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*County Executive*  *Director DHHS*

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

###### **Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kimberly Alfriend, Carol Cichowski, Eddie Ellis, Tracey Friedlander, Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Melissa Goemann, Ijeoma Okoro, Erynn Penn, Joshua Pestaner, Michael Pinard, Kevin Redden, Jonathan Scriven, Tom Smith, Ebony Stoutmiles, Shuaa Tajammul, and Erin Whaley.

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joanna Bonner (Alycia Kokos), Amy Daum (Jordan Satinsky), Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Steve Miller, Steve Neff, Mary Siegfried (Brett Lonker), Nathaniel Tipton and Carlotta Woodward.

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Bonnie Beavers, Bruce Clark, Don Chisholm, Thomas Squire, and Heather Sweren.

**PRESENT EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Carole L. Brown

**ABSENT EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Chris Fogleman, and Wendy Pulliam.

**STAFF LIAISON PRESENT:** Diane Lininger

**GUESTS:** Abigail Faith, Marieme Sambe, Tia Scott, and Dr. Rolando Santiago.

1. **Welcome** – The meeting was officially opened by Kevin Redden, Chair of the Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ), who also greeted attendees and outlined its objectives.
2. **Attendance** –After taking attendance, Diane Lininger asked everyone to mute their microphones unless they were speaking.
3. **Speakers** – The meeting included presentations by Ex-Officio members and Agency representatives, who highlighted their work and its relation to the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justices (CJJ).

1. Alycia Kokos – Substituting for Joanna Bonner, Juvenile Case Manager, Montgomery County Circuit Court.

* Discussed how the Circuit Court works, timelines and how youth who are involved with the Juvenile Justice System are processed.

1. Francha Davis, Voices for Children Montgomery.

* Agency used to be called Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) but too many people were confused with the name. Volunteers serve as court liaisons and work together with Child Welfare to assist youth who are involved with Child Welfare – some youths are involved with Department of Juvenile Services as well.

1. Frank Duncan, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).

* Explained that DJS handles any complaints of acts that, if committed as adults, would be crimes.
* Described the DJS’s work process:
* At the intake stage, look in to whether can resolve the case short of court involvement.
* Also is involved once case goes to court.
* Supervises youth on probation.
* Finds placement based on level of care ordered by the court.
* Also involved when children are charged as adults
* Frank states that everyone should look at the DJS website:
* Current administration is data-driven, so data is on the website.
* Provides updated information – new legislation, etc.
* States that the data and information are helpful for the CJJ.
* In the past, commissioners wanted to go to facilities to see the programs – Frank thinks this is a good idea at this point given that COVID 19 is more manageable (but Noyes is shutting down tomorrow for a period – only girls are at Noyes at present).
* The individuals detained at Noyes will go to Cheltenham
* Frank will get information to Diane about the CJJ possibly visiting Cheltenham.
* Frank discusses the new DJS shelter for court-involved youth.
* Tracy Friedlander states that one issue is that Montgomery County youth are being sent to facilities in Baltimore, away from their families and lawyers. Not enough placements in Montgomery County because not enough shelter beds and there is no detention facility.
* Others express concern about the lack of space in Montgomery County and children being detained in places far from their families and communities.

1. Susan Farag, Legislative Analyst County Council.

* The state runs and funds DJS.
* Her office does bills and budgets for county departments.
* Their funding goes to county services, geared towards prevention.

1. Brett S. Lonker, Acting Supervisor, Juvenile Division, Office of the Public Defender. Montgomery County – Unable to attend the meeting.
2. Nathaniel Tipton, Child Welfare.

* Crossover youth (child involved in dual systems – e.g., juvenile system and child welfare).
* There is an increased likelihood of cross-over youth being female.
* Black children are also over-represented
* Statistically, children in child welfare system are arrested earlier than other children.

1. Steve Neff and Tia Scott, Montgomery County Public Schools

Steve – New mental health programs in MCPS

* Since February, have hired 30-35 social workers (social workers assigned to each high school and 6-8 are centrally based and can provide services to middle schools and elementary schools as needed)
* Bridge to Wellness programs (partnering with YMCA, HHS, and other orgs to staff these programs)
* Restorative Justice is continuing to grow
  + - * Every school has a stipend for a restorative justice coach
      * Restorative Justice personnel assigned centrally has increased from three to nine
* Student Information System (multi-tiered system of support)
  + - * Will allow schools to monitor effectiveness of various interventions.

1. Tia Scott, Montgomery County Public Schools

Tia (works with MCPS students involved with DJS)

* When students transition back to school from placement, Tia works with families on the transition – serves as another resource for parents.
  + - * Works with Pupil Personal Worker in the school
      * Works with DJS
* Various barriers for students during the transition
  + - * One example: Student who had an extended suspension or expulsion prior to placement. As a result, the student is required to return to a different school.
* Recommendations: Tia makes for all students returning to school
  + - * Mentoring support
      * Participating in “alternative one program” (students meets with someone in the school to help with organization, etc.)
      * Interventions from well-being support team member
* Obstacles that slow student down when returning
* Transportation – sometimes must wait for transportation arrangements.
* Special Education
* Is seeing more students who were in private placement before detained, and when they exit the detention, they do not want to return to private placement – must be a meeting to decide whether to allow services to be dropped.

1. Captain Jordan Satinsky, Director, Community Engagement Division

Montgomery County Police Department.

* Crisis Interview Team works with mental health professionals
* CEOs (formerly, SROs) work with schools throughout MCPS

1. Carlotta Ann Woodward, Chief, Juvenile Court Division, Montgomery County State’s Attorney’s Office

* Prosecute delinquent acts, handle waiver hearings and transfers
* Deal with all types of cases – misdemeanors to all types of felonies
* Significant number of gun cases – 156 cases this year
  + - * These are youth and adult cases – will get the specific numbers on youth to the CJJ
* Increase in youth-committed violence.

1. **Old Business**
   1. **Vote to finalize October 2022, Minutes –** A commissioner made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second motion; then moved in favor by all commissioners.
2. **Vote to finalize October 2022, Minutes New Business**
   1. Kevin Redden will meet with the Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council to present budget priorities for FY-24. The meeting will be held on October 26.
   2. The November CJJ will feature State legislators discussing upcoming juvenile justice legislation in Maryland -Senator Will Smith has confirmed.

Diane will reach out to Delegate David Moon.

* 1. Kevin stated that the CJJ has been working with the Maryland Youth Justice Coalition (MYJC), particularly on legislative issues (e.g., the Juvenile Interrogation Protection Act. This year, the MYJC is requiring partner organizations to endorse their mission statement. Kevin ask the CJJ to endorse the mission statement. Diane shared the mission statement on the screen. 29 CJJ votes to endorse. 4 members abstain.
  2. Committee/subcommittee updates included:
* The prevention subcommittee will next November 15, 2022, at 5pm. Heather Sweren has agreed to chair the subcommittee.
* The agencies subcommittee will meet on October 25, 2022, at 5pm.
* The legislative subcommittee will meet after the November CJJ meeting featuring state legislators. The November meeting will allow the subcommittee to have a sense of the legislative issues and priorities.

1. **Announcements - none**

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned.**