



Isiah Leggett
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Thursday, November 9, 2017

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); William Sollod, (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Eshigo Okisili (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff)

Guests: Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Lt. Sheila Sugrue (Montgomery County Department of Police); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); Michael Subin (Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission); Lauren Brown (Yasha Circle Ministry); Spencer Cantrell (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse);

Absent: Sheila Kamdar (Community Member); Angela Talley (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation – Pre-trial Services); Assistant Chief Russell Hamill (Montgomery County Department of Police); Teresa Bennett (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable John Moffett (District Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Resa Levy (Community Member); Cheryl Kravitz (Community Member);

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of September Minutes

The September 14, 2017 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Nicole Drew proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Debbie Feinstein and passed.

III. Announcements

Montgomery County FJC Foundation Update (Resa Levy)

Lisa Mandel-Trupp gave an update about the 8th Annual FJC Foundation Benefit, which was held on October 29th and 300 people attended. All attendees had a great time, and the event raised much-needed funds to support the Family Justice Center. There are photos on the MCFJC Foundation website.

IV. New Member Update

The DVCC Member Application window is now closed and we received 6 applications for the public member position, and 4 applications for the vacant student member. Smita Varia asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Nicole Drew volunteered.

Dodie Fait has resigned from the DVCC because of other commitments. She was the Chair of the Legislative Committee. Smita Varia will reach out to members in the coming months to gauge interest in Chairing the Committee moving forward. The Coordinating Council will have a larger discussion about it at the next meeting. Debbie Feinstein said that she would be happy to help the new Chair get acclimated to the position. In addition, Dodie Fait said she is happy to assist in any way she can.

V. Committee Reports

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

Debbie Feinstein gave an update on each Education and Outreach Committee initiative. The Choose Respect Conference is scheduled for April 15, 2018. There will be an opening ceremony and Resource Fair like last year, but one big change for 2018 is that there will be no closing ceremony. The PSA Contest will go live next week. This year, all entries must address either emotional, financial or technological violence, not physical violence. In addition to the 3 top places and 2 honorable mentions, students in Montgomery County schools will vote for a Fan Favorite video, which will also win a prize.

Smita Varia has created new flyers for the Choose Respect initiative. One flyer explains the 4 components of the initiative (the conference, the PSA contest, Coaching Boys Into Men, and the Expect Respect in-class presentations). The other ½ page flyer advertises the Choose Respect Conference and the PSA Contest. On the back of the flyers, there are warning signs listed, tips on how to help a friend, and resources available in the community for victims of dating abuse/domestic violence.

Debbie Feinstein reported that the MCPS Health Content Specialist sent an email out to all the Health teachers in MCPS about the Expect Respect Presentations. Smita Varia has gotten many requests and it appears as though we will exceed the number of students trained all last year with just this semester alone. The facilitators include Smita Varia, staff from JCADA, staff from the State's Attorney's Office, staff from the Sheriff's Office and staff from Chesapeake Counseling. Each student receives the ½ page flyer after the presentation, and several students have already disclosed abuse to Smita Varia after she has presented at a few schools.

Coaching Boys Into Men is going well. Donna Rismiller received great feedback from one of the coaches with examples of how the boys are already incorporating some of the lessons in their daily lives. Lauren Brown asked if there is anything comparable for girls, and Debbie Feinstein and Smita Varia mentioned that there is a program out of Washington State that they are considering.

The Multi Language Cards have been printed. Smita Varia will put together a distribution plan and will include the courts, libraries, HHS centers, recreation centers, religious places of worship, doctors' offices, salons, and inside buses.

The Bus Campaign is active. There are outreach signs on buses and shelters around the county. Debbie Feinstein thanked the funders for this initiative – Sidney Katz's office, the Commission for Women, the Family Justice Center Foundation and Court Watch Montgomery.

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

Tom Manion reported that 4 new Client Assistants have completed orientation. He thanked all the partners that took time to meet with the new Client Assistants.

Tom Manion has been working on scheduling collaborative trainings for the Client Assistants, and inviting staff from the State's Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Deputies, Police Department, and other county, state, and community partners. Last month the National Network to End Domestic Violence did a training on technology. The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence is coming next week to do a training on Stalking, and Tom Manion hopes to have trainings once a month or every 6 weeks.

Tom Manion and Smita Varia are meeting with different Animal Services providers to try to set up a program where an organization can foster animals while a client is in shelter or staying with a friend.

Tom Manion is working with Resa Levy on Higher Education Initiatives. Tom Manion met with all the counselors at Montgomery College to talk about the services the FJC provides. They have invited Tom Manion back in January for a meeting specifically about domestic violence and sexual assault.

C. Offender Program and Policy Committee - *Angela Talley, Chair*

Tina Michaels reported on the Offender Program and Policy Committee. The Committee is meeting monthly with different stakeholders in offender services. This past month, the committee met with the Abused Persons Program. As a result of the meeting, the Abuser Intervention Program (AIP) met and presented to the PRC case managers and the Pre-Trial Case Managers. Statistics show that offenders who participate in the program are less likely to offend while they are in the classes, even if they don't complete the program. If a judge orders AIP in a pre-trial case, they go through the 1st phase of the program which is 6 weeks. However, the full program is 22 weeks. Tina Michaels talked with APP to see if the offenders can complete the whole program as long as they are under Pre-Trial's supervision.

The committee and APP are meeting with the District Court Judges next week, and the Circuit Court Judges on December 4th. The committee is going to ask the judges to order AIP for the offenders, and to order the full program, instead of the first 6 weeks. Another concern is that some judges are ordering online anger management programs, and there is no oversight for the content of those programs or even if the offender is the one taking the course over the computer. Usually the judge will order the full program if it is a protective order case, but will only order the full 6 weeks if it is criminal case.

APP has seen a decrease in referrals to AIP. Another issue is that 60% of the people that come to Pre-Trial come from the Commissioner's office, and they are not allowed to order AIP.

D. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee

In the absence of a Chair to report on the work of this committee, Tina Michaels posed a question to the rest of the Coordinating Council: House Bill 1163 allows victims of domestic violence to request a judge to implement a GPS tracking device in addition to a protective order to actively monitor offenders. Pre-Trial monitors GPS tracking devices for criminal cases, but does not have jurisdiction to monitor GPS for civil cases. Who will be enforcing this for civil cases? Smita Varia will follow up with Judge Mitchell about enforcement.

VI. Adjournment

Councilmember Sidney Katz, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

The next DVCC meeting will be on January 11, 2018, 5pm-7pm at the Family Justice Center



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council