



Isiah Leggett
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, July 12, 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); Tom Manion (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member); Resa Levy (Community Member); Ronald Whalen (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Guests: Captain Sean Gagen (Montgomery County Police Department); Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Lauren Brown (Member of the Public); Izola Shaw (Member of the Public);

Absent: Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Assistant Chief Marcus Jones (Montgomery County Department of Police); The Honorable John Moffett (District Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Eshigo Okasili (Community Member);

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Approval of May Minutes

The May 10, 2018 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Resa Levy proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Tom Manion and passed.

III. Announcements

Smita Varia brought the newly printed Multi-Language Outreach cards and invited council members to take some to be distributed in the community.

Smita Varia announced that the Interfaith Day of Dialogue is on October 25th. If council members have contacts from religious or spiritual organizations, please send those names to her to ensure they have been invited and included in outreach materials.

IV. DVCC New Member Updates

There are 3 member positions currently open. The DVCC received 9 applications for the community member positions and 8 applications for the student member position. The interviews are currently being conducted.

V. Discussion of the DVCC Statute

During May's meeting, Coordinating Council 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 more adequate time to serve in a leadership role and provide direction to their fellow members on both new and existing initiatives.

The second proposed change is to create 2 new seats for representatives from non-governmental or non-profit 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.

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 at least a full year before they graduate.

Tina Michael proposed a motion approve the statute. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Kravitz and everyone was in favor.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Education and Outreach Committee - Debbie Feinstein, Chair

The Choose Respect Planning Committee recently met and focused on outreach to the community. If you are interested in being a part of the committee, please contact Smita Varia.

The Expect Respect Presentations were conducted at 8 high schools for summer school health classes and reached almost 300 students. The committee will also be reaching out to schools that have not requested the presentations in the past to widen the outreach.

Smita Varia has also adapted Expect Respect and added a larger component on sexual assault and consent to be presented to the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation's juvenile population of young men ages 18-21. A facilitator will present once a month to a group of 20 young men.

Coaching Boys into men was incorporated in a summer program at Parkland Middle School. They will continue conducting it through their Linkages to Learning program in the Fall. The Committee is also hoping to work with schools to pilot Athletes as

Leaders, a program for female identified athletes. The Jewish Day School and Rockville High School are possible schools to pilot this program.

10,000 Multi-Language Outreach Cards have been printed and are ready for distribution. Tina Michaels commented that the print is very small and is hard to see from afar. Lisa Mandel-Trupp suggested creating a sticker on the front of the plastic cardholders with bigger print to help people identify what the resource cards are.

The committee also needs to raise \$3,750 to print an additional 37,750 cards to put in the 375 Montgomery County Ride On buses. The Education and Outreach Committee will reach out to different agencies, including the FJC Foundation, Police Foundation, Court Watch Montgomery and Commission for Women, to ask for donations. Councilmember Sidney Katz's office will also contribute.

Smita Varia has also been working with a company that prints business information on pharmacy bags for Harris Teeter. It costs \$364 to print information on 42,000 bags. Smita Varia will see which Harris Teeters in the County have space and will work on getting the Family Justice Center information on the bags.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is October. The Committee has been discussing doing a press event to announce the cards on the Ride On Buses or the bags at Harris Teeter around this time. The committee is also already talking about Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 2019 and potentially planning a conference on domestic violence for adults.

B. Victim Services Committee update - Tom Manion, Chair

Tom Manion reported that there has been a steady flow of clients at the Family Justice Center (FJC), and there has been an increase in cases with an elevated risk of lethality. However, all clients are getting the services that they need, and cases that are flagged for being high risk are discussed at the ALERT meetings to ensure utmost safety.

The Client Assistants at the FJC have been able to attend trainings to broaden their education on current domestic violence research. They have attended trainings on sexual assault and working with male victims.

There are gaps in services that have been identified. Many victims do not want to leave their abusive home because they do not want to leave their pet behind, and the shelter does not allow pets. Tom Manion and Smita Varia are working on a pet safety initiative with the Montgomery County Police Department and the Humane Society to address the possibility for temporary shelter. Tom Manion also mentioned the partners we work with are starting to have waiting lists for counseling services because of the steady flow of new clients. Tom Manion is going to be meeting with other counseling services to try to expand the network of counseling services we can offer the clients.

The Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project secured funding to run a summer Art Therapy program at the FJC. They will also be able to offer childcare in the Family Area at the FJC during the sessions.

Through a partnership with the State Department, a Vietnam delegation came to take a tour of the Family Justice Center in May. They spoke to the different onsite partners here and were impressed with our collaborative efforts.

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

Tina Michaels reported that the Offender Program and Policy Committee is continuing to meet with different agencies in the county. The Committee will meet with the Commissioner's Office next week.

A separate subcommittee has been created to address and create procedures to enforce HB 388: Violation of Conditions of Release. This bill makes violation of a pretrial no contact order a crime. If a person is arrested and released to 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. 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. This bill will be a great tool to protect victims, but there is work that needs to be done to make sure patrol officers know what the bond or parole conditions are for those that have been released. The Committee will also be talking to the Commissioners to make sure they are assigning Pretrial Supervision for those that meet the bond condition requirements. Debbie Feinstein is working on finding out if patrol officers can make an arrest if they do not see the violation themselves.

Tina Michaels also brought up an issue where VINE (Victim Notification Everyday Service) notified a victim that the offender was released, even though she thought the offender had a 9-month sentence. The notification also came after the defendant had already been released. Rochelle Perry commented that she gets notifications when someone is about to be released (3-day, 6-day, 30-day, etc). Tina Michaels asked Rochelle Perry to make note of the facility, because maybe the Maryland State Department of Corrections gets notified when a release date is inputted, where in Montgomery County, the VINE is triggered when someone is released, not before. Tina Michaels would like to work on earlier notifications for Montgomery County as a new Offender Program and Policy Committee initiative.

D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Asst. Chief Marcus Jones, Chair
No updates reported.

VII. Adjournment

Sidney Katz, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM.

The next DVCC meeting will be on September 13, 2018, 5pm-7pm at the Family Justice Center



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council