



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Thursday, May 13, 2021

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Via Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 Crisis

Minutes

Attendees: Debbie Feinstein, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); The Honorable Karen Ferretti (District Court for Montgomery County); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Vikhyana Gonzalez (Student Member); Amy Palumbo (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Ronald Whalen (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Tom Manion, Vice Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Spencer Cantrell (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse); Ingrid Gonzalez (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member);

Guests: Captain Amy Daum (Montgomery County Police Department); Lisa Mandel Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Carolyn Hoffman (CourtWatch Montgomery); Maya Falb, Intern (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Danie Stewart, Intern, (Montgomery County Sheriff's Office); Tondalayo Royster (Member of the Public); Shin Young Park (Korean Community Center); Vita Larkin (Community Member, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America); Erin Sweeny Larkin (Ayuda);

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the meeting was conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams. Debbie Feinstein reviewed guidelines for participants. 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 March Minutes

The March 11, 2021 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Judge Karen Ferretti proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Amy Palumbo and passed.

IV. Announcements

Debbie Feinstein announced that the Montgomery County Circuit Court has resumed in person trials since April 26 and there are a number of trials each week. They have maintained safety protocols in the courts.

Mom's Demand Action for a Gun Sense America is having their annual action and wear orange day on Saturday June 5. They will have tables at the Silver Spring Farmers market and promotion on social media. They will be highlighting the Montgomery County Family Justice Center and Foundation for donations. Vita Larkin shared some information about the events they are having: <https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/41188/signup/>.

Nicole Drew announced there will be some self defense seminars with the Commission for Women coming up through the Rape Aggression Defense program. To sign up, visit <https://bit.ly/3aQtLhX>.

The next meeting in July will be Ron Whalen and Vikhyana Gonzalez's last meeting. There will be postings for openings on the DVCC for a student member, a nonprofit member, and community member coming up this summer.

V. Committee Reports

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

Tina Michaels reported that the Offender Program and Policy Meeting went on hiatus last month as many members are busy with the adjustments in the courts. The Abuser Intervention Program (AIP) is back online with Pre-Trial Services and has been going through a waitlist of people who were referred during the pandemic. Bilingual groups will begin again soon. Dorne Hill reported that the in-person groups with AIP will be moving to a new location in the summer and there will be announcements when that transition happens.

Debbie Feinstein asked if there would be an opportunity to resume the Expect Respect presentations with the 18-21-year-old offenders who are incarcerated. Tina Michaels said that the Jails are not doing larger gatherings yet, but she will ask the staff if smaller groups could occur with virtual presentations.

B. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Spencer Cantrell, Chair

Spencer Cantrell was not present at this meeting so she will report out next month. Debbie Feinstein did give some updates. Unfortunately, none of the legislative measures that were discussed at the March DVCC meeting were passed. A comprehensive list of relevant legislation can be found on the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault's (MCASA) website: <https://mcasa.org/law-public-policy/legislative-agenda>.

C. Victim Services Committee update - Tom Manion, Chair

Tom Manion was absent from the meeting and Smita Varia reported in his place. The committee met last month. Ngozi Obineme and the Legal Services Coordinators from DVS Legal Services, JCADA and House of Ruth Maryland are working on an FJC volunteer court advocate program. Tom Manion, Smita Varia, and Debbie Feinstein submitted a request to Sidney Katz for the Office of Legislative Oversight to work on

mapping family violence services within the county - population(s) served, services provided, access points, referrals, etc. This report will inform a lot of the initiatives that the DVCC works on. Ngozi Obineme and Maura Lynch are working with Suburban Hospital on a program for FJC clients who also face addiction issues. The Victim Services Subcommittee focused on family violence has been meeting once a month and hope to expand services. Safe Start programming continues to be done through Zoom because of the pandemic and the summer camp will be facilitated virtually in a similar way as last year. Children are also sent packages of art supplies, games, workshops, Legos, and other materials that relate to the current week's activities. The children have responded positively.

D. Education and Outreach Committee - Debbie Feinstein, Chair

This Education and Outreach Committee met earlier today and had a lot of new members join. Respect Fest was very successful. Smita Varia reported that the Choose Respect Video Contest received over 400 entries. This was the first year SSL hours were offered for just sending in a video. 16,000 people voted for the fan favorite video. There was a series of different live events virtually broadcasted and also independent activities for students to work on by themselves. Overall RespectFest reached 994 people, which was far beyond the expectations. There were 270 people at the webinar launch where the survivor speaker presented her story. Throughout the week there was also yoga and self-defense classes, Jeopardy for high schoolers, parent sessions in English and Spanish, 13 different independent activities for students online, a youth serving workshop by JCADA and a middle school session run by One Love Foundation. Each day of the week one of the winners of the video contest was announced online.

The committee has started thinking about events for October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There will be a focus on adult educational programming. Some ideas have included art installations, media coverage, and social media campaigns. There will be a subcommittee created to plan the logistics. If interested in joining, please contact Debbie Feinstein.

Expect Respect programming will begin again in the fall and Family Violence prevention resource cards are still available and being distributed. Anyone who needs cards to distribute, please contact Smita Varia.

VI. Adjournment

Debbie Feinstein, Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:43 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on July 8, 2021, 5pm-7pm



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council