



Isiah Leggett
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff **Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**

Thursday, May 10, 2018

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Family Justice Center 5th Floor Conference Room
600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20852

Minutes

In Attendance: The Honorable Sidney Katz, Chair (Montgomery County Council); Debbie Feinstein, Vice Chair (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); Assistant Chief Laura Lanham (Montgomery County Department of Police); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Resa Levy (Community Member); Ronald Whalen (Community Member); Sheila Kamdar (Community Member); Eshigo Okisili (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Guests: Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Spencer Cantrell (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse); Assistant Chief Marcus Jones and Captain Sean Gagen (Montgomery County Police Department);

Absent: The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable John Moffett (District Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Naomi Pearson (Student Member); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member); Tom Manion (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff)

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Approval of March Minutes

The March 8, 2018 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Debbie Feinstein proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Tina Michaels and passed.

III. Announcements

Debbie Feinstein announced that the 8th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Senior Safety Forum is on June 14th from 10am - 1pm at the Holiday Park Senior Center in Silver Spring. She passed out flyers, and Smita Varia will email a PDF to the members of the Council.

IV. Discussion of the DVCC Statute

Members discussed 3 proposed amendments to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Statute.

The first proposed change is to increase the term for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Coordinating Council from 1 year to 2 years. This will allow the Chair and Vice Chair to serve in the leadership role for more than 6 meetings.

The second proposed change is to create 2 new seats for representatives from non-governmental domestic violence service or advocacy organizations. This allows non-governmental domestic violence service or advocacy organizations to bring additional knowledge and experience to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Teresa Bennet asked what the terms of eligibility would be for those who apply for these positions. She raised concerns that the Coordinating Council ensure all applicants and the organizations they represent are appropriately vetted. Debbie Feinstein suggested the language be changed to "Non-governmental and non-profit domestic violence service or advocacy organizations serving Montgomery County Residents." There is also an application and interview process where the Coordinating Council would be able to find out more about the organizations. One of the reasons that this proposed change came about is because there are some great organizations in Montgomery County that do not have access into to the Coordinating Council, which also prevents them from being on subcommittees. It is important for their voices to be at the table, and they would be an asset to the Council.

The third proposed change was to allow a high school student in any grade to apply to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Currently, the position is only open to 11th and 12th graders. This change will allow the student to be able to participate for a full year before they graduate.

Smita Varia will change the language and send it to the Coordinating Council, who will then vote on it during the July meeting.

V. Committee Reports

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

Debbie Feinstein reported that the Choose Respect Conference on April 15th was a huge success. Smita Varia has compiled data on the participants and the evaluations. Debbie Feinstein mentioned a few highlights: there were participants from 52 different schools, there was more diversity, and the evaluations were especially positive. During the opening session there was a survivor speaker who is in her first year of college, and she spoke about her experience with dating violence in high school. It was very powerful. The *It's Not Love* Workshop from the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse got positive feedback, as did the Bystander Intervention Workshop from TurnAround, Inc. Chery Kravitz's Parents Workshop was a success as well. For next year, the Choose Respect Subcommittee will work on making sure the announcement about the PSA contest and the conference get to the students and parents themselves. There was a lot of great communication with the schools, but those messages were not necessarily getting to the students themselves. The subcommittee will also outreach more to different groups (clubs, afterschool groups, youth groups, etc). The subcommittee will also work on how to make sure participants stay for the full conference and not leave after the assembly.

The Coaching Boys into Men Initiative is going well. Donna Rismiller is working on bringing the program to Einstein High School and Parkland Middle School. It is also being done at the Jewish Day School this semester with the Baseball Team. If anyone

has contacts with Athletics at different schools, please let Smita Varia know. The Committee is also hoping to pilot a new program for female athletes in the coming months.

The Education and Outreach Committee is also working on more outreach to the faith community. Sheila Kamdar has started creating a list, and the Committee will also work with the Honorable Karla Smith on the Domestic Violence Interfaith Coalition.

B. Victim Services Committee update - *Tom Manion, Chair*

The Family Justice Center recently received a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention to upgrade technology at the Center. This grant will provide the FJC with a new color printer, headsets for all of the Client Assistants so they can have their hands free and walk around while speaking to clients on the phone, a set of surface tablets/computers for Client Assistants to utilize when typing up Protective Order petitions (currently they have to walk back and forth between their office and the client); and finally, some tablets to streamline the FJC Intake process and make it more accessible to non-English speakers.

