



**Isiah Leggett**  
*County Executive*

**Darren M. Popkin**  
*Sheriff*

## **Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**

May 12, 2016  
Family Justice Center  
600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20852

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Purpose of Meeting:** Fifty-ninth meeting to review the County's response to domestic violence and present committee reports. William Sollod, DVCC Vice Chair, convened the meeting at 5:40PM.

**In attendance:** 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); Assistant Chief Russell Hamill (Montgomery County Department of Police); Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public Schools – Board of Education); Bobbe Mintz (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Dorothy Fait, Esq. (Community Member); Sheila Kamdar (Community Member); Julian Avenilla (Community/Student 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); Sergeant Jordan Satinsky (Montgomery County Department of Police); Michael Subin (Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission); and Lauren Brown (Yasha Circle, People's Community Baptist Church)

**Absent:** The Honorable Karla Smith, DVCC Chair (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); Sheriff Darren Popkin (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); The Honorable John Moffett (District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County); Angela Talley (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-Trial Services); Resa Levy (Community Member); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member); and Eshigo Okasili (Community Member)

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

William Sollod welcomed all members and guests. Lauren Brown introduced herself as a guest at the meeting, representing Yasha Circle of the People's Community Baptist Church.

## **II. Approval of March Minutes**

The minutes from the March 10, 2016 DVCC meeting were reviewed. Debbie Feinstein proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Smondrowski, and passed.

## **III. Announcements**

Lisa Mandel-Trupp reported that the MCFJC Foundation's Annual Benefit is officially scheduled for the evening of Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **IV. Committee Reports**

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

Debbie Feinstein reported that the 2016 Choose Respect Conference, held at Richard Montgomery High School on March 20<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success, with a record 412 participants. Adding in staff, volunteers and public officials, there were more than 500 people at the event. The conference planning committee will hold an official debrief meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at the Family Justice Center, but so far, preliminary data coming in from conference evaluations has been extremely positive. Thanks to the incredible partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools this year, and the great feedback we received both from staff and attendees about the venue, we will most likely have the 2017 conference at Richard Montgomery High School as well. Debbie Feinstein further reported that conference attendees came from more than 50 different schools and were very diverse, which the planning committee was very pleased with since Montgomery County itself has an extremely diverse population. We had buses bringing students to the event from St. Mark's Church and the YMCA. There were some technical difficulties during the opening and closing programs, but these will be worked out for next year. Additionally, the committee would like to explore the possibility of students voting to determine the winners of the PSA contest.

Debbie Feinstein also reported that curriculum presentations have been growing exponentially, reaching nearly 3,000 students this year. However, the staff from the State's Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office that are responsible for giving the presentations are starting to become overloaded. Therefore, the Education and Outreach Committee is partnering with the MCFJC Foundation to obtain funding for a contractor to cover a large percentage of the presentations. This is still in the very early stages, and more information will be available in the coming months.

Debbie Feinstein additionally reported that Springbrook High School, Montgomery Blair High School, and Richard Montgomery High School are all on board to participate in the Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) program for the coming school year. The Education and Outreach Committee will continue to work over the summer to possibly recruit another school, or even other sports. Donna Rismiller has developed a 1-pager on the CBIM

program to market and promote within MCPS.

Debbie Feinstein further reported that the Education and Outreach Committee, with the help of the MCFJC Foundation, recently printed 10,000 FJC 5-language information cards. Each of the six police districts received 1,000 cards each, and the committee will continue to work with its community partners to ensure that the cards remain stocked at existing locations in the courthouses and county libraries.

Debbie Feinstein also reported that the Education and Outreach Committee is working with the Commission for Women, other county agencies/community partners, and the Montgomery County Public Information Office to develop a countywide campaign on domestic violence, and where victims can get help. The initiative began due to an observed increase in homicides in Montgomery County. The work group is currently collecting data to put together maps which will assist in directing the public information campaign geographically. Work on specific ads, PSAs, signs, etc. will continue over the summer.

Debbie Feinstein lastly reported that DVCC student member Julian Avenilla is graduating this year from Richard Montgomery High School, and will no longer be on the DVCC once he goes to college in the fall. All DVCC members thanked Julian for his invaluable contributions to the DVCC, particularly the Choose Respect Conference and the Coaching Boys Into Men program.

## **B. Victim Services Committee**

Tom Manion reported that the Victim Services Committee is continuing to work on the supervised visitation and monitored exchange initiative. A full proposal has been completed and submitted to the County Executive.

Tom Manion also reported that he is currently scheduling “check-in” meetings with each of the FJC partners. There has been quite a bit of turnover in many of the affiliated county agencies and community organizations, and increased communication will make these transitions much smoother and keep everyone on the same page.

Tom Manion lastly reported that the Sheriff’s Office will be monitoring multiple community grants this year, and all grantees have had community grants monitored by the Sheriff’s Office in the past. The Sheriff’s Office is also in the process of applying to renew a VAWA grant that currently funds a bi-lingual Victim Assistant position at the Family Justice Center.

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

Teresa Bennett reported that the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has officially been accepted to participate in a research study being conducted by the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland Baltimore County on abuser intervention programs. By virtue of their participation, the county's Abuser Intervention Program's annual recertification is being waived. The study will consist of data collection, record review, and interviews with staff.

Sergeant Jordan Satinsky reported that the Montgomery County Police Department Special Victims Investigations Division has expanded to include two units – the Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse Unit and the Sexual Assault Unit. Both units will be housed at the FJC, and Sgt. Satinsky will run the Sexual Assault Unit.

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

Dorothy Fait reported that several domestic violence related bills were considered this session:

**PASSED:** A bill that enables stalking behaviors to be more successfully prosecuted by adding certain language to the criminal law (“...intends to cause or knows or reasonably should have known that the conduct would cause serious emotional distress...”)

**PASSED:** A bill that adds the following offenses to the list of offenses for which someone can obtain a peace order: telephone misuse, electronic communication misuse, revenge porn, video surveillance.

The rape survivor protection act which addresses terminating parental rights of the father in cases of pregnancies that result from rape did not pass, but there will hopefully be another effort next year.

A bill that clarified the requirements for a permanent protective order (does “sentenced to serve” include suspended sentences and probation?) also did not pass.

### **V. Adjournment**

William Sollod adjourned the meeting at 6:30PM.

**The next DVCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2016 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Family Justice Center**



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