



**Isiah Leggett**  
*County Executive*

**Darren M. Popkin**  
*Sheriff*

## **Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**

March 10, 2016  
Family Justice Center  
600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20852

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Purpose of Meeting:** Fifty-eighth meeting to review the County's response to domestic violence and present committee reports. The Honorable Karla Smith, DVCC Chair, convened the meeting at 5:30PM.

**In attendance:** The Honorable Karla Smith, DVCC Chair (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); William Sollod, DVCC Vice Chair (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Angela Talley (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-Trial Services); Dorothy Fait, Esq. (Community Member); Resa Levy (Community Member); Eshigo Okasili (Community Member); Sheila Kamdar (Community Member); and Tom Manion, DVCC Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff)

**Guests:** Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-Trial Services); Captain James Humphries (Montgomery County Department of Police); Jodi Finkelstein (Montgomery County Commission for Women); and Maureen Green and Connie Fiedler (Court Watch Montgomery)

**Absent:** Sheriff Darren Popkin (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); The Honorable John Moffett (District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County); Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public Schools – Board of Education); Assistant Chief Russell Hamill (Montgomery County Department of Police); Bobbe Mintz (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member); and Julian Avenilla (Community/Student Member)

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Judge Smith welcomed all members and guests.

#### **II. Approval of September Minutes**

Since the January 2016 meeting of the DVCC was canceled, the minutes

from the November 12, 2015 DVCC meeting were reviewed. Councilmember Sidney Katz proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Resa Levy, and passed.

### **III. Announcements**

#### **A. Welcome new Community Member: Sheila Kamdar**

Hon. Karla Smith welcomed the recently appointed and confirmed DVCC Community Member, Sheila Kamdar, to the meeting. Ms. Kamdar is a Montgomery County resident who works with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on immigration matters. She is very interested in community outreach on the issue of domestic violence, particularly among immigrant communities in the county. This is her first meeting.

#### **B. Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

DVCC Members voted unanimously to re-elect Hon. Karla Smith as Chair and William Sollod as Vice Chair for 2016.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Education and Outreach Committee**

Debbie Feinstein reported that the 2016 Choose Respect Montgomery Conference is coming up on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm – 4:30pm at Richard Montgomery High School. Thus far, 265 people have pre-registered for the conference, and promotional/outreach efforts, being led by Cheryl Kravitz, are in full swing. The schedule for the day was reviewed, with Ms. Feinstein highlighting that Tommy McFly (94.7 Fresh FM) will emcee the opening session, Toby Knapp (Hot 99.5) will emcee the closing session (including raffle and PSA awards), and the program will also include a testimonial from a young woman who lost her friend to dating violence. The conference will again utilize Zoomph, a social media platform with rotating tiles of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts that use our conference hashtag (#respectyourselfie2016). The breakout sessions will be “It’s Not Love” for 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and “#HealthyFriendships” for 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders, both developed by JCADA. Cheryl Kravitz has developed a different, unique program for the parents in attendance, centered more on testimonial and Q&A. Ms. Feinstein encouraged all DVCC members to attend the conference and to promote it within their personal and professional circles.

Debbie Feinstein further reported that the Healthy Dating Curriculum presentations are also on track to reach a record number of students this year – likely more than 2,500, but we will not have final numbers until the May meeting. The committee is also looking to expand the Coaching Boys Into Men program to additional schools next school year. CBIM promotional materials will be included in all Choose Respect participant folders.

Debbie Feinstein additionally reported that the committee, through funding from the MCFJC Foundation, will be printing 10,000 FJC 5-language cards for distribution. The Montgomery County Police Department has already requested 1,000 be sent to each police district.

Jodi Finkelstien reported on a public information campaign currently being developed in an effort to reduce domestic violence related homicides in Montgomery County. The issue was first raised by David Gillespie (Police Department) due to a noted increase in domestic violence homicides in the Germantown area. Ms. Finkelstein reported that the small workgroup that is addressing this issue is working on mapping domestic violence in Montgomery County using various data including 9-1-1 calls, Protective Orders, homicides, and individuals who sought services. This map will be used as an educational tool to help develop the campaign and the marketing strategy. The goal is to tell people that help and support are available for those in need. Ms. Finkelstein requested that members send any outreach materials they have to her so that she can forward them to the county Public Information Office (PIO). The idea is for PIO to see what promotional/outreach materials are already in use in order to guide their efforts. Lisa Mandel-Trupp suggested including the Council PIO as well.

## **B. Victim Services Committee**

Tom Manion reported that a delegation from Canada recently visited the Family Justice Center as part of a U.S. Tour they are doing through the State Department. All members of the delegation were involved in law enforcement and domestic violence in their home jurisdictions. The delegation took a tour of the FJC and participated in a Q&A with Tom Manion, Captain Rodney Brown (Sheriff's Office), Christina Miles (State's Attorney's Office), and Sergeant Jordan Satinsky (Police Department). It was an excellent and well-received visit.

Tom Manion additionally reported that work has been completed on the Supervised Visitation proposal to the County Executive. The proposal provides multiple options for implementation of supervised visitation and monitored exchange services in the county, and includes 5-year budget projections for each option. The proposal has been submitted to the County Executive, and Mr. Manion will keep DVCC members informed as the process continues.

## **C. Offender Program and Policy Committee**

Angela Talley reported that she is currently serving as the Chief of both Pre-Trial and Pre-Release, which is why she has been unable to attend the last few meetings. Bill Sollod reported that the committee held an offender stakeholders roundtable meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The roundtable was hosted by the Abused Persons Program and moderated

by Mike Subin. The event was very well attended, and helped open lines of communications between the agencies and programs directly involved with domestic violence offenders. Mr. Sollod reported that the event is likely to be repeated in the future, as it is important to always be up to date on and cognizant of everyone's processes and procedures, and to regularly discuss any barriers in function and/or communication. Tina Michaels stated that the event helped to identify strengths and weaknesses in what is currently being done, and by identifying these, the Offender committee can explore gaps and solutions.

Teresa Bennett reported that HHS's Abuser Intervention Program has been accepted to participate in a statewide research study on Abuser Intervention Programs.

#### **D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee**

Dorothy Fait reported that several domestic violence related bills are being considered this session. One is the rape survivor protection act which addresses terminating parental rights of the father in cases of pregnancies that result from rape – there needs to be clear and convincing evidence that the assault occurred, and a preponderance of evidence that it is still in the best interest of the child. Another bill under consideration clarifies the requirements for a permanent protective order (does “sentenced to serve” include suspended sentences and probation?). Another bill would include stalking, telephone misuse and revenge porn in the list of offenses that make a person eligible for a peace order. Updates will be given as they become available.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Judge Karla Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:30PM.

**The next DVCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016 from  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Family Justice Center**



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