



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

**Thursday, May 12, 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); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Assistant Chief Dinesh Patil (Montgomery County Department of Police); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); Lavontte Chapmon (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Amy Palumbo (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Carissa Zheng (Student Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: The Honorable Karen Ferretti (District Court for Montgomery County); Ingrid Gonzalez (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Jessica Volz (Adventist Healthcare); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member);

Guests: Colleen Bokman ((Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Reggie Blankson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Jenna Balaban (House of Ruth Maryland); Leslie Hawes (Court Watch Montgomery); Tondalayo Royster (Member of the Public); Captain Amy Daum (Montgomery County Police Department); Lisa Mandel Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz)

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 March Minutes

The March 10, 2022 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Lavontte Chapmon proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sidney Katz and passed.

IV. Announcements

Assistant Chief Patil announced that the Montgomery County Police Department's 100th Anniversary Community Day on Saturday, May 14th.

Nicole Drew announced that her term with the Commission for Women is ending, therefore a new representative will be appointed.

Debbie Feinstein also announced that Assistant Chief Patil is retiring, so new representative will be appointed by Chief Marcus Jones.

The members of the Council thanked both of them for their contributions to the DVCC.

V. Presentation: House of Ruth Video Series

Debbie Feinstein presented on a new video series by House of Ruth Maryland. This series of educational videos and tip sheets give an overview of each step of the criminal process, including who is involved, what rights crime victims have, what the victim's role is at each stage, and how to make their voice heard in the process.

Please see the slides attached to these minutes. The House of Ruth Video Series is available here: <https://hruth.org/mvoc/>.

VI. Committee Reports

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

Debbie Feinstein updated Council on the new laws that pertain to domestic violence that were passed in the 2022 legislative session.

- SB17/HB561 - Child Custody - Cases Involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence - Training for Judges
Requiring training for judges regarding domestic violence and child abuse, including regarding child sexual abuse and investigations.
Most of the Bill will be enacted on July 1, 2022, excluding one section that will be enacted by July 1, 2024
- HB148/SB328 - Criminal Law - Stalking – Definition
A bill to improve Maryland's stalking law by adding tracking without consent (for instance via stalkerware on a phone) 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.
Bill will be enacted on October 1, 2022
- SB20/HB284 - Criminal Procedure - Out of Court Statements - Child Victims and Witnesses
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. This is a major expansion of this rule.
Bill will be enacted on October 1, 2022
- HB817 - Criminal Law – Violation of a Protective Order – Merger Prohibition and Separate Sentence Authorization
Clarifying that the charges of violating a protective order and assault do not merge and may be sentenced separately.

Bill will be enacted on October 1, 2022

- HB296/SB280 - Temporary Protective Orders - Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing Hearings
A bill permitting virtual proceedings for filing and hearing of temporary protective order petitions when the petitioner is at a sexual assault or domestic violence program, a child advocacy center, a vulnerable adult program, a human trafficking program, or in a hospital receiving medical treatment, or in any other location approved by the Court.
Bill will be enacted on October 1, 2022

- HB210 - Criminal Trials - Spousal Privilege - Exception
This bill eliminates spousal privilege when the case involves a crime that happened prior to the marriage.
Bill will be enacted on October 1, 2022

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

Tom reported on the initiatives that the Victim Services Committee is working on. The Legal providers (DVS, House of Ruth and JCADA and Ayuda) are working together to take protective order cases from clients at the Family Justice Center. To create a support group for clients who may also have addiction issues, Tom Manion is going to be in contact with the Department of Health and Human Services to work with the County program, ACCESS. DVCC Community Member Maura Lynch has created an Expungement Clinic for victims who are being turned away from services due to their criminal record.

Lastly, Tom Manion and Smita Varia worked with Councilmember and DVCC member Sidney Katz to propose a report from the Office of Legislative Oversight on victim services in the County. The report, "Inventory of Services for Victims of Power-Based Violence in Montgomery County" was just released and can be found online at https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2022_reports/OLO2022-6.pdf. This report stresses the need for a center that addresses victims and families of all power-based violence which aligns well with the Victim Services Subcommittee work to create a multi-disciplinary co-located center to address all types of power based violence. This committee has been working with the Department of General Services on next steps.

C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

Smita Varia reported that RespectFest in March was a success. 600 people participated in person at the event on March 27th. There were performances, a resource fair, food, and the winners of the video contest were announced. During the week prior, there were virtual activities and workshops that students could participate in as well. She thanked the community partners, the student advisory committee and the volunteers for a very successful event.

Smita Varia also updated the Council on the in class Expect Respect Presentations. They are going well, with the addition of now doing workshops for 6th and 7th grade classes focusing on bullying, emotional abuse and bystander intervention.

The committee is also going to be reaching out to hospitals and medical providers to make sure they have our materials and know about the FJC Training Institute trainings

for medical providers. Lynne Harris and Lavonnte Chapmon on the contacts for this initiative.

Tondalayo Royster is spearheading an initiative to reach out to apartment complexes about FJC services and to encourage them to have the FJC do trainings on domestic violence and bystander intervention.

D. Offender Program and Policy Committee – *Vacant, Chair*

This committee has not met. They will regroup and elect a new Chair.

VII. Adjournment

Debbie Feinstein, Chair adjourned the meeting at XX pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on July 14, 2022, 5pm-7pm



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council