should start in February. Over the past several months, the amount of donations has been incredible. The FJC has received thousands of stuffed animals to give to the children who come to the center with their parents. Tom Manion also reported that Victims Services has historically been a committee of one. However, starting this year, a formal committee will be formed and will include Tom Manion, Ngozi Obineme, Mindy Thiel, and the Captain Sean Gagen. The two new non-profit members who will join the Council in the summer will also be invited to be a part of this committee. Victim Services will meet every other month. Some of the potential initiatives include creating a more user-friendly and paperless system at the FJC, increase programming for Safe Start, and a safe haven pet shelter program.

C. Offender Program and Policy Committee – Tina Michaels, Chair

Tina Michaels reported that the new the Violations of Conditions of Release law that went into effect on October 1st has not had any cases to date. The Offender Program and Policy Committee has had discussions about putting the conditions of release in METERS to assist Police in searching Secure Case Search, however this process is now on hold. To make sure victims know about the new law, Pre-Trial will be sending letters to the victims listing the conditions of release. If they are also clients of the Family Justice Center, they will receive a call from a Client Assistant who will explain the conditions of release as well. The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) program will also send letters. There have been two Extreme Risk Protective Orders related to domestic violence. There are two new domestic violence case workers at Pre-Trial and Tina Michaels would like to provide domestic violence training to them. Parole and Probation would also like training. Tina Michaels will work with Tom Manion to set up a training. Ingrid Gonzalez also stated that if Parole and Probation are supervising someone who has a final protective order -even if they are being supervised for another non-domestic violence related offense-, they will be assigned to a Domestic Violence Parole/Probation Officer.

D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Assistant Chief Marcus Jones, Chair

Assistant Chief Jones would like to invite anyone to join the newly formed Legislative and Police Planning Committee. Assistant Chief Jones announced that in 2018, there were 20 homicides in Montgomery County. 11 of those homicides were domestic related. The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is doing great work, but there is more to do.

VII. Adjournment

Sidney Katz, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:09 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on March 14, 2019, 5pm-7pm at the Family Justice Center



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council