Tom Manion, Ngozi Obineme, and Diana Roche recently attended the International FJC Conference in Fort Worth, TX. They were able to tour the brand-new FJC in Fort Worth as well as participate in many sessions directly relevant to domestic violence services in a co-located setting like the FJC. It was a great learning experience, and all 3 came back feeling energized and ready to move the Montgomery County FJC forward into the future.

Next week, the State Department has set up an FJC tour/meeting with members of a delegation from Vietnam who are interested in learning about how our County responds to domestic violence.

Otherwise, things are continuing to go well at the FJC with the Client Assistants and all partner agencies.

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

The Offender Program and Policy Committee met yesterday. They are continuing to meet with different agencies from around the county. There is a tentative meeting with the Commissioners on July 19th. They are also working on setting up a meeting with PreTrial, the Sheriff's Office and the Montgomery County Department of Police to discuss procedures on how to implement the new Violation of Conditions of Release law (HB 388/SB 170).

The Committee has also invited someone from the Detention Center side of the Department of Corrections to be able to address services for those who are incarcerated. A future initiative is to think about bringing the Abuser Intervention Program into the jails.

The Committee also wants to bring domestic violence training to the Pre-Trial and Parole and Probation Officers.

D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Assistant Chief Laura Lanham, Chair
Assistant Chief Laura Lanham gave the 2017 Legislative Report. Below are the Bills that have passed and will go into effect on October 1, 2018:

- HB 388/SB 170 - Criminal Procedure - Violation of Conditions of Release
This bill makes violation of a pretrial no contact order a crime. If a person is arrested and released pretrial, very often the court sets special conditions of release for the defendant. A common special condition is to have no contact with the victim. Under current law, if the defendant violates a pretrial special condition, it is not a crime. The only remedy is for the state's attorney to file to revoke the release condition. By making violation of release conditions a separate crime, it enables law enforcement to arrest a defendant for violating his/her conditions of release, including to stay away from the victim.
- HB 1303/SB 491 – Family Law – Domestic Violence – Permanent Protective Orders
Under the current law, in order to be eligible for a permanent protective order, the respondent must be convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of at least 5 years, the crime must be one of a list of enumerated crimes, and the respondent must have served at least 12 months of the sentence. In addition, the current statute requires that the crime must be the act of abuse that lead to the issuance of the final protective order. This bill expands the current permanent protective order statute to include any crime, not just one of the enumerated crimes, and applies even if the crime was not the act of abuse that led to the issuance of the protective order.
- HB 255 and 633/SB 578 – Secretary of State – Address Confidentiality Programs – Shielding of Real Property Records
In 2016, the General Assembly passed a bill creating a Task Force to study and make recommendations about how to protect the identity and address of a participant in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) when recording a deed transferring real property to an ACP participant. This bill amends the ACP statute and creates a system for recording deeds and protecting the confidentiality of an ACP participant's address.
- HB 30/328/SB 121 – Family Law – Domestic Violence – Definition of Abuse
This bill was amended to expand the way abuse is defined in a protective order statute to include revenge porn.
- HB 1646/SB 1036 – Criminal Procedure – Firearms – Transfer
This bill requires the State's Attorney's Office to notify a defendant if s/he is charged with a domestically related, disqualifying crime and that, if convicted, s/he would be prohibited from possessing a firearm. It also requires the court to inform the defendant that s/he is prohibited from possessing a firearm and requires the defendant to provide proof to the court that all defendant's firearms have been appropriately transferred.
- HB 102 – Family Violence – Seizure of Lethal Weapons – Lethal Violence Protective Order (“Red Flag Bill”)
This bill creates a mechanism to allow a petitioner to file for a lethal violence protective order if s/he believes the respondent poses an immediate and present danger of causing personal injury or injury to others due to the accessibility of a firearm. If granted the lethal violence protective order would require the respondent to surrender his/her firearms.
 - Note: Police can also file a Lethal Violence Protective Order.
 - Note: This is a separate order from a Protective Order.

- HB 301/SB 270 – Courts – Evidence of Sexually Assaultive Behavior – Admissibility (The Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act of 2018)

This bill provides that, in a prosecution for certain specified sexual offenses, evidence of other sexually assaultive behavior by the defendant occurring before or after the offense for which the defendant is on trial may be admissible.

** These summaries are from the Marjorie Cook Foundation – Domestic Violence Clinic at the House of Ruth Maryland.*

VI. Adjournment

Sidney Katz, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:29 PM.

The next DVCC meeting will be on July 12, 2018, 5pm-7pm at the Family Justice Center



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council