



**Marc Elrich**  
County Executive



**Darren M. Popkin**  
Sheriff

**Office of the Sheriff**  
**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2019**  
**5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**  
**Family Justice Center 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20852**

**Minutes**

Attendees: Debbie Feinstein, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Tom Manion, Vice Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Ingrid Gonzalez (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Acting Chief Marcus Jones (Montgomery County Department of Police); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); Lilah Katz (Student Member); Eshigo Okasili (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Ronald Whalen (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); The Honorable Karen Ferretti (District Court for Montgomery County); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education);

Guests: Lisa Mandel Trupp (Office of Councilmember Sidney Katz's Office); Jill Larson (Betty Ann Krahne Center); Ngozi Obineme and Baileigh Tolar, Intern (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Captain Willie Parker-Loan and Rich Reynolds (Montgomery County Department of Police); Tazeen Ahmad (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Siomara Bonilla (House of Ruth); Spencer Cantrell (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse); Elaine Arndt (Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense); Galena Keliper and Lawanda Dezen (Naval Support – Bethesda); Lauren Brown (Member of the Public); Lilian Ibeh (Member of the Public);

**I. Approval of July Minutes**

The July 11, 2019 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Acting Chief Marcus Jones proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Tina Michaels and passed.

**II. Announcements**

Dr. Tricia B. Bent-Goodley, who is a Professor of Social Work and Director of the Doctoral Program at Howard University School of Social Work will be presenting on DV and cultural competency at the next Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. DVCC members are invited to attend, and Smita Varia will send a calendar invitation.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If anyone learns of any relevant events, please let Smita Varia know and she will send the information to the committee.

The Family Justice Center Foundation's Annual Benefit is on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Rockville Hilton. The Empowering the Future Award will be presented to Amy Shaw Palumbo of DVS Legal Services and the William J. Shaw Family Foundation.

Cheryl Kravitz is has stepped down from the DVCC due to personal reasons. She will still be involved with the Choose Respect Committee.

**III. Guest Speaker:** *Jill Larson, LCSW-C, Betty Ann Krahne Center Program Director & Clinical Director*

Jill Larson gave an overview of the services of the Betty Ann Krahne Center. The Shelter is a contract between Family Services Incorporated and Health and Human Services and is supervised by the Abused Persons Program. Referrals come from the Crisis Center. The Shelter can house both individual women and women with their children. They are an emergency shelter and not a housing program, however they help the residents try to find permanent housing. They have case workers and therapists on staff, along with a trauma-informed daycare worker. The Shelter incorporates a lot of community programs including JCADA, SafeStart and House of Ruth. The Shelter staff meet the residents where they are emotionally and psychologically and try to make the shelter as warm and comfortable as possible.

**IV. Committee Reports**

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

Debbie Feinstein reported that the Committee is working with the Public Information Office to get ads on the outside of RideOn buses with the tagline, "Are you afraid of your partner? Free help is available" with the FJC and APP numbers printed for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. The ads will be in both English and Spanish. If anyone is interested in helping fund the initiative to cover printing costs, please contact Smita.

Debbie Feinstein also announced that the committee is exploring ways to expand working with athletes by including information about dating violence in other existing leadership programs offered in schools.

Debbie Feinstein also announced that RespectFest will be held in the spring at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center.

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

Tom Manion reported that during Fiscal year 2019, the Family Justice Center worked with 1,627 individuals. Of these:

- 95% were women
- Services in 20 different languages
- 20% of the clients were Spanish speaking.
- 47% of the clients had a child in common with the offender.

Tom Manion gave an update about the Pet Safety Program. The Montgomery County Police Department's Animal Services Division has drafted a Memorandum of Understanding to temporarily house pets while FJC clients secure new housing.

Mindy Thiel reported that the Safe Start Camp was extremely successful. Safe Start partnered with Bar-T Camp at their Rockville and Gaithersburg locations. 28 children between the ages of 5-13 received ongoing therapy services including making a shield, self-portraits, feelings wheels, talk therapy and role plays on conflict resolution along with regular camp activities. The Town of Chevy Chase donated all of the supplies.

Tom Manion also mentioned that the Victim Services Committee is also working on expanding the network of attorneys. Lastly, instead of writing quarterly newsletters, the FJC is putting together an annual report, to be released in October in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

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

Tina Michaels reported that the Offender Committee now has a representative from the Department of Juvenile Services. The committee is trying to figure out how many juveniles are offenders of dating violence, to see if there is a need to create an abuser intervention program for that age group.

The committee is also exploring the possibility of offering the Abuser Intervention Program for offenders who are incarcerated.

Lastly, the committee is working on ensuring that protective order conditions and bond conditions are the same.

**D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Acting Chief Marcus Jones, Chair**

Acting Chief Jones announced that Debbie Feinstein will be working on introducing a bill to make non-fatal strangulation an automatic felony. Currently, nonfatal strangulation can be classified as either a misdemeanor or felony. Maryland is only 1 of 3 states that doesn't make it automatic felony. Other potential bills will be released in November.

**V. Adjournment**

Debbie Feinstein, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:55.

**The next DVCC meeting will be on November 14, 2019, 5pm-7pm at the Family Justice Center**



**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**