



**Marc Elrich**  
County Executive



**Maxwell C. Uy**  
Sheriff

**Office of the Sheriff**  
**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2023**  
**5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

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

**Minutes**

Present: Tom Manion, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Tondalayo Royster (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Ben Stevenson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Ashley Noy, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist Healthcare); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services); Aanika Arjumand (Student Member); Lavontte Chapmon (Community Member); Kendall Stanley (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member);

Guests: Sheriff Max Uy and Smita Varia (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Karen Foxman (DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, Montgomery County Office); Captain Jeff Bunge ((Montgomery County Police Department); James McGalliard (Member of the Public);

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Approval of March Minutes**

The July minutes were not approved because the 10-person voting member quorum was not met. The minutes will be approved at the November meeting.

**III. Announcements**

Lynne Harris announced that the Montgomery County Board of Education held a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at their meeting.

Tondalayo Royster asked everyone to Save the date for the Women's Legislative Briefing, which will be Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the University of Shady Grove. They also have

programming addressing separation and divorce, and financial healthy and wellness in the upcoming months. Lastly, Donna Rojas has finished her term as President of the Commission for Women. The new chair is Linda Clark.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and October 19<sup>th</sup> is wear national purple day. The DVAM Committee is displaying 40 red flag yard signs at the Silver Spring Veterans Plaza in both English and Spanish with a resource board.

Tom Manion announced that a new FJC client assistant, Alex Rochelli, will start on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IV. Guest Speaker: Smita Varia, Family Justice Center Program Manager**

Smita Varia talked about the FJC Training Institute and the free trainings and workshops that are offered. Please see the attached presentation.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

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

Maura Lynch announced that she will be meeting with Ashley Noy and Smita Varia to discuss setting up meetings with the Legislative Committee in the coming months.

##### **B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair**

Tom Manion announced that the committee did not meet in August but connected via email. They are working on several initiatives. They have started discussing how to address post-separation abuse that many victims face. After the report by Court Watch Montgomery announced that there is a high rate of petitioners that are not represented by legal counsel, the FJC Legal Services Intern will work on a project where they look at all protective order hearings and ask why the petitioner does not have representation. Another ongoing need is the gaps in housing. This is a major issue since shelter stay is only 60 days. A transitional housing program would be a great value in Montgomery County to continue assisting victims. We have reached out to DASH, a transitional housing organization in DC, and invited them to a meeting to learn more about their model.

##### **C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair**

Ashley Noy reported that they have been working with the County Medical Officer's Office to share the FJC Training Institute trainings with the medical providers in Montgomery County. The Committee has started the process of reaching out to apartment complexes by sending them the FJC awareness cards in English and Spanish. The Awareness card advertisement has been printed on Harris Teeter pharmacy bags.

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

Ben reported that they want to expand their programs by using tablets to educate those incarcerated. They would be able to get more education. Ben also said that they are trying to collect more data from Pre-trial so they can apply for grants to grow their programming and they have hired a new data analyst. There is ongoing discussion about how APP can be offered to those incarcerated. Right now, it is only offered to those in Pre-Trial and Parole and Probation. *Ben also mentioned that they are* working with a family education group called Sponsor Group which can be a great segway to educate others in different topics.

**VI. Adjournment**

Tom Manion, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:25 pm.

**The next DVCC meeting will be on November 9 , 2023, 5pm-7pm**



**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**