



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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County Executive

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Commission on Juvenile Justice Fiscal Year 2017 Work Plan

June 2016

General Statement of Purpose for Fiscal Year 2017:

The Commission's committee structure for the upcoming fiscal year will include three standing committees: Executive; Government and Community Relations and Care, Custody, and Placement; *Ad hoc* committees are established as needed (e.g., for naming of officers and new Commission member interviews). Committees will meet prior to the Commission meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, except in August and December. The Commission meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month except in August and December. When the Commissioners feel there is an issue that needs more in-depth discussion, the Commission will hold a teleconference. Notice of such teleconferences will be given in advance.

The Commission will only take action in accordance with our enabling legislation.

The Commission will continue to be proactive in reviewing proposed legislation at the State and local level.

Each member will participate in the work of the Commission, including serving on at least one committee.

The Commission will continue to review and address how Montgomery County assesses needs and delivers treatment to its juvenile justice population.

The Commission studies, reports, monitors, and advocates for the issues identified on the attached pages.

Executive Committee – Chair Carlean Ponder

Members: Francha Davis (Vice Chair), vacant (Secretary), Shehzad Akhtar and Chris Fogleman (Government and Community Relations Committee Co-Chairs), Maria Blaeuer and Karen Francis (Care, Custody, and Placement Committee Co-Chair).

The Executive Committee represents the Commission at meetings with the Health and Human Services Director, County Executive, and County Council; drafts and presents testimony on legislation of interest; and provides administrative support to the Commission. The Executive Committee organizes Commission membership, orientation, the annual work plan, and the annual report.

Government and Community Relations Committee: Co-Chairs Shehzad Akhtar and Chris Fogleman

Members: Francha Davis, Bonnie DeWitt, Stacey Gurian Sherman, Lee Haller, Jessica Markham, Risa Mainprize, Perry Paylor, Erynn Penn, Wendy Pulliam, and Mike Subin.

The **Government and Community Relations Committee** coordinates and facilitates exchanges in connection with providing recommendations to the Commission's legislative Agenda; 2) monitors and tracks legislation affiliated with Juvenile Justice System; and 3) oversees the annual forum with Montgomery County Juvenile Court judges.

In furtherance of and consistent with the Commission's focus on intervention and prevention efforts for high need youth, including disproportionate minority contact, gender specific, and re-entry issues, during the next year, the **Government and Community Relations Committee** will take the following action steps.

- Monitor report on, and make recommendations regarding relevant proposed legislation.
- Advocate for Commission budget recommendations.
- We will address one or more of the following issues:
 - Shackling and strip searching of youth in the county juvenile justice system
 - Research/investigate best practices in alternative education
 - Investigating states that have successfully transitioned from state to local agency control, including successful transition of funding

Care, Custody, and Placement Committee: Co-Chairs Maria Blaeuer and Karen Francis

Members: Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Michael Gruenberg, Julia Malloy, Carlean Ponder, Roberta Rovner Pieczenik, Mary Siegfried, Ira Thomas, Tisha Wiley and Elijah Wheeler.

Two- year work plan for the Care, Custody & Placement Committee

The objective of the CJJ's Care, Custody & Placement Committee is to monitor and track the quality of care provided to Montgomery County Youth in Community Placement or Residential facilities which may located outside the county or the state.

The previous year's work plan was the starting place for this year's plan and informed the decision to view this as a two- year plan. This plan includes two objectives that are continuation of the committee's previous work (objectives 1 and 2), and two objectives that are direct responses to needs expressed to committee over the past year (objectives 4 and 5).

The plan also includes a broader objective specifically designed to ensure that the concerns of the CJJ's Care, Custody & Placement Committee are heard in the larger community and by relevant decision-makers. This objective (number 3 below), will require the Care, Custody & Placement Committee to collaborate with the whole Commission and the Government Relations Committee in particular.

Objective 1

To advocate for effective vocational training programs for youth who have been detained.

- i) Identify vocational programs that are available at the facilities and look at the effectiveness of those programs.
- ii) Identify other agencies that are providing services and look at the effectiveness of those programs within those agencies.
- iii) Identify and create relationships with MSDE and other agencies within Montgomery County and state-wide who have responsibility for this work to facilitate collaboration and information gathering.

- iv) Commit to participating in some sort of fact-gathering, community-engagement, stakeholder, roundtable event.

Objective 2

To advocate for effective re-entry opportunities for youth who have been detained and for disconnected youth.

- i) Identify vocational programs that are available at the facilities and look at the effectiveness of those programs.
- ii) Identify other agencies that are providing services and look at the effectiveness of those programs within those agencies.
- iii) Identify and create relationships with MSDE and other agencies within Montgomery County and state-wide who have responsibility for this work to facilitate collaboration and information gathering.
- iv) Commit to participating in some sort of fact-gathering, community-engagement, stakeholder, roundtable event.

Objective 3

Create a strong voice for CJJ & the children and the families we serve, within county and state government, and be a voice and a resource for state and county agencies.

- i) We do this by sharing what we learn, what we see, what we know with elected officials, policy makers and those who are implementing those policies
- ii) We also do this by listening to community members, stakeholders, and policy maker about their concerns.
 - (a) One specific way we will do that is to participate in the Council's POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT (date TBD).

Objective 4

To strengthen and support the services for the Evening Reporting Center, which is currently grant funded and unavailable post-disposition.

- i) Determine what the current funding situation is, and what is needed to allow it to be available post-disposition.
- ii) Obtain statements of support for Evening Reporting Center.
- iii) Communicate to DJS and MC Council that Evening Reporting Center should be funded as to be available post-disposition
- iv) Specifically work with Elijah Wheeler, Director of Social Justice at the Collaboration Council toward the goal of obtaining additional funding for the ERC in order to ensure that our efforts are coordinated

Objective 5

Research and potentially advocate for a Re-Engagement Center/Wrap-Around Center for disengaged and/or returning youth that is potentially analogous to the District of Columbia's Re-Engagement Center (for out of school youth), Montgomery County's Family Justice Center (for families who have experienced DV) or Montgomery County's One-stop Employment Centers.

- i) Visit MC programs that act as resources/clearinghouses
- ii) Obtain statements of Support
- iii) Communicate to the Council that Re-Engagement Center should be funded (identify potential funding streams or reallocation of existing budget items) and suggest services it should provide, and who it should it is intended to target.
- iv) Support the ongoing work of Collaboration Council to establish a center Montgomery County as requested and needed