



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, March 10, 2022
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Minutes

Attendees: Debbie Feinstein, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Tom Manion, Vice Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); The Honorable Karen Ferretti (District Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Jessica Volz (Adventist Healthcare); Lavonte Chapmon (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Amy Palumbo (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Carissa Zheng (Student Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Ingrid Gonzalez (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Assistant Chief Dinesh Patil (Montgomery County Department of Police); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County);

Guests: Lisa Mandel Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Reggie Blankson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Captain Amy Daum (Montgomery County Police Department); Colleen Bokman (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Leslie Hawes (Executive Director, Court Watch Montgomery);

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

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

III. Approval of January Minutes

The January 13, 2022 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Tina Michaels proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Lavonte Chapmon and passed.

IV. Announcements

Tina Michaels, the representative for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is retiring. She has served on the DVCC for many years. The Council thanked her for her service. Smita will be in contact with the Director of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to appoint a new representative.

Debbie Feinstein said that the next meeting in May will continue to be virtual, but afterwards, the Council can discuss how to move forward. One idea is to have every other meeting be in person.

V. Committee Reports

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

Maura Lynch asked the DVCC members to send in letters of support (through their own personal capacity) for a few bills that will help victims of domestic violence. The committee has set up a google drive with template letters of support that members can use.

Debbie Feinstein updated the Council on bills related to Criminal proceedings:

- A bill to improve Maryland's stalking law by adding tracking without consent and other electronic communication to the criminal stalking statute. Modifying the stalking statute will also permit peace and protective orders to be issued based on this conduct.
- A bill to increase the penalty for stalking does not look like it will pass this year. A few statewide groups will be collecting data to garner more support for this bill next session.
- A bill that expands the tender years exception to the hearsay rule to include alleged victims and witnesses of crimes of violence who are under 13 years old.
- A bill clarifying that the charges of violating a protective order and assault do not merge and may be sentenced separately.
- A bill to end allowing marriage to be a defense to some sex crimes.

Debbie Feinstein encouraged members to call their State Delegates to show their support for these bills.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

Tom Manion reported that the Victim Services is helping to start an Expungement Clinic, led by Maura Lynch for clients of the Family Justice Center and residents of the Betty Ann Krahne Domestic Violence Shelter. There are victims of domestic violence who have cross filings taken out against them in retaliation or other criminal charges on their record. This can lead to them being turned away from County Services that would assist them in helping with their domestic violence situation.

Tom Manion also gave an update on the Victim Services Subcommittee that is working on reimagining victim services for family and sexual violence victims. That committee has written a draft report for the County Council with recommendations on what the future of victim services should be in Montgomery County.

Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

Debbie Feinstein reported that RespectFest is starting on March 21st with a week of virtual events. There will be an opening webinar on Monday, March 21st with a survivor speaker and the top 5 videos from the Choose Respect Video Contest will be shown. On Tuesday, March 22nd there will be a webinar on consent for 8th – 12th grade students. On Wednesday, April 23rd, there will be a workshop for 6th and 7th grade students and 2 sessions for parents, one in English and one in Spanish. On Thursday, March 24th, the Choose Respect Student Advisory Committee will be leading a Jeopardy game for high school students. Along with these evening events, there will be 8 activities students can do online, they can vote for their favorite Choose Respect Video and the committee will be posting educational images on social media. Students can earn SSL hours for attending and raffle prizes will be given away as well.

The in-person event will be on Sunday, March 29th from 1 – 4 pm at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center. The emcee will be MCPS Student Member of the Board Hana O’Looney. There will be a resource fair with 20 community organizations and there will be 5 educational booths by the Commission for Women, the One Love Foundation, the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Cheryl Kravitz, a former DVCC member will be leading yoga sessions and self defense classes will also be offered. Students can earn SSL hours for attending and raffle prizes will be given away as well. We are looking for volunteers to help at the event. If you would like to help, please contact Smita Varia.

Smita Varia also reported that she presented an adapted Expect Respect, the in-classroom workshop to 6th and 7th graders this week. The 6th grade version discusses healthy friendships, and the 7th grade version focuses on emotional abuse.

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

This committee did not have any updates. Because Tina Michaels is retiring, a new Chair for this committee will need to be appointed.

VI. Adjournment

Debbie Feinstein, Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:52 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on May 12, 2022, 5pm-7pm



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