



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, September 9, 2021
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 Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Assistant Chief Dinesh Patil (Montgomery County Department of Police); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Amy Palumbo (Community 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); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Mindy Thiel (Community Member);

Guests: Captain Amy Daum (Montgomery County Police Department); Colleen Bokman (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Lisa Mandel Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Carolyn Hoffman (Court Watch Montgomery); Jaya Nelliot (ASHA for Women); Emily Kirby (Community Member, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America); Jenica Kramer (House of Ruth Maryland); Lisa King (Member of the Public); Rebecca Baldwin (Member of the Public);

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

The meeting was conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams. Tom Manion reviewed guidelines for participants. He asked everyone to mute microphones when not speaking. Tom Manion asked the participants to use the chat function if they would like to speak and to use the raise hand function. He also requested that participants should identify themselves each time they speak.

III. Approval of July Minutes

The July 8, 2021 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Councilmember Sidney Katz proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Judge Karla Smith and passed.

IV. Announcements

Tom Manion announced that the Family Justice Center is fully back on-site after doing a hybrid and telework model during the height of the COVID-19 health crisis. Any member of the public does have their temperature checked before entering the FJC.

Judge Karla Smith announced that she held an information session for all of the Circuit Court Judges on Protective Order procedures, the Victim Notification System (VINE), Child Welfare Services investigation requests, and other domestic violence case related issues. Judge Smith also stressed the importance for all Judges to check previous protective order history when reviewing a case.

Smita Varia announced that the DVCC Annual Report has been sent to the Sheriff for approval and it will be sent to County Executive Elrich and Council President Hucker on September 15th. She will also post the report on the DVCC website.

Tom Manion announced that we will begin to invite guest speakers to future meetings again, so if anyone has any suggestions, please let him, Debbie Feinstein or Smita Varia know.

V. Member Updates

Assistant Chief Dinesh Patil is now formally the new representative for the Montgomery County Police Department.

Spencer Cantrell has left JCADA for another position and her non-profit seat is now vacant.

Smita Varia, Tom Manion, Amy Palumbo and Maura Lynch have been conducting interviews for the vacant member seats. Smita Varia will be sending over the recommendations to the County Executive in the coming weeks.

VI. Committee Reports

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

Tina Michaels reported that due to COVID and limited programs at the Detention Centers, the Offender Program and Policy Committee has not met. However, Tina Michaels shared that she made a connection with the social worker in the Division of Corrections who is interested in learning more about the Abuser Intervention Program and how it can be incorporated into the Detention Centers. Colleen Bokman gave an update that the current wait time to start the Abuser Intervention Program is 2 weeks for English speakers, and longer for Spanish speaking offenders.

B. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – *Vacant, Chair*

Smita Varia reported that the Legislative Committee has not met recently since the legislative session is currently closed. However, since Spencer Cantrell is no longer on the DVCC, Maura Lynch has agreed to be the new Chair of this committee. She will be reconvening the Committee soon.

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

The Victim Services Committee was not able to meet last month due to a scheduling conflict. Tom Manion reported that the Family Justice Center is still working on bringing Medical Services to the FJC in some capacity through a telehealth model and eventually in person. Additionally, the Victim Services Committee is continuing efforts with Johns

Hopkins and Suburban Hospital to develop an Addiction Services Support group for survivors.

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

Debbie Feinstein reported that the Education and Outreach Committee is busy planning events for October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The launch will be on October 4th outside at the Family Justice Center. The County Council and County Executive will be presenting a joint Proclamation on October 5th. Throughout the month, there will be webinars on bystander intervention, strangulation, and yoga demonstrations. There will also be a survivor panel. Please follow the DVCC on social media at mocodvcc on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Debbie Feinstein asked each DVCC member to attend at least one event.

The Choose Respect Initiative continues. Requests for Expect Respect, the dating violence prevention workshop, are coming in for the Fall semester. The Programs for Athletes initiative is starting to be reactivated after a year off during COVID-19. The Student Advisory Committee will also start meeting again to plan Spring 2022's RespectFest. RespectFest is being planned to be held both in person and online.

VII. Adjournment

Tom Manion, Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on November 18, 2021, 5pm-7pm



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