



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, July 13, 2023
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Mission: To reduce the incidence of domestic violence and create a safe community for families to live free of abuse.

Minutes

Present: Tom Manion, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist Healthcare); Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public Schools-Board of Education); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services- Parole and Probation); Ben Stevenson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Lavontte Chatmon (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Tondalayo Royster (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Ashley Noy, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff)

Absent: Aanika Arjumand (Student Member); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court Montgomery County); Dr. Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services); Kendall Stanley (Community Member)

Guests: Captain Jeffery Bunge (Montgomery County Police Department); Lieutenant David Cohen (Montgomery County Police Department); Sharon Ledner (Office of Councilmember Katz); Katherine Bradley (DVCLP Attorney)

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

Tom Manion reviewed guidelines for virtual meeting participation. He asked everyone to mute microphones when not speaking. He asked the participants to use the chat function or the raise hand function if they would like to speak. He also requested that participants identify themselves each time they speak.

III. Approval of May Minutes

The May 11, 2023, DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine proposed a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Lavontte Chatmon and passed.

IV. Announcements

- Tondalayo Royster announced that Donna Rojas who served six years as the Chair for the Commission for Women has retired.

- Ben Stevenson announced that he is now the permanent director for the Department of Corrections. The Pre-Release Center is celebrating their 50th year and will be having a celebration on August 29th.

V. Discussion I: Offender Parenting Classes

- Dr. Thiel who is a public member of the DVCC requested that Tom Manion present the topic Safe Start for discussion. Dr. Thiel is the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Counseling Associates. She runs the Safe Start program for the county which provides counseling services to children who have been exposed to domestic violence in the home.
- Dr. Theil and Colleen have been talking about evolving the safe start program to include group sessions for parents and add it to the contract.
- Dr. Theil would like to reach out to victim and offender parents and talk to them about how intimate partner violence impacts children.
- Lavontee Chatmon states she supports the idea. Recently she attended a Leadership Montgomery Court training and went to the jail facility where she spoke with the medical officer about offender training classes.
- Dorne Hill supported the idea and states Peaches Wilson and Rosalia Scottman will be attending a tour at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility to talk about offender training programs.
- Ashley Noy will connect Ben Stevenson and Dr. Thiel to further discuss the offender parenting classes.

VI. Discussion II: Introducing Anonymous Detective Consultations

- Dr. Volz provided an explanation on Anonymous Detective Consultations. This is a process where patients can remain anonymous and have a consultation with detectives from the Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault units to have their questions answered.
- This is a process that has been working and may be ideal to have other hospitals also offer this as an option for their patients who are seen for Domestic Violence or Sexual assault incidents but research on the implications of this process is needed before recommending it for general use.
- Dr. Volz gathered statistics which found that 20-25% of patients who come to Shady Grove choose not to report, of those about 50% are willing to do the anonymous detective consult.
- Tom Manion believes there are also benefits on having the Family Justice Center offer the Anonymous Detective Consultations. Further discussion will be made with the Montgomery County Sheriffs Office to see if this can be incorporated to the Family Justice Center.

VII. Committee Reports

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

- Maura Lynch stated she has nothing to report at this time.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

- Tom Manion reported Victim Services has been working on Post-Separation Abuse where abusers are using the court system to continue to abuse the victim. The Committee is currently on an information collecting phase now by reaching out to other legal service community partners.
- Tom Manion reported the committee is also looking into gathering additional information as to why the numbers of petitioners without legal representation was so low as reported by Court Watch Montgomery. He will be working with Smita Varia to see if the Fall interns at the Family Justice Center can begin to collect data by

reaching out to the petitioner and figuring out if they are represented and if not then why.

- Tom Manion reported the gap in housing which was brought up by Collen Bockman. There is a gap with victims who are not in the shelter system that do not qualify for further support services down the line. Smita Varia will be contacting DASH-DC to see if a representative can come to the next Victim Services meeting.

C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

- Debbie Feinstein reported that Education and Outreach is working on sending outreach materials to hospitals, doctors' office, and apartment complexes. The committee also approved putting the English and Spanish awareness cards on pharmacy bags this fall.
- Debbie Feinstein reported that members of the committee are looking to restart the Safe Bar program to get local businesses to participate and look out for concerning behaviors.
- Debbie Feinstein reported that Smita Varia and volunteered to chair the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Committee. She has asked that anyone who is interested in participating in the committee reach out to Ashley Noy via email.

D. Offender Program and Policy Committee – Ben Stevenson, Chair

- Ben Stevenson reported that they are having a tour tomorrow in their facility with APP to expand services for the offender population.
- Ben Stevenson reports he is also working on getting statistics gathered from Pre-Trial and see what the data looks like as it has changed since COVID.

VIII. Adjournment

Tom Manion, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:58pm

The next DVCC meeting will on September 28, 2023, 5pm-7pm IN PERSON



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council