



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, January 12, 2023
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Mission: To reduce the incidence of domestic violence and creating a safe community for families to live free of abuse.

Minutes

Present: Tom Manion, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Assistant Chief Nichoas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); The Honorable Karen Ferretti (District Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Tondalayo Royster (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Ben Stevenson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services); Aanika Arjumand (Student Member) Lavontte Chapmon (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Kendall Stanley (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist Healthcare); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County);

Guests: Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Leslie Hawes (Court Watch Montgomery); Katherine Bradley (DC Volunteer Lawyers Project); Captain Gerald McFarland (Montgomery County Police Department); Laura Yeomans (Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Education team); Sharon Ledner (Chief of Staff for Councilmember Sidney Katz); Jim McGalliard (Member of the Public); Lisa Mandel Trupp (Chief of Staff for Office); Tara Clemons Johnson (Legislative Analyst with the County Council);

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

Tom Manion reviewed guidelines for virtual meeting participation. He asked everyone to mute microphones when not speaking. He asked the participants to use the chat function if they would like to speak and to use the raise hand function. He also requested that participants should identify themselves each time they speak.

III. Approval of November Minutes

The November 10, 2022 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Councilmember Sidney Katz proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was

seconded by Amy Palumbo and passed.

IV. New Members

Rochelle Perry will be the new representative from the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation. She will be confirmed later this month.

V. Announcements

Tom Manion announced that the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project will be a new partner with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.

Tondalayo Royster announced that the Commission for Women will be holding their annual Women's Legislative Briefing on January 29, 2023.

Ben Stevenson announced that the Director of Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Angela Talley will be retiring at the end of this month.

VI. Plans for 2023

The DVCC has been meeting virtually since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and attendance has been strong. However, Tom Manion and Jessica Volz have decided to hold one meeting per year in person. Therefore, the May 11th meeting will be in person at the Family Justice Center and there will be a guest speaker.

Tom Manion and Jessica Volz would also like develop a 2023 Blueprint for the DVCC. They would like each committee to develop goals (either broad or detailed) that they would like to work towards during 2023. This will allow for all members to understand and work together between committees. Tom Manion and Smita Varia will reach out to each Committee Chair to help plan these discussions.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Offender Program and Policy Committee – *Ben Stevenson, Chair*

Ben Stevenson reported about a meeting the committee had earlier this week. The agencies present gave updates on their current operating statuses. Ben Stevenson said that the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation is working very hard to re-open the Pre-Release Center. There was continued discussion on how to bring the Abuser Intervention Program into the jail setting. Another initiative that is in the beginning stages is creating an adapted version of the Abuser Intervention Program for the Department of Juvenile Services. The committee also talked about the continued work on making the transition from pre-trial conditions to probation conditions smoother for both agencies.

B. Education and Outreach Committee – *Debbie Feinstein, Chair*

Smita Varia updated the Council on current initiatives. Expect Respect for the Fall semester has gone well, and they are on target to have presented to over 6,000 students. Tom Manion asked the group if this increase of outreach suggests that there should be a staff member hired to do these presentations. Debbie Feinstein, Smita Varia and Mindy Thiel said that this is needed. The Education and Outreach Committee will put this on their next agenda. Lavontte Chatmon also said that MCPS might be able to help with funding if it is going to specifically help their schools.

The Annual Choose Respect Video Contest is open with a deadline of March 13th. RespectFest is scheduled to be virtual from April 10th to April 14th. The in-person event at

the Wheaton Community Recreation Center will be April 16th from 1 – 4 pm. Lastly, the Education and Outreach Committee has created an Apartment Initiative spearheaded by Tondalayo Royster. This initiative called “Safe Homes. Save Communities.” Aims to outreach to property managers and large apartment complexes and encourage them to receive training on domestic violence and to have outreach materials available in their high trafficked areas. Debbie Feinstein spoke at the Renters Alliance Town Hall meeting announcing the initiative in December.

C. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

Tom Manion reported that the committee did not have a meeting in December due to scheduling conflicts. However, they are continuing to work on ongoing initiatives related to both legal services expungements as well as addiction services for victims of intimate partner violence.

D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Maura Lynch, Chair

Maura Lynch and the committee have been working on a letter to support the SB 129 Repeal of Spousal Defense Bill. The letter was shown on a shared screen. The DVCC held a vote with all members to support the letter being sent to the Maryland Judiciary. Smita Varia called out the members to vote. Of the members present, 15 voted in support, and one abstained from voting and left the meeting before the vote or discussion took place (Judge Karen Ferretti). After the vote, Maura Lynch also said that members could send individual letters supporting the bill as well.

VIII. Adjournment

Tom Manion, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm

The next DVCC meeting will be on March 9, 2023, 5pm-7pm via Microsoft Teams



